

IMPORTANT NOTICE



NGJA Statement on Colour Instability in Sapphire varieties and Rubies

The National Gem & Jewellery Authority (NGJA) of Sri Lanka has taken note of the recent joint statement by The World Jewellery Confederation (CIBJO), The American Gem Trade Association (AGTA) and The International Colored Gemstone Association (ICA) on “**Colour Instability in some Sapphires and Rubies**”.

On behalf of the State and the gem industry of Sri Lanka, the NGJA affirms our collective commitment to upholding disclosure rules and the highest level of ethical business practices within our industry.

We assure the international gemstone community that the NGJA, together with the industry will take all possible measures to prevent sapphires and rubies with colour instability due to artificial irradiation from entering the market from Sri Lanka. Identifying and regulating potential radiation treatment sites, building awareness about colour instability in sapphires and rubies and reinforcing disclosure rules among dealers, strengthening the regulations, improving information sharing and dialog with local gem testing laboratories, developing protocols around “fade test” and colour stability reporting are some of the measures currently under consideration.

Furthermore, this authority intends to implement a mechanism to inspect the radiation effects of gemstone exports from Sri Lanka. If any gemstone is detected as radioactive, it will not be approved for export by this authority.

It is also a known phenomenon that the colour intensity of untreated Yellow, Peach and Padparadscha Sapphires of Sri Lanka origin could vary, depending on the UV Indices at various geographical locations. This phenomenon too may lead to confusion regarding the treatment status of such gems.

Prior to making public announcements that are potentially damaging to the reputation and global standing of the industry in Sri Lanka, our expectation from leading international organizations is an opportunity to initially respond to the contingency. Denying the Regulator this courtesy is a cause for concern.

The NGJA as the regulator of the gem & jewellery industry in Sri Lanka, is mandated by law to promote the demand for gems and jewellery (of Sri Lanka origin) in world markets and to take such steps that are necessary to generate confidence in the gem and jewellery industry among prospective buyers. In this context the NGJA will urgently pursue policy and regulatory measures and introduce stricter regulations and penalties for those engaging in undisclosed treatments with the objective of upholding best practices that will strengthen the business in gemstones traded globally.

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