

NATURAL, CULTURED, COMPOSITE AND IMITATIONS OF PEARLS – TERMINOLOGY AND CLASSIFICATION (NOMENCLATURE)

1 Scope

The terminology and classification for pearls (5.149), cultured pearls (5.55), composite cultured pearls (5.48) and imitations of pearls (5.96) are established with reference to commercial usage and are in conformity with the practices of the natural and cultured pearl and jewellery trade. It shall be used by all traders participating as members of CIBJO member organizations within all member nations.

NOTE – CIBJO recognises that its standards are subject to government regulations in the respective jurisdiction of CIBJO members. In the event, there are no government regulations in a member's country, the local Industry rule will take precedence as long as it is stricter.

2 Normative references

The following referenced industry guides and conventions are useful for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the guides (including any amendments) applies.

The Diamond Book, CIBJO, International Confederation of Jewellery, Silverware, Diamonds, Pearls and Stones), the World Jewellery Confederation, Viale Berengario 19, 20149, Milano, Italy. cibjo@cibjo.org

The Gemstone Book, CIBJO (International Confederation of Jewellery, Silverware, Diamonds, Pearls and Stones), the World Jewellery Confederation, Viale Berengario 19, 20149, Milano, Italy. cibjo@cibjo.org

The Coral Book, CIBJO, International Confederation of Jewellery, Silverware, Diamonds, Pearls and Stones), the World Jewellery Confederation, Viale Berengario 19, 20149, Milano, Italy. cibjo@cibjo.org

The Precious Metal Book, CIBJO (International Confederation of Jewellery, Silverware, Diamonds, Pearls and Stones), the World Jewellery Confederation, Viale Berengario 19, 20149, Milano, Italy. cibjo@cibjo.org

The Gemmological Laboratory Book, A Guide for the Management and Technical Operations of Gemmological Laboratories, CIBJO (International Confederation of Jewellery, Silverware, Diamonds, Pearls and Stones), the World Jewellery Confederation, Viale Berengario 19, 20149, Milano, Italy. cibjo@cibjo.org

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, *Appendices I, II and III valid from 10 March 2016*. International Environment House • Chemin des Anémones • CH-1219 Châtelaine, Geneva, Switzerland, info@cites.org.

ISO 18323 :2015, Jewellery – Consumer confidence in the diamond industry. http://www.iso.org/iso/catalogue_detail.htm?csnumber=62163.

3 Classification of pearl categories

The jewellery industry recognizes four categories of pearl: Natural pearls (5.130), cultured pearls (5.55), composite cultured pearls (5.48) and imitations of pearls (5.96). See Natural Pearl (5.130) Chart and Cultured Pearl (5.55) Chart.

3.1 Natural pearls

Natural pearls (5.130) are formed by various saltwater and freshwater molluscs within a natural pearl sac (5.131) and without human intervention. See also Natural Pearl (5.130) Chart.

3.1.1 Treated pearls

Natural pearls that have been altered to change their appearance, composition and/or durability by methods other than what is considered to be normal procedures (see clause 4.4.2.1).

3.2 Cultured pearls

Cultured pearls (5.55) are formed within a cultured pearl sac (5.54) with human intervention in the interior of productive living molluscs (5.117) in a variety of conditions depending upon the mollusc and the goals. See also Cultured Pearl (5.55) Chart.

NOTE - Cultured pearls may be subdivided into nacreous cultured pearls (5.124), non-nacreous cultured pearls (5.134), beaded (5.17) or non-beaded cultured pearls (5.133) (these may be further subdivided into *freshwater* cultured pearls (5.75), and *saltwater* cultured pearls (5.166).

3.2.1 Treated cultured pearls

Cultured pearls that have been altered to change their appearance, composition and/or durability by methods other than what is considered to be normal procedures (see clause 4.5.2.1)

3.3 Artificially produced composite cultured pearls

Products composed of two or more parts of which at least one is usually a hollowed out and re-filled cultured blister pearl, they may be assembled by bonding (5.29) or by other artificial methods.

3.4 Imitations of pearls

Products that only simulate the appearance of a natural pearl (5.130) or cultured pearl (5.55).

4 Normative Clauses

4.1 General clauses

4.1.1 Description

All materials listed in clause 3 shall be named, described and displayed in accordance with the definitions, annexes and the terminology set out in all the clauses herein. This applies to all publications, advertisements (5.4),

communications addressed to consumers and to the specific information given to a purchaser, prior to or during a final sale, as well as to all commercial documents (5.47) (e.g., offers, labels, memos, delivery notes and invoices) and to appraisals, etc.

4.1.2 Disclosure

Full disclosure (5.61) by the vendor to the purchaser of all material information (5.113) shall take place whether or not the information is specifically requested and regardless of the effect on the value of the product being presented or sold.

4.1.2.1 Verbal disclosure

Full verbal disclosure (5.61) shall take place using clear and understandable language prior to the completion of a sale.

4.1.2.2 Written disclosure

Full written disclosure (5.61) shall be conspicuously included on all commercial documents (5.47) in clear and plain language so as to be readily understandable to the purchaser. The disclosure shall immediately precede the description of the materials classified in clause 3 and shall be equally conspicuous to that description.

4.1.3 Terms designed to disguise

It is contrary to the purposes of this document to make any misleading or deceptive statement, representation or illustration relating to origin, formation, production, condition or quality that does not conform in all respects with any and all the clauses contained herein.

Within certain contexts the term "natural treated pearl" may be misleading and is discouraged, for the term "treated natural pearl" emphasis shall be given to the word "treated".

4.1.4 Display

In cases when pearls, cultured pearls, composites and imitation pearls are displayed, jewellery is decorated, with composites, imitations or treated pearls and or treated cultured pearls that require specific information (5.182), an easily noticeable and legible label adjoining each item shall clearly indicate the required details in accordance with the clauses herein.

4.1.5 Weight

The weight of cultured pearls shall be expressed in momme (5.118), kan (5.99) liang (5.104), carats (5.33) or grams (5.86). The weight of a natural pearl shall be expressed in pearl grains (5.85), liang (5.104), carats (5.33) or methgal (5.116) a unit of weight used in the Arabian Gulf that is equal to 4.5 grams, note also the chaw (5.36) and once-the-weight (5.141).

IMPORTANT: It is acknowledged that the weight of a natural or cultured pearl may change over time.

IMPORTANT: If the drill hole of a natural pearl has been plugged it is important that this is stated when the weight is declared.

NOTE: It is an unfair trade practice to misrepresent the weight of any natural or cultured pearl or to deceive as to the weight of any natural or cultured pearl. It is also an unfair trade practice to state or otherwise represent the weight of all natural or cultured pearls contained in any article unless such weight figure is accompanied with equal emphasis and prominence by the words "total weight", or words of similar meaning, so as to indicate clearly that the weight so stated or represented is that of all pearls in the article and not that of the centre or largest one.

NOTE: The SI (Système International) generally uses the term *mass* instead of *weight* (5.199). Mass is a measure of an object's inertial property, or the amount of matter it contains. Weight is a measure of the force exerted on an object by gravity or the force needed to support it.

4.1.6 Measurement

The measurements of a single natural or cultured pearl shall be expressed accurately in millimetres. The rounding of any measurement, if needed, shall be downwards and not upwards.

4.1.6.1 Single pearl

The following measurements shall be contained in the description of a single natural or cultured pearl;

- round shape: undrilled - widest diameter, drilled - widest diameter perpendicular to the drill hole.
- fancy shape: undrilled - maximum length, maximum diameter, drilled - maximum length, maximum diameter with one of these being perpendicular to the drill hole.

4.1.6.2 Graduated strands

The measurements used to describe a graduated strand of natural and/or cultured pearls shall include the maximum diameter, measured perpendicular to the drill hole, of the largest and the minimum diameter of the smallest. The rounding of any measurement, if needed, shall be downwards and not upwards.

4.1.6.3 Uniform strands

The measurements used to describe a uniform strand of natural and/or cultured pearls shall include the maximum diameter, measured perpendicular to the drill hole, of the largest and the minimum diameter of the smallest. The rounding of any measurement, if needed, shall be downwards and not upwards.

4.2 Natural and cultured pearls

4.2.1 Use of terms

Only those pearls that conform to the definition contained in 5.130 shall be described as natural pearls and only those pearls that conform to the definition contained in 5.55 shall be described as cultured pearls and all descriptions for natural pearls and cultured pearls shall conform to the content of all other clauses herein.

4.2.2 Biological name

Pearls and cultured pearls that are not listed in Clause 4.2, or defined in clause 5 or Clause 9, shall be described by the biological name of the mollusc from which they originate only.

NOTE: Biological name of the natural or cultured pearl may be used to correctly identify the natural or cultured pearl instead of the commercial name (Clause 9). Use the descriptive adjective for the natural pearl or cultured pearl, if any is needed, as indicated in Clause 9.

NOTE: the correct biological name preceded or followed by a colour description may substitute for any commercial name.

4.2.3 Geographical area

the names of specific geographical areas shall only be used to refer exclusively to pearls and or cultured pearls which are found or grown exclusively from that area e.g., “Biwa Cultured Pearl” (5.20) shall only be used to describe cultured pearls grown in freshwater bivalve molluscs in Lake Biwa, Japan, etc., unless the name of the geographical area is part of the commercial name as listed in Clause 9 e.g., South Sea Cultured Pearl (5.178), etc.

4.2.4 Non-permanent treatments

Pearls and cultured pearls subjected to alterations in clauses 4.4.2.3.1 and 4.5.2.3.1 that are not permanent shall require prior to the closing of the sale a declaration that the process is not permanent and that they require special care. See Clause 7.2.

4.3 Trade codes

Trade codes listed in Clause 6 shall only be used within the industry; they shall not be used for the general public. The codes are intended to facilitate the insertion of vital information on tags attached to merchandise, on invoices and or other commercial documents (5.47) used within the trade.

4.3.1 Trade codes for untreated/unmodified natural and cultured pearls that require special care (s/c)

Care advice should be regarded as normal for natural and cultured pearls across the product range and a code is unnecessary. However, there are particular cases where a code would be useful, examples of which are (also see Clauses 6)

Natural Abalone Pearl, (SC). – Often hollow and therefore fragile.

Natural Conch Pearl, (SC). – Colour may fade or change if exposed to long periods of sunlight or short exposures to x-rays

Cultured Conch Pearl (SC) – Colour may fade or change if exposed to long periods of sunlight or short exposures to x-rays

4.3.2 Trade codes for treatments

The codes listed in Annex 6 shall only be used on commercial documents (5.47) within the industry; they are not to be used for the general public.

Methods of pearl treatment disclosure shall be in accordance with Clause 4.5.2.3.1., for cultured pearls and Clause 4.4.2.3.1. for natural pearls. Where multiple treatments have been applied, multiple codes shall be used, e.g., BW (Bleached/Waxed). Where special care is required to preserve the results of a treatment the initials SC (Special Care) shall be added after the code, e.g., Dsc (Dyed/Special Care). Also see Clause 7.

4.4 Natural pearl clauses

4.4.1 Terms

4.4.1.1 Natural Pearl

The term natural pearl shall only be used to describe natural pearls (5.130) i.e., pearls produced naturally within a natural pearl sac (5.131) and without any human intervention.

4.4.1.1.1 Oriental pearl

The term 'oriental pearl' (5.145) shall only be used for natural saltwater pearls (5.167, 5.130) and shall not be used to denote the quality or appearance of a pearl.

4.4.1.1.2 Pearl

If the word "pearl" (5.130) is used without qualification it shall refer only to a "natural pearl". However, to avoid confusion and /or misinterpretation it is recommended that natural pearls be labelled as "natural pearls". The term "pearl" as used in the jewellery industry shall always be preceded with the term "cultured" for cultured pearls, "composite" for composite pearls or "imitation" for imitations of natural pearls and cultured pearls.

It is understood that the term 'pearl' is not generic when used in the trade and as described in the previous paragraph, even if the term is used in a broader sense within the public domain.

The unqualified term "pearl" shall not be used when referring to an imitation or simulant of a pearl in either commercial or non-commercial documents.

4.4.1.1.3 'Freshwater natural pearl'

The term 'freshwater (5.74) natural pearl' (5.130) shall only be used to describe natural freshwater pearls.

4.4.2 Altered natural pearls

There are three categories of natural pearls that have their appearance, composition and or durability altered:

4.4.2.1 Natural pearls altered by normal procedures

Natural pearls which have only normal procedures applied i.e., drilling (5.64), faceting (5.67), carving (5.34), light working (5.200), peeling (5.154) polishing (5.161), buffing (5.31) and/or cleaning (5.42), do not require this information to be stated in their description at the point of sale. However, drilled, lightly worked and or cut portions of pearls which are not visible in jewellery, plus pearls that have been Chinese drilled (5.37) or are heavily worked (5.200) shall be disclosed. For full disclosure instructions see clause 4.4.2.3.1.

NOTE – Cleaning does not include *maeshori* (5.109) treatment procedures

4.4.2.2 Natural pearls requiring general information on treatments

Natural pearls that have been bleached to produce a white appearance shall have an asterisk on commercial documents (5.47), immediately following the description or name of the pearls that relates to a footnote of equal prominence to the description or name that appears on the same page that indicates that the pearls have been bleached.

Example:natural pearls*

*These natural pearls have been bleached to change their original colour and produce a uniform white appearance.

4.4.2.3 Natural pearls altered by methods requiring specific treatment declarations

Natural pearls that have been treated by coating (5.44), dyeing (5.63), filling (5.68), irradiation (5.98), oiling (5.140), heavy working (5.200) tinting (5.192) and waxing (5.198) require specific information at the point of sale. See clause 4.4.2.3.1., and clause 8.1 Annex D.

4.4.2.3.1 Disclosure requirements for natural pearls requiring specific information on treatments

When making reference, to a pearl (5.130) that has been treated as described in clause 4.4.2.1 and 4.4.2.3 above the words 'natural pearl', 'pearl', or the 'colour description' shall immediately be preceded or followed by a word or words that describe the treatment and shall, prior to the closing of the sale, require a verbal explanation that the natural pearl has been treated. In the event of a written presentation, the word describing the treatment shall be of equal emphasis and prominence, with characters of the same size and colour as those of the name itself. Do not abbreviate.

Examples: Coated natural pearl; "*colour*" (dyed) natural pearl; Filled natural pearl; Yellow (heated) natural pearl, Black (irradiated) natural pearl; Oiled natural pearl; Waxed natural pearl; worked natural pearl; or treated natural pearl.

4.4.2.3.2 Inability to inspect a treated natural pearl

written presentation. Do not abbreviate. If a saltwater cultured pearl can be purchased without personally viewing the product, (e.g., advertising (5.4) in direct mail, catalogues, online services, televised shopping programmes, etc.) explanation shall be made that it is a cultured pearl in the presentation and/or description of the product prior to the close of the sale.

Note -The placing of an asterisk next to the name of saltwater cultured pearl, making reference to a footnote explanation of the fact that the product is saltwater cultured pearl, does not comply with the requirements of this clause.

4.5.2 Altered cultured pearls

There are three categories of cultured pearls that have their appearance, composition and or durability altered:

4.5.2.1 Cultured pearls altered by normal procedures

Cultured pearls which only have normal procedures applied i.e., drilling (5.64) faceting (5.67), carving (5.34), light working (5.200), cutting (5.58), polishing (5.161), buffing (5.31) and/or cleaned (5.42), do not require this information to be stated in their description at the point of sale. However drilled (5.64), lightly worked (5.200) and or cut (5.58) portion of cultured pearls which are not visible in jewellery shall be disclosed. For disclosure instructions see clause 4.5.2.3.2

Cultured pearls that have been cut (5.58) shall be clearly described as half or three quarter cut cultured pearls.

NOTE - Cleaning does not include *maeshori* (5.109) treatment procedures.

4.5.2.2 Cultured pearls requiring general information on treatments

Cultured pearls that have been bleached to produce a uniform white appearance shall have an asterisk on commercial documents (5.47), immediately following the description or name of the pearls that relates to a footnote of equal prominence to the description or name that appears on the same page that indicates that the cultured pearls have been bleached.

Example:cultured pearls*

*These cultured pearls have been bleached to remove or change their colour to white.

*Cultured pearls grown in the Akoya pearl oyster are usually bleached to remove blemishes between the nucleus and the nacre, to change the colour of the nacre or produce a uniform white appearance.

4.5.2.3 Cultured pearls altered by methods requiring specific treatment declarations

Cultured pearls that have been treated by dyeing (5.63), filling (5.68), heating (5.92), irradiation (5.98), lustre enhancements e.g., "maeshori" (5.105), oiling (5.140), tinting (5.192), waxing (5.198) and chemically altered (5.38) require

If a treated natural pearl (5.130) is offered for sale without an opportunity for the buyer to personally inspect the product, (e.g., advertising (5.4) in direct mail, catalogues, online services, televised shopping programmes, etc.) an explanation shall be made that it is a treated natural pearl in the presentation and/or description of the product prior to the close of the sale.

4.4.2.3.3 Other treatments

Treatments (5.195), in addition to those mentioned in clause 4.4.2.2 must be disclosed in accordance to clause 4.4.2.3

4.5 Cultured pearls clauses

4.5.1 Terms

4.5.1.1 The term “cultured”

The term ‘cultured’ (5.52 and 5.55) shall only be used for cultured pearls (5.55). This applies to all cultured pearls, whichever method, species or body of water is used for their formation.

NOTE: the placing of an asterisk next to the word pearl making reference to an explanation of the fact the product is a cultured pearl does not comply with this clause.

A cultured pearl that has been artificially coated, and the outer layer is not composed of nacre laid down by a mollusc shall be considered an imitation.

4.5.1.2 “Freshwater cultured pearl”

The term ‘freshwater cultured pearl’ (5.75) shall always be used for cultured pearls that have been cultured in freshwater rivers, lakes and ponds. When making reference to a freshwater cultured pearl, the words ‘cultured pearl’ shall immediately be preceded by the word ‘freshwater’ and shall, prior to the closing of the sale, require a verbal explanation that it is a freshwater cultured pearl, and in the event of a written presentation, shall immediately be preceded by the word ‘freshwater’, with equal emphasis and prominence, with characters of the same size and colour as those of the name itself. Do not abbreviate. If a freshwater cultured pearl can be purchased without personally viewing the product, (e.g., direct mail, catalogues, online services, televised shopping programmes) explanation shall be made that it is a freshwater cultured pearl in the presentation and/or description of the product prior to the close of the sale.

NOTE: The placing of an asterisk next to the name of a freshwater cultured pearl, making reference to a footnote explanation of the fact that the product is a freshwater cultured pearl, does not comply with the requirements of this clause.

4.5.1.3 “Saltwater cultured pearl”

The term ‘saltwater cultured pearl’ (5.166) shall always only be used for cultured pearls cultured in bodies of saltwater. When making reference to a saltwater cultured pearl, the words ‘cultured pearl’ do not need to be preceded by the word ‘saltwater’ but shall, prior to the closing of the sale, require a verbal explanation only that it is a cultured pearl, this applies also in the event of a

specific information on the treatments to be declared at the point of sale. See clause 4.5.2.3., and clause 8.2 Annex D.

4.5.2.3.1 Disclosure requirements for cultured pearls requiring specific information on treatments

When making reference, to a cultured pearl (5.55) that has been treated as described in 4.5.2.3 above the words 'cultured pearl' or the 'colour description' shall immediately be preceded or followed by a word or words that describe the treatment and shall, prior to the closing of the sale, require a verbal explanation that the cultured pearl has been treated. In the event of a written presentation, the word describing the treatment shall be of equal emphasis and prominence, with characters of the same size and colour as those of the name itself. Do not abbreviate.

Examples: "*Colour*" dyed cultured pearl; Filled cultured pearl; Yellow (heated) cultured pearl, Black (irradiated) cultured pearl; Oiled cultured pearl; waxed cultured pearl; black cultured pearls which have been treated to produce a chocolate colour; or treated cultured pearl.

4.5.2.3.2 Inability to inspect a treated cultured pearl

If a treated cultured pearl is offered for sale without an opportunity for the buyer to personally inspect the product, (e.g., advertising (5.4) in direct mail, catalogues, online services, televised shopping programmes, etc.) an explanation shall be made that it is a treated cultured pearl in the presentation and/or description of the product prior to the close of the sale.

4.5.2.3.3 Other treatments

Treatments (5.195), other than those mentioned in clause 4.5.2.2 must be disclosed in accordance to clause 4.5.2.3.1.

4.6 Artificially produced composite cultured pearls clauses

Assembled/Composite cultured pearls shall be described by the words composite or assembled according to the composite construction (except when they can be defined as an imitation (5.96) and shall, prior to the closing of the sale, require a verbal explanation that it is an assembled/composite pearl product, and, in the event of a written presentation, shall be immediately preceded by the correct names of the components of the assembled product, the names of which shall be mentioned from the upper part downwards and be separated by a slash (/). Except where all parts of the assembled/composite pearl products are of the same substance (excluding any cement) when the name of this substance shall be stated only once. Do not abbreviate. The terms assembled or composite, in the event of a written presentation, shall appear with equal emphasis and prominence, with characters of the same size and colour as those of the names of the components. Do not abbreviate. If an assembled/composite cultured pearl can be purchased without personally

viewing the product, (e.g., advertising (5.4) in direct mail, catalogues, online services, televised shopping programs, etc.) explanation shall be made that it is an assembled/composite pearl in the presentation and/or in the description of the product prior to the close of the sale.

NOTE: The placing of an asterisk next to any name or combination of names of a pearl, making reference to a footnote explanation of the fact that the product is an assembled/composite, does not comply with the requirements of this clause.

Do not use a qualifying title other than 'assembled' or 'composite' to describe any product classified under 4.6.1.

4.6.1 Description and display

Assembled/Composite cultured pearls shall be named and described in accordance with (5.13) and all other clauses herein.

NOTE: The terms 'assembled' or 'composite' may be used interchangeably.

4.6.2 Composite cultured blister

Assembled/Composite cultured blisters shall be named and described in accordance with (5.13 and 5.57) and all other clauses herein.

4.7 Imitation of pearl clauses

4.7.1 Description and display

Imitations (5.96) or simulants (5.174) of natural pearls and cultured pearls shall, prior to the closing of the sale, require a verbal explanation that it is an imitation or simulant of a natural or cultured pearl, and, in the event of a written presentation shall be immediately preceded by the word 'imitation' or 'simulated', with equal emphasis and prominence, with characters of the same size and colour as those of the name itself, e.g., simulated pearl, imitation pearl etc. Do not abbreviate. If an imitation (5.96) or simulant (5.174) of a natural pearl or a cultured pearl can be purchased without personally viewing the product, (e.g., advertising (5.4) in direct mail, catalogues, online services, televised shopping programmes, etc.) explanation shall be made that it is an imitation or simulant pearl in the presentation and/or description of the product prior to the close of the sale.

NOTE: The placing of an asterisk next to the word pearl, making reference to a footnote explanation of the fact that the product is an imitation, simulant of a pearl or cultured pearl does not comply with this clause.

4.7.2 Terms other than 'imitation' or 'simulated'

Do not use a qualifying term other than 'imitation' or 'simulated' to describe any product defined in (5.96), (5.174) and (4.7).

4.7.2.1 "Cultured pearl-like", "semi-cultured-pearl", "faux pearls", "mother of pearl", etc.

The terms "cultured pearl-like", "semi-cultured-pearl", "faux pearls", "mother of pearl" or any other similar expression shall not be used when referring to imitation (5.96) or simulated pearls (5.174).

4.7.2.2 Trade marks

When Trade Marks, brands, or fancy names are used to describe imitations of pearls or cultured pearls the use shall not conceal the fact that the product is an imitation, e.g., Trade Marks shall be used in the following format: 'Majorca Imitation Pearl', indicating that the article in question is an imitation of a pearl whose trademark is "Majorca".

4.7.2.3 Commercial names

The name of an imitation or simulated pearl shall not be similar to the name, or the sound of the name (neither entirely, nor abbreviated, nor by way of an allusion), of any natural or cultured pearl.

4.7.2.4 Geographical areas

Do not use the name of a geographical area associated with the production, processing or exporting of natural or cultured pearls in connection with and or referring to imitation pearls.