

Kimberley Process Certificates, Grading Reports and Lab-Grown Disclosure

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Diamonds travel on four different kinds of paper, and each proves one thing. The Kimberley Process certificate covers rough natural diamonds crossing a border. The System of Warranties statement covers polished stones in trade. A grading report from IGI, GIA or another lab describes one stone. Lab-grown stones need none of the conflict paper but must be disclosed as grown. This guide shows importers what to ask for and Indian exporters how each is issued.

The Short Version

- The Kimberley Process certificate is for rough natural diamonds only. Polished stones and lab-grown stones do not travel on it.
- In India the KP importing and exporting authority is GJEPC, and since November 2021 only GJEPC-registered firms may trade rough.
- Polished stones carry a System of Warranties line on the invoice, and for the EU and G7 now also evidence of non-Russian origin.
- A grading report describes one stone. It is not an origin or conflict certificate, and for lab-grown stones it must state the growth method.
- In the US the bare word "diamond" means mined. A grown stone must be qualified as laboratory-grown, laboratory-created or similar.

Ask a Surat polisher for "the diamond certificate" and you'll get one of four documents, depending on what they think you mean. A KP certificate if you're buying rough. An invoice with a warranty sentence on it if you're buying polished parcels. An IGI or GIA report if you're buying a single stone. And for lab-grown, often just the IGI report, because the conflict paper doesn't apply at all.



Each answers a different question. Mixing them up is how a buyer ends up with a stone that has a beautiful grading report and no proof of where it came from. This guide sits in our [certification guides](#). The sourcing side of lab-grown stones (why India, which clusters, duty by market) is on our [lab-grown diamonds from India](#) page. Here we stick to the paper.

1. Four Documents and the Question Each Answers

Document	Covers	Question it answers	Who issues it
Kimberley Process certificate	Rough natural diamonds (HS 7102.10, 7102.21, 7102.31) crossing a border	Is this shipment of rough conflict-free, under the KP scheme?	The exporting country's KP authority (GJEPC in India)
System of Warranties statement	Rough and polished natural diamonds, every sale in the chain	Did the seller buy this from KP-compliant sources?	The seller, on its invoice
Origin and traceability evidence	Natural diamonds into the EU and G7	Is this stone non-Russian?	The seller, backed by the KP certificate of the rough, or a G7 certificate
Grading report	One stone, natural or grown	What are its carat, colour, clarity, cut, and is it grown or treated?	A gem lab (IGI, GIA, HRD and others)

Lab-grown diamonds sit outside the first three rows. They are classified separately (synthetic stones under heading 7104), and the KP scheme covers natural rough only.

2. What the Kimberley Process Proves and What It Doesn't

The KP Certification Scheme started in 2003 to keep "conflict diamonds" out of the rough trade. Participants, now 86 governments by the count reported at the 2025 Dubai plenary, agree to four things: enforce import and export controls on rough, share trade statistics, trade rough only with

other participants, and send every export of rough with a valid KP certificate (Kimberley Process).

What it proves is narrow. A KP certificate says the rough in that sealed parcel was exported under a participant's controls and that the government of export says it isn't conflict rough. The definition of a conflict diamond is still the 2003 one, rough sold by rebel movements to fund wars against legitimate governments. It doesn't cover state violence, forced labour or the mine's working conditions. Reform of that definition was pushed again at the 2025 plenary and, as far as we can read, not agreed. So a KP certificate is a border document, not an ethical sourcing claim.

It also stops at the cutting wheel. Once rough is cut and polished, the KP certificate doesn't follow the stone. What follows is the industry's System of Warranties, a sentence on each invoice saying the seller's diamonds were bought from legitimate sources in line with the KP and UN resolutions. It's a self-declaration, run by the World Diamond Council, and its value is that every seller in the chain is on record making it.

3. What an Importer Should Check

Buying Rough

1. **The certificate travels with the parcel.** Tamper-resistant container, the KP certificate number on the container matching the certificate, carat weight and value matching the invoice.
2. **Both ends are KP participants.** Your own country's KP authority will reject rough from a non-participant.
3. **Your own authority validates it.** In the EU, rough enters through a designated Union authority (in practice almost all of it through Antwerp) for physical checks. In the US, the importer reports through the KP data in the customs entry. The UK, Australia, the UAE and India each run their own

KP office. Check the procedure with your customs broker before you buy, not when the parcel lands.

4. **Mixed origin.** Since 1 March 2025, EU-bound rough of mixed origin needs a KP certificate that names the countries of mining (Commission FAQ via Czech Customs, Dec 2025).

Buying Polished Natural Stones

1. **The warranty line on every invoice.** If it's missing, the seller isn't in the System of Warranties.
2. **Non-Russian origin.** The EU bans Russian-origin diamonds, including those cut in third countries, for stones of 0.5 ct and up since September 2024, and expected traceability evidence from 1 January 2026. The US has a similar 0.5 ct ban. Ask the Indian seller for the KP certificate numbers of the rough the stones came from, or a G7 certificate where one was issued. Rules here have moved four times in two years, so check the current EU and US guidance at the time of order.
3. **The grading report matches the stone.** Laser inscription number on the girdle, report number, and weight to two decimals.

Buying Lab-Grown

1. **No KP paper, and don't accept any.** A KP certificate offered for grown stones is a sign the seller doesn't know what they're selling.
2. **A report that says "laboratory-grown" and the method.** IGI, GIA and others state CVD or HPHT and any post-growth treatment. Indian growers mostly ship with IGI reports, and US buyers on r/labdiamond say they value IGI for exactly that line (our lab-grown page has the quotes).
3. **Disclosure in your own selling.** In the US the FTC Jewelry Guides say the unqualified word "diamond" means a mined stone. A grown stone must be called "laboratory-grown", "laboratory-created", "[manufacturer]-created" or similar, and "cultured" is allowed only with one of those

qualifiers (16 CFR 23.12 and 23.25). The FTC has sent warning letters to lab-grown sellers over unclear disclosure. In the EU and UK, consumer protection law on misleading descriptions does the same job, and the ISO 18323 and CIBJO terminology is what traders work to.

Red Flags

- "GIA certified" on a stone with no report number you can look up. Every major lab runs a public report check by number on its own website. Use it.
- A grading report with no growth method on a stone sold as grown.
- A polished parcel invoice with no warranty sentence, from a seller who also can't say where the rough came from.
- Natural stones priced like grown ones. Grown stones are the main undisclosed-substitution risk in the trade, which is why serious buyers screen melee parcels with a detection device or send them to a lab.

4. Grading Reports, IGI Against GIA

A grading report is a description, not a certificate of anything except what the lab saw. For the importer the questions are simple. Is the lab one your own customers recognise, does the report number check out on the lab's website, does the inscription match, and for grown stones, does it say how it was grown.



The IGI or GIA question is commercial. Traders say IGI grades about a step more generously than GIA on colour, others disagree, and our [lab-grown page](#) quotes both sides. Most Indian lab-grown production goes out with IGI reports because IGI has large labs in Mumbai and Surat close to the growers. GIA also has a lab in Mumbai. Pick the lab your retail customer will trust and put it in the purchase order.

5. How an Indian Exporter Issues a KP Certificate

This half is for the Indian exporter or importer of rough. India's KP importing and exporting authority is the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC), designated by the Ministry of Commerce in 2002. Since DGFT Notification 43/2015–2020 of 22 November 2021, rough diamonds can't be imported or exported unless the firm is registered with GJEPC.

Step 1 – Get an IEC and register with GJEPC. The [IEC and RCMC guide](#) covers the IEC. GJEPC membership gives you the RCMC and the KP registration. Check the current membership categories and fees on gjepc.org. (A few days to a few weeks.)

Step 2 – Get access to the GJEPC KP portal. Applications are made online at gjepc.org/kp. We could not read the portal itself, since it's behind a login, so check the current document list with GJEPC's KP cell.

Step 3 – For each export, prepare the parcel and documents. Invoice, packing list, carat weight and value per HS line, the KP certificate numbers of the rough you imported (for re-export), and the buyer's details. The importing country must be a KP participant.

Step 4 – Physical verification and sealing. The KP office checks the parcel, seals it in a tamper-resistant container and issues the certificate, with its number on the container. GJEPC runs KP offices in the main diamond centres, Mumbai's Bharat Diamond Bourse and Surat among them. Check the current locations and hours with GJEPC.

Step 5 – Endorse imports. Every rough parcel you import also has its foreign KP certificate endorsed by GJEPC on arrival. Keep the endorsed copies. They are your proof of origin for the polished stones you later sell to the EU or US.

Errors on a certificate (a typo, a wrong weight line) can be corrected only through GJEPC validation under the DGFT procedure. Don't hand-correct a KP certificate.

For polished exports there is no KP certificate. Put the System of Warranties sentence on every invoice, keep the chain back to the KP numbers of the rough, and for EU and US buyers, be ready to show it. Indian polishers who can tie each polished lot to non-Russian rough are the ones keeping their EU accounts. If assembling that chain across several rough suppliers is more

work than your team can carry, [SourcingSync](#) can manage the document trail for buyers working with you.

For lab-grown exports, no KP. Send an IGI or GIA report per stone (or per parcel for melee, as agreed), a clear "laboratory-grown" line on the invoice and packing list, and the correct HS heading (7104). Growers who mark the invoice "diamond" with no qualifier create a problem for their US buyer, who is the one liable under FTC rules.

6. A Worked Example With a Melee Parcel for London

This example is an illustration built from the rules above, not a real firm.

A London jeweller buys two parcels from Surat: 200 ct of natural melee, and 50 lab-grown stones of 1 ct and up.

The natural melee is polished, so no KP certificate travels with it. The invoice carries the warranty sentence. Because the jeweller also sells into the EU, it asks the Surat house for the KP certificate numbers of the rough the melee came from and confirmation that none is of Russian origin. The UK has its own Russian diamond measures, so the jeweller's broker checks the current UK rule too.

The lab-grown stones come with IGI reports stating CVD and "as-grown" (no post-growth treatment). The jeweller checks each report number on IGI's site and the girdle inscription under a loupe, and lists them on its website as "laboratory-grown diamonds", never just "diamonds".

FAQ

Do lab-grown diamonds need a Kimberley Process certificate?



No. The KP covers rough natural diamonds. Grown stones travel on the invoice and, usually, a grading report.

Does a KP certificate mean the diamond is ethical? 

Who issues KP certificates in India? 

Is an IGI report a certificate? 

Can a polished stone have a KP certificate? 

7. Next Steps

- Sourcing grown stones from India: [lab-grown diamonds](#).
- Getting exporter registrations: [IEC, RCMC and export registrations](#).
- Origin rules for duty: [certificate of origin](#) and [getting a certificate of origin in India](#).
- Your market's rules for Indian goods: [US](#), [EU](#), [UK](#), [UAE](#).
- Forced labour checks in the wider chain: [forced labour due diligence](#).
- All certificates: [certifications hub](#).