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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGL Will Not Be Classifying New Ruby Treatment As Composite Ruby

Frequently Asked Questions:

Why not call this material Composite Ruby?

Although the extent of this treatment may be significant, there are several fundamental differences between this new treatment and the material AGL classifies as Composite Ruby. Of particular note, the glass infused into the Composite Ruby material contains lead and/or bismuth, as well as other potential elements to raise the refractive index of the glass to that of the host ruby. This makes it quite difficult to ascertain the true extent of the treatment without partially dissolving the glass. With this new treatment, it is readily visible through standard microscopy to determine the true extent of the healing and in-filling that has taken place.

Additionally, the lead-glass of Composite Ruby does not participate in the healing of fissures, and the golden color of the lead-glass further augments the color of a Composite Ruby. Neither of which is the case with this new treatment.

Lastly and perhaps most importantly, Composite Ruby carries with it certain intrinsic special care requirements that must be conveyed to bench jewelers and consumers, in order to make certain that inadvertent damage to these stones does not occur. This new ruby treatment has similar care considerations to that of the more traditionally heated rubies, which bench jewelers and consumers should already be familiar with.

Why not just use the term heating residues?

Heating residues is a term that was developed to represent the compound nature of what happens to the fluxing agents used during a more traditional heating procedure. Upon cooling, fissures are healed and what remains along the traces of these previous open fissures is re-grown corundum (i.e. synthetic), a vitreous melt (glass) and tiny voids (contraction bubbles). It is a combination of these three components that defines heating residues.

In this new treatment, some fissure healing does occur, resulting in the development of heating residues. For those stones where the majority of what is taking place involves the healing of fissures, the traditional disclosure nomenclature addressing the quantity of heating residues will be applied. However in many instances, only minor to moderate fissure healing is observed yet open fissures have been filled with a vitreous or glass-like material. In these instances, this treatment is more similar to the clarity enhancement of an emerald or even diamond, where a material is introduced into open fissures to make them less reflective, thereby reducing their visibility and improving the apparent clarity of the stone. For those stones where a significant extent of what is taking place involves the in-filling of fissures in combination with fissure healing, the disclosure wording will address both *heating residues and in-filling*, with an expanded description under the comments section, to communicate the dual nature of this particular treatment.