GDCS

A STANDARD OF THE ASSOCIATION
FOR INTELLIGENT DIAMOND INTERNATIONAL

GDCS.AI · PRODUCT INTRODUCTION

GDCS Sustainable Diamond Testing and Certification

One certificate, two sets of data: the 4C and a sustainability grade.
Sustainable sourcing that is simpler and easier to verify.

GDCS SUSTAINABLE DIAMOND TESTING CERTIFICATE — ONE CERTIFICATE, TWO SETS OF DATA

LAYER 1 · FOR TRADING DECISIONS

4C data

Carat, colour, clarity, cut

LAYER 2 · FOR SUPPLIER ADMISSION

Sustainability grade

Environment, labour and human rights, community impact, governance and compliance, supply-chain traceability

LAYER 3 · FOR VERIFICATION — UNIQUE NUMBER — LOOK-UP PAGE — RATING-METHOD VERSION — REVIEW AND APPEAL

ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

This is the product introduction to GDCS.AI's certification. Where it refers to SCS's exit from the relevant sustainability certification services, the exact scope and effective dates are those given in SCS's official announcement. The credibility of GDCS certification rests on published standards, graded evidence, independent review, and people working alongside AI. A GDCS certificate is a supplementary layer of information for sustainable sourcing, not an automatic substitute for regulatory compliance.

01 OVERVIEW

Overview

GDCS Sustainable Diamond Testing and Certification is offered by GDCS.AI. Its core product is the GDCS Sustainable Diamond Testing Certificate, built on "one certificate, two sets of data": a single certificate shows both a diamond's 4C and its sustainability grade, turning quality information and sustainability information into decision data that buyers can use directly, look up and trace.

GDCS is not trying to add one more certification label. It addresses a long-standing break in the information chain of the diamond and jewellery trade: a 4C report covers gemmological properties, a sustainability report covers supply-chain responsibility, and the two are produced by different bodies through different processes. A buyer holding a 4C report still has to chase the sustainability information, and a completed sustainability audit seldom ties to a particular stone or parcel. GDCS puts both on one certificate: the 4C for trading decisions, the sustainability grade for supplier admission, and the certificate number and traceability mechanism for verification.

BEFORE · DOCUMENT 1

4C report

Covers gemmological properties

BEFORE · DOCUMENT 2

Sustainability report

Covers supply-chain responsibility

→

GDCS · ONE CERTIFICATE

One certificate, two sets of data

4C	For trading decisions
Sustainability grade	For supplier admission
Certificate number and traceability	For verification

02 INDUSTRY BACKGROUND

Sustainable sourcing needs lighter tools that are easier to verify

Sustainable sourcing in the global diamond and jewellery trade does not lack frameworks. The Kimberley Process, the OECD Due Diligence Guidance, the RJC system and a range of third-party sustainability certifications each address supply-chain responsibility at a different level. But the many small and mid-sized buyers, brand buyers and wholesale traders face practical problems:

01

The 4C and the sustainability information are separate, so buyers have to piece the picture together from several documents.

02

Traditional heavy certification is complex, slow and costly, more than small and mid-sized links in the trade can bear.

03

Sustainability information is hard to verify: from self-declarations and scattered documents it is hard to tell how a grade was reached.

04

A sustainability grade that cannot be bound to a specific certificate, stone and parcel cannot enter price comparison or supplier admission.

After SCS's exit from the relevant sustainability certification services, what the industry is left with is less a gap in standards than a gap in service people can afford.

Heavy certification has relied on on-site audits, document tracing, annual reviews and a great deal of manual communication. As the supply of such services shrinks, smaller players are more likely to fall back on self-declaration. This is where GDCS's opportunity lies: using AI as a tool to move sustainable-sourcing certification from labour-intensive to data-intensive work, and to cut the cost of certification as far as the bounds of compliance allow.

HEAVY CERTIFICATION · RELIES ON

On-site audits, document tracing, annual reviews, extensive manual communication

GDCS · SHIFTS TO

AI as a tool: from labour-intensive to data-intensive

03 CORE POSITIONING

One certificate, two sets of data

The GDCS Sustainable Diamond Testing Certificate has three layers.

LAYER 1

4C data

Carat, colour, clarity and cut remain the basic language of the diamond trade. The 4C on a GDCS certificate is tested and graded to GDCS/T—2027 by a laboratory of the GDCS Laboratory Alliance and presented in a stable, reviewable way. That is what lets the certificate be used in trading.

- Carat
- Colour
- Clarity
- Cut

LAYER 2

Sustainability grade

The sustainability grade is not a vague "green label" but a rating with stated dimensions and weights. The framework covers environmental performance (carbon, water, energy, waste), labour and human rights, community impact, governance and compliance, and supply-chain traceability. The grade can be simplified, but no dimension can be missing; the process can be light, but the chain of evidence cannot break.

- Environment (carbon, water, energy, waste)
- Labour and human rights
- Community impact
- Governance and compliance
- Supply-chain traceability

LAYER 3

Verification

Each certificate has a unique number, a look-up page, a statement of data sources, the rating-method version, a review record and a procedure for objections. A buyer who looks up the certificate number sees the 4C data, the sustainability grade, the basis for the grade and whether the certificate is valid.

- Unique number
- Look-up page
- Data-source statement
- Rating-method version
- Review record
- Objection procedure

What GDCS really offers is not "a piece of paper", but the 4C and the sustainability grade turned into one set of sourcing data that can be traced and reviewed.

04 CERTIFICATE FIELDS AND LOOK-UP

Certificate fields and look-up

A GDCS certificate contains the following fields:

01	Unique certificate number and validity status;
02	4C test results, test methods, and the GDCS Laboratory Alliance laboratory that carried out the testing;
03	Sustainability grade and rating-method version;
04	Score or grade for each sustainability dimension;
05	Type of data source (third-party test / supply-chain documents / self-declaration / on-site review); Third-party test · Supply-chain documents · Self-declaration · On-site review
06	Scope of the supply-chain traceability information;
07	Access to review and appeal;
08	QR code or link for looking up the certificate.

What buyers really need is not a good-looking certificate, but one they can look up, compare, trace and explain.

Look up	Compare	Trace	Explain

When the look-up page shows clearly how the grade was reached, which data have been verified and until when the certificate is valid, GDCS's claim to be verifiable holds.

LOOK-UP PAGE · 1
How the grade was reached

LOOK-UP PAGE · 2
Which data have been verified

LOOK-UP PAGE · 3
Until when it is valid

05 HOW AI CUTS COST

How AI cuts cost

GDCS uses AI as a tool: repetitive, document-heavy and matching work goes to AI; judgement, review and accountability stay with people. AI lowers the cost of the process, not its credibility. The savings come at five points:

TO AI	TO PEOPLE
Repetition · Documents · Matching	Judgement · Review · Accountability

1 **Document parsing and evidence extraction**

Multilingual reading, field extraction and first consistency checks on supply-chain documents, invoices, shipping papers, compliance declarations and test reports, cutting the cost of manual re-keying and translation.

2 **Supply-chain data matching**

Certificate numbers, parcel information, supplier records and traceability scope are matched, so missing fields and contradictions show up quickly.

3 **Risk grading and sample review**

Risk scores based on region of origin, document completeness, history and unusual patterns concentrate limited human review on high-risk parcels, avoiding both the high cost of re-examining everything and the idea that “light” means “unchecked”.

4 **Certificate generation and look-up**

Helping draft certificates, checking that fields are complete and keeping rating-method versions and validity status up to date, cutting the manual cost of issuing and verifying.

5 **Continuous monitoring and alerts**

Ongoing monitoring of certificate status, expired evidence, conflicting data and unusual claims turns a one-off audit into continuous data governance.

AI lowers the cost of the process, not its credibility.

06 CERTIFICATION PROCESS

Certification process

The GDCS certification process is built around data that can be verified:

1. **Application and submission**
   The applicant sends the diamond to a laboratory of the GDCS Laboratory Alliance for 4C testing, and submits supply-chain documents, compliance declarations, traceability information and other evidence.
2. **AI document parsing and data matching**
   The system extracts fields, reads several languages, matches certificate numbers to parcels, and flags missing fields and contradictions.
3. **Risk grading and sample review**
   Risk scores set the order of review; high-risk parcels and sources get closer human review.
4. **Certificate issue and look-up**
   A certificate carrying the 4C and the sustainability grade is issued, with look-up by certificate number, the rating-method version and validity status.
5. **Monitoring and objections**
   Expired evidence, conflicting data and unusual claims are monitored, with access to review and appeal.

07 WHO IT IS FOR

Who it is for

“One certificate, two sets of data” mainly serves three groups:

GROUP 1

Small and mid-sized brands and buyers

Without the resources for heavy sustainability audits, but needing to show consumers and channels the basis of their sustainable sourcing.

GROUP 2

Wholesalers and traders

Need one certificate that shows both the 4C and a sustainability grade, so downstream customers have fewer questions to chase.

GROUP 3

Sourcing platforms and supply-chain service providers

Need certificate fields that can be looked up and compared, to bring sustainability grades into supplier admission and parcel management.

For large miners and companies already deeply involved in systems such as the RJC, GDCS is better used as a supplementary layer of information than as a replacement for existing compliance systems.

08 SCS, IGI AND GDCS

How GDCS relates to SCS and IGI

After SCS's exit from the relevant sustainability certification services, GDCS uses AI as a tool to fill the gap in service people can afford, and helps the industry form a tiered certification market: at the base, light, low-cost certificate data that can be looked up, serving small and mid-sized traders, wholesalers and buyers; in the middle, AI risk grading and sample review; at the top, on-site audits, annual reviews and regulatory interfaces, serving large miners, brands and regulated entities. GDCS is clear about its own tier: a light certificate is a supplementary layer of information, not an automatic substitute for heavy audits or regulatory compliance.

A TIERED CERTIFICATION MARKET

Top	On-site audits, annual reviews and regulatory interfaces	Large miners, brands and regulated entities
Middle	AI risk grading and sample review	—
Base	Light, low-cost certificate data that can be looked up	Small and mid-sized traders, wholesalers and buyers

In gemmological grading, IGI and similar institutions have mature 4C capability and market recognition. GDCS does not set itself against established grading laboratories; it competes by being different. IGI is strong at grading stones. On a GDCS certificate the 4C is tested to GDCS/T—2027 by a laboratory of the GDCS Laboratory Alliance and sits on the same certificate as the sustainability grade, giving sustainable sourcing one basis for its decisions. GDCS does not claim more than it can on 4C grading, and does not turn the sustainability grade into a marketing score that cannot be reviewed.

IGI AND OTHER ESTABLISHED LABORATORIES

Strong at grading stones

Mature 4C grading capability and market recognition

GDCS

"4C + sustainability grade": one certificate, two sets of data

The 4C tested by a GDCS Laboratory Alliance laboratory; one basis for sustainable-sourcing decisions, with a sustainability grade that is never an unreviewable marketing score

09 BOUNDARIES AND RISK CONTROL

Boundaries of credibility and risk control

For GDCS to have a positive effect on the global sustainable diamond and jewellery trade, it has to hold four boundaries:

01 Published standards

The grading rules, indicators, weights and data sources of the sustainability grade are public and can be checked.

02 Graded evidence

Third-party tests, supply-chain documents, self-declarations and on-site reviews are kept clearly apart; a self-declaration is never treated as a third-party audit.

03 Independent review

Testing, rating and review are clearly separated, to avoid conflict-of-interest doubts when one body issues the certificate; AI output must involve people, be explainable and be open to appeal.

04 Restraint

A light certificate is a supplementary layer of information, not a passport to regulatory compliance.

WITHOUT THESE BOUNDARIES

"One certificate, two sets of data" could degrade into a marketing label, and even invite grade inflation and accusations of greenwashing.

WITH THEM

It could help the industry build a more tiered, more verifiable system of sustainable sourcing.

10 CONCLUSION

Conclusion

The long-term value of GDCS Sustainable Diamond Testing and Certification lies not in adding one more certification brand, but in trying to change three things: the form of certification, from separate 4C and sustainability documents to one certificate with two sets of data; the language of sourcing, from "is there a certificate?" to "can the data be verified?"; and supply-chain governance, from end-of-chain declarations to parcel-bound, field-level data.

Form of certification	4C and sustainability apart	→ One certificate, two sets of data
Language of sourcing	"Is there a certificate?"	→ "Can the data be verified?"
Supply-chain governance	End-of-chain declarations	→ Parcel-bound, field-level data

With SCS's exit from the relevant sustainability certification services and the industry facing a gap in service people can afford, GDCS uses AI as a tool to turn document parsing, data matching, risk grading, certificate verification and continuous monitoring into low-cost processes that can scale, cutting the certification cost of sustainable sourcing as far as the bounds of compliance allow. AI lowers the cost of the process, not its credibility. What will decide GDCS's standing in the industry is not the slogan "one certificate, two sets of data", but the data governance behind the certificate, which makes it possible to look up, compare, trace and explain, and the institutional discipline of people working with AI, independent review and graded evidence.

WHAT WILL DECIDE GDCS'S STANDING

Not the slogan "one certificate, two sets of data", but the data governance behind the certificate, which makes it possible to look up, compare, trace and explain, and the discipline of people working with AI, independent review and graded evidence.



AI lowers the cost of the process,
not its credibility.

GDCS