

PRESS RELEASE

GIA Laboratory Prevents Attempted Fraud

Procedures detect counterfeit inscriptions

CARLSBAD, Calif. – May 17, 2021 – GIA is seeing an increase in the number of laboratory-grown diamonds submitted for update or verification services with counterfeit inscriptions referencing GIA natural diamond reports. The majority of the newly-submitted laboratory-grown diamonds have higher clarities and their measurements and weights were almost identical to the GIA reports referenced by the counterfeit inscriptions.

“This unfortunate situation demonstrates why it is important, especially in any transaction where the buyer does not have a trusted relationship with the seller, to have the diamond grading report updated before completing a purchase,” said Tom Moses, GIA executive vice president and chief laboratory and research officer.

This most recent example, submitted in Antwerp, of a laboratory-grown diamond with a counterfeit inscription highlights how close the man-made stone's measurements are to the information on the original report. The report that accompanied the stone submitted for an update was for a 3.078 carat, 9.33 - 9.38 x 5.74 mm, Internally Flawless, G, natural diamond with triple excellent make. The newly-submitted stone was a 3.075 carat laboratory-grown diamond measuring 9.39 - 9.41 x 5.76 mm, VVS2, H, with a triple excellent make. At first glance, the natural and laboratory-grown diamonds described above are almost identical; the measurements were within just hundredths of millimeters of each other.

Consistent with GIA's mission to protect consumers and ensure their trust in gems and jewelry, when GIA encounters these cases, the Institute overwrites the counterfeit inscription, inscribes a newly issued report number and "Laboratory-Grown" on the girdle of the diamond.

In February 2021, GIA reported a similar incident of a number of treated natural diamonds submitted for update or verification services with counterfeit report number inscriptions.

ABOUT GIA

An independent nonprofit organization, GIA (Gemological Institute of America), established in 1931, is recognized as the world's foremost authority in gemology. GIA invented the famous 4Cs of Color, Clarity, Cut and Carat Weight and, in 1953, created the International Diamond Grading System™ which is recognized around the world as the standard for diamond quality.

Through research, education, gemological laboratory services and instrument development, the Institute is dedicated to ensuring the public trust in gems and jewelry by upholding the highest standards of integrity, academics, science and professionalism.