

# GEMSTONE INFORMATION CHART GLOSSARY

Defined below are the specific enhancement codes and designations to be used in the GEMSTONE INFORMATION CHART. (See pages 9 through 18.)

## SYMBOLS FOR SPECIFIC FORMS OF ENHANCEMENT

- N** *Natural*: No modification (or currently has no known modification process).
- B** *Bleaching*: The use of heat, light and/or other agents to lighten or remove a gemstone's color.
- C** *Coating*: The use of such surface enhancements as lacquering, enameling, inking, foiling or sputtering of films to improve appearance, provide color or add other special effects.
- D** *Dyeing*: The introduction of coloring matter into a gemstone to give it new color, intensify present color or improve color uniformity.
- F** *Filling*: The filling of surface-breaking cavities or fissures with colorless glass, plastic, solidified borax or similar substances. This process may improve durability and/or appearance, and/or to add weight.
- H** *Heating*: The use of heat to effect desired alteration of color, clarity and/or phenomena. If residue of foreign substances in open fissures is visible under properly illuminated 10X magnification, H F should be used.
- HP** *Heating and Pressure*: The use of heat and pressure combined to effect desired alterations of color, clarity and/or phenomena.
- I** *Impregnation*: The impregnation of a porous gemstone with a colorless agent (usually plastic) to improve durability and appearance.
- L** *Lasering*: The use of a laser and chemicals to reach and alter inclusions in gemstones, usually diamonds.
- O** *Oiling/Resin Infusion*: The filling of surface-breaking fissures with colorless oil, wax, resin or other colorless substances, except glass or plastic, to improve the gemstone's appearance.
- R** *Irradiation*: The use of neutrons, gamma rays or beta particles (high energy electrons) to alter a gemstone's color. The irradiation may be followed by a heating process.
- U** *Diffusion*: The use of chemicals in conjunction with high temperatures to produce ARTIFICIAL color change and/or asterism-producing inclusions.

Note: It is a violation of the FTC Guides to fail to disclose diffusion on gemstones in advertising, promotional literature or commercial documents. Suggested methods of disclosure are:

“(Gemstone): chemically colored (Color) by diffusion.”

Example: “Sapphire: chemically colored blue by diffusion.”

If the color of the diffused gemstone does not permeate the entire stone, then the following statement must also appear:

“Although the color induced in diffusion treated gemstones is permanent, it does not permeate the entire gemstone; therefore, recutting or repolishing is not recommended.”

- W** *Waxing/Oiling*: The impregnation of a colorless wax, paraffin or oil in porous opaque or translucent gemstones to improve appearance.