



Press Comment

28 June 2007

Argos statement on CAFOD campaign

Argos refutes any suggestion that it is not concerned about the issue of "dirty gold".

As the biggest jewellery retailer in the UK it is vital that we play a part in ensuring that all gold we source is mined without damage to the environment and to the communities living near the mines and we have made it clear to CAFOD that we broadly support their aims.

However, we are not prepared to sign up to a guarantee that we are unable to substantiate and we note that CAFOD itself acknowledges that it is difficult for jewellers to say with confidence how the gold in their products is mined.

CAFOD are well aware of our desire to support their aims in this area. However, it would be irresponsible of us to make public promises to them that we will subsequently be unable to deliver due to the nature of the market/supply chain.

We will continue to work with CAFOD towards achieving higher standards within the gold mining industry, and we would like to reassure our customers that we understand the importance of the issue and take it very seriously.

We will continue to engage with CAFOD and we have written to them reiterating our concerns and offering a more pragmatic approach to providing support to their "Golden Rules".

Argos' code of practice on ethical supply chain principles can be found at www.homeretailgroupcr.com

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Note to News Editors: For more information contact Media Relations, tel: 0845 120 4365, mobile: 0771 3064079, email: media.relations@argos.co.uk

About Argos

Argos is a unique retailer recognised for choice, value and convenience. It sells general merchandise and products for the home from over 680 stores throughout the UK and Republic of Ireland, online and over the telephone. In the last financial year, Argos sales grew 8% to £4.2 billion and it employed some 34,000 people across the business.

Argos serves over 130 million customers a year through its stores and takes four million customer orders either online or over the phone. On average, 17 million UK households, or around two thirds of the population, have an Argos catalogue at home at any time.

Argos expects to add around 30 stores per annum with the chain expected to exceed 800 over time. Its Internet site, www.argos.co.uk, is the second most visited retail site in the UK.

Argos is part of Home Retail Group, the UK's leading home and general merchandise retailer.