

AGA Certified Gemological Laboratory Program

The prestigious AGA Certified Gemological Laboratory (CGL) program, founded in 1982, is designed to establish consistent standards for gemological laboratories, and to instill greater public confidence in the gemological reports issued by those laboratories. The rigorous application process underscores the value of this certification.

CGL standards apply both to human operators and to equipment. On the human side, CGL laboratories are required to employ gemologists who have successfully completed qualified gemological education programs, while on the hardware side, CGL labs must own a variety of equipment necessary to perform the types of gemological tasks that are commonly required in the gem and jewelry market today.

As in modern medicine, which requires specialization within the profession, gemological laboratories and gemologists specialize in different facets of the field. AGA has addressed this in the CGL program by providing four categories of certification, each with its own qualifications and requirements.

Laboratories providing gemological services...

- A. Primarily for diamonds
- B. Primarily for colored stones
- C. Primarily for pearls
- D. All or a combination of the above

AGA Certified Gemological Laboratory status is only awarded to an active, AGA Voting Member. The certification is not issued in the name of a company nor is it transferable. Cooperation with AGA's [Code of Ethics](#), [Bylaws](#), and [Constitution](#) is an integral part of this program. Please read them before proceeding with your application.

Every reasonable effort is made to ensure that AGA Certified Gemological Laboratories conform to the highest standards of independent professional practice in gem science & technology. Laboratory standards are reviewed annually. Changes in criteria may require additional documentation requirements to maintain CGL status. Status as an AGA Certified Gemological Laboratory is limited to a five-year period and may be renewed by recertification.

The AGA does not discriminate against any applicants based upon race, religion, national origin, age, gender or sexual orientation. Applicants are required to meet substantial qualifications and to adhere to the AGA Code of Ethics.

Once approved, you will be billed annually for the AGA CGL Program.

For questions, please contact the AGA Headquarters. (Contact information below)



Certified Gemological Laboratory Application

Please Select All Lab Categories That Apply

- Laboratories dealing primarily with diamonds (fill out Section A)
- Laboratories dealing primarily with colored stones (fill out Section B)
- Laboratories dealing primarily with pearls (fill out Section C)
- Laboratories dealing with precious metals (fill out Section D)

AGA Member Name: _____

Lab Name: _____ Website: _____

Principal Lab Address (address where the majority of articles are submitted for testing):

City: _____ State/Prov.: _____

Postal Code: _____ Country: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

Business Type: _____ Professional Expertise: _____

Gemological Credentials & Dates Awarded

Credential (GG, FGA, FCGmA, etc.)	Organization (GIA, Gem-A, etc.)	Date Awarded

Related Credentials (appraisal or other): _____

Academic Degrees: _____

Have you been tested for color blindness in the past five years? Yes No

Did testing show color vision defects? Yes No *If yes, please attach an explanation*

Have you or your lab ever been the subject of civil or criminal litigation related to gem/jewelry activities?

No Yes *If yes, please attach an explanation*

Does your lab's ownership, staff or board include anyone who derives significant income from the trading in the types of articles that are tested by your lab?

No Yes *If yes, please attach the names of the individuals, their business interests, and an explanation for how conflict-of-interest is avoided*

Does your lab advertise a location either on your website or on the documents you provide to clients that is different from the address above?

No Yes *If yes, please provide all additional address information*

Professional Profile (Be concise, all field sizes are limited)

Include *Education, Memberships, Work Experience, Conferences, Trade Shows, and Lectures Given* (including topics) over the last two years.

Laboratory Employees

List the names, titles and AGA membership status of up to five of the most senior employees currently working in the lab:

Name	Title	Active AGA member?	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Letters of Reference

The application requires three professional reference letters from gemological colleagues. To expedite this, we have included a form letter on the end of this application for you to copy & email to the people making the reference.

Application Fee – \$50 US

Please include this non-refundable administrative fee with your application.

Other Information/Explanations (optional)

Photos of the equipment selected need to be sent (jpg or pdf) to cgl@agatoday.org

Gemological binocular stereoscopic microscope (min. 10–45×) with dark field/light field illumination and overhead illuminator. The microscope must include the following accessories:

- Fiber-optic light
- Both polarizer and analyzer plates to create crossed polar conditions
- White diffusion filters and others as needed
- Proper immersion cell and appropriate immersion liquids
- Camera attachment to capture photomicrographs
- Either a doubling lens or high-power eyepieces to extend the magnification range

Carat balance – accurate to 0.001 ct, with proper calibration weight
Caliper gauge or equivalent – accurate to 0.01 mm, with proper calibration block
Polariscope with condensing sphere
Dichroscope
Chelsea filter
Refractometer with eyepiece polarizer and 589 nm light source
LW/SW UV light source and box
Direct-vision spectroscope
Specific gravity measurement: Either hydrostatic balance attachment and/or heavy liquids
Thermal conductivity tester
Hot point thermal reaction tester such as needle point soldering iron or equivalent
Photography system for photographing items
Reference library containing major gemological monographs and periodicals

A. Additional Equipment Requirements for Diamond-Grading Laboratories

Table gauge
Diamond color-grading light box
Diamond color-grading master set, minimum five stones with grading reports* as a master set (***SEND COPY OF REPORTS**)
Diamond Type IIa tester to separate possible synthetic/HPHT diamonds

B. Additional Equipment Requirements for Colored Stone Testing Laboratories

Colored stone color comparison system (World of Color, Color Codex, Gem Dialogue, Gem Set, or equivalent)

C. Additional Equipment Requirements for Pearl-Testing Laboratories

Have access to X-ray radiography equipment for separating natural and cultured pearls

D. Additional Equipment Requirements for Precious Metal-Testing Laboratories

Precious metal testing equipment (either one or both of the following):

- Test needles verified by ED-XRF
- ED-XRF for metal testing

Recommended Equipment for Laboratories

Raman spectrometer, including microRaman
UV-Vis-NIR spectrophotometer
FT-IR spectrophotometer
Beryllium-detection equipment (LIBS, LA-ICP-MS, SIMS)
Fluorescence spectrophotometer
Advanced chemical analysis (ED-XRF, LIBS, LA-ICP-MS, SIMS)
Portable gem testing lab
Reflectivity meter
Set of hardness points
Radiation monitor

Certified Gemological Laboratory Applicant's Affidavit

I do hereby attest that I own the equipment described in this application, that such equipment is in acceptable working condition, and that such equipment is physically on the premises for which the AGA Certified Gemological Laboratory certificate is to be issued. I further authorize inspection visits to my premises by designated AGA CGL Committee personnel, with a minimum of 24-hour notice.

I acknowledge that my AGA Certified Gemological Laboratory status may be revoked by the AGA CGL Committee if my laboratory and gemological practice is not conducted within the Code of Ethics and resolutions of AGA, including the scope of this sworn application, and hereby acknowledge receipt of the same.

Should a complaint be filed with AGA, I understand I will be advised of such. It is my responsibility as a Member of AGA and as an AGA Certified Gemological Laboratory owner to respond promptly to any such complaint. Continuing violation of AGA ethics and resolutions will result in a withdrawal of certification, without return of any member or application fees; return of all AGA CGL support materials to AGA will be mandatory. I agree to these terms of revocation.

Once certified, I understand I have the right and privilege to advertise the AGA Certified Gemological Laboratory (CGL) designation and to use all available support materials. My eligibility for this designation is limited to a five-year period, from date of certification by AGA and the AGA CGL Committee, after which it may be renewed by recertification. In the event that I do not reapply, or am not recertified, I agree to return all AGA CGL support materials to AGA at the address above, and to desist in the use of this designation for any purposes from that time forward.

AGA's [Code of Ethics, Bylaws](#), and [Constitution](#), and are an integral part of this program. I have read and agree to abide by those codes of conduct.

With my signature below, I agree to all of the above.

Digital Signature*:

Date: (dd/mm/yy)

** If you cannot provide a digital signature, please save, print, and sign the document prior to submission.*

This form must be saved to your computer prior to sending via email.

Mail or email this application to AGA Headquarters. (Contact information below.)