

WIRE TRANSFER SCAM ALERT

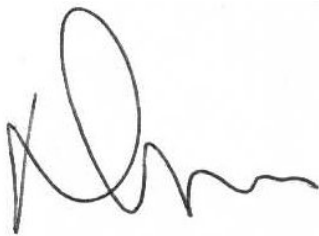
Dear Colleagues,

It has come to our attention that several of our supplier member's clients have received scam emails that appear to be sent from the supplier's email accounts. The messages vary but all suggest that the clients should withhold payments that are due the suppliers because of various "problems" with the supplier's banks. They advise the clients to await new wire transfer information that will be sent to them shortly. The emails to the clients are fake and the "new" wire transfer information is to a bank controlled by the scammers.

It is imperative that whenever you or your clients receive a message, via any means, altering payment terms or requesting bank information, that this information should be confirmed, preferably by phone but not via email, with someone at the company that is known and trusted.

The emails are probably a result of hijacked email accounts and the fake emails appear to be exact duplicates of the supplier's accounts but may also have slight alterations to the email account's name.

Please remember to exercise extreme caution when communicating or responding to messages discussing sensitive information.



Douglas K. Hucker, CEO
American Gem Trade Association