BIS CERTIFICATION SCHEME FOR HALLMARKING OF GOLD JEWELLERY

BUREAU OF INDIAN STANDARDS
OBJECTIVES BEHIND INSTITUTING
A CREDIBLE SYSTEM OF ASSAYING
AND HALLMARKING

- To protect consumer against victimization of irregular gold quality.
- To develop export competitiveness of gold jewellery industry and thus provide
  strong impetus for gold jewellery exports.
- To develop gold based financial products which will help in mopping up of
  the vast dormant gold resources lying with the household sector.
- To develop India as a leading gold market centre in the world commensurate
  with its status as the top most consumer.

HALLMARK

- Has acted as a safeguard to purchasers of gold and gold articles for centuries in various countries.
- Indicates that gold articles have been evaluated and tested at an official Assaying and Hallmarking
  Centre and they have certified that the metal used conforms to the national/international standard of
  fineness/purity.
- Consists of BIS Mark, purity mark, Mark of Assaying and Hallmarking Centre responsible for assaying
  and hallmarking of jewellery, Mark of Jeweller and year of Marking.
  Applied on each article/ornament after ensuring its purity.

BIS HALLMARKING SCHEME

- Hallmarking of gold jewellery has been introduced in India
  on voluntary basis under BIS Act, 1986.
- Certification of purity of gold jewellery is done in accordance with Indian Standard Specification IS 1417
  'Gold and gold alloys, jewellery/artefacts - Fineness and
  Marking'.
- BIS is operating this scheme with its network of 33 Branch
  offices all over the country.
- Assaying of gold and gold jewellery is done as per IS 1418
  'Assaying of Gold in Gold bullion, Gold alloy and Gold
  Jewellery/artefacts - Cupellation (Fine Assay) Method'.

BENEFITS TO
CUSTOMER

- Provide third-party assurance and satisfaction that the right quality of gold for the given price
  has been purchased.
- Protection against victimization of irregular gold quality/purity.
- Opportunity for filing complaint in case purity is found less from that declared by the jeweller.
CRITERIA FOR CERTIFICATION OF JEWELLERS

Jewellers desirous of Hallmarking their gold jewellery need to first become a 'BIS Certified Jeweller'. To get BIS certification, a jeweller needs to apply to BIS and ensure the purity of jewellery received from artisans/karigars, by following a systematic Quality Assurance System. The jeweller's Quality Assurance System and conformity of test reports form the basis for Certification of Jewellers. A certified jeweller has to implement Scheme of Testing and Inspection as given by BIS and ensure the homogeneity of batches of jewellery offered to a recognized Hallmarking Centre for hallmarking. Only BIS Certified Jewellers can get their jewellery assayed and hallmarked from the BIS recognized Assaying and Hallmarking Centres.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CERTIFIED JEWELLERS

The Jewellers holding BIS licence shall have to provide:
- Commitment to quality,
- Assurance of consistency in quality and purity of hallmarked gold jewellery,
- To implement a quality assurance system for the purpose of operating Hallmarking Scheme,
- Provide complete customer satisfaction,
- Display all requirements describing the components of Hallmark including the magnifying glass.

CRITERIA FOR RECOGNITION OF ASSAYING AND HALLMARKING CENTRES

An Assaying and Hallmarking Centre is recognized by BIS only after ensuring that it follows the documented BIS Criteria which is in line with International norms for sampling, assaying and marking and the Centre is equipped with required facilities, trained and competent manpower. The norms for recognition of these Centres have been aligned with those in other parts of the world, to ensure the acceptability of the Indian hallmarked jewellery world over.

OBLIGATIONS OF ASSAYING AND HALLMARKING CENTRES

- To strictly follow the documented Quality Management System for Sampling, Assaying and Hallmarking of gold jewellery as per the documented BIS Criteria through competent and trained manpower.
- To Hallmark each jewellery article only after ensuring the purity/fineness of the articles as per prescribed test method and sampling plan.
- Ensuring safe custody of jewellery.
- Return of gold jewellery after hallmarking within 48 hours.
For further details, contact nearest office of the Bureau of Indian Standards or write to:

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