

BRIEF ON HALLMARKING SCHEME

Introduction

Gold has fascinated Indians from ancient times for reasons of its intrinsic value and reverence attached to it during auspicious occasions. Gold is also a popular investment choice for the vast population living in villages to keep them secured during times of need. Thus, to protect the consumer against adulteration and to obligate jewelers to maintain legal standards of purity, government mandated Bureau of Indian standards to start the Hallmarking scheme for gold in year 2000. The scheme for silver was later introduced in the year 2005.

Hallmarking

2.1 Hallmarking is the accurate determination and official recording of the proportionate content of precious metal in the jewellery/artefacts or bullion/coins. Hallmarking Scheme is currently voluntary. However, Quality control order for mandatory hallmarking of gold jewellery/artefacts has been issued on 15 Jan 2020 by the Govt. of India. Mandatory hallmarking of gold jewellery/artefacts shall come into force with effect from 01 June 2021.


2.2 For hallmarking of jewellery, a jeweler who wants to sell hallmarked jewellery has to obtain a registration from BIS. The registration of jeweler's process has been made online. The jeweler fills the application form online, uploads the requisite documents, pays the fees online and the registration is granted instantly and can be downloaded by the jeweler. The same procedure is applicable for renewal of registration.

2.3 The registered jeweler submits the jewellery for hallmarking to BIS recognized Assaying & Hallmarking (A&H) centre. A&H centres are the testing centres where the jewellery is tested. After testing, the A&H centre applies hallmark on the jewellery which is found meeting the requirement of the standard.

2.4 The A&H centre can apply for recognition to BIS online. The recognition is granted to A&H centres for hallmarking of jewellery/artefacts after verifying the infrastructure requirements, capability and competency of personnel to carry out assaying & hallmarking. Entire process of recognition, which involves audit of the centres, submission of audit report, and grant of recognition or renewal, has been automated.

2.5 The list of list of registered jewellers and BIS recognised A&H centres is available on the BIS website www.bis.gov.in”.

2.6 Hallmarked Jewellery consist of following four marks:

 BIS Mark	Purity in carat and fineness for gold (e.g.22K916,18K750, 14K585) In case of silver only fineness of 990,970,925,900,835,800	Assay centre's identification mark / number	Jewellers identification mark/number
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2.7 The Indian Standard on Gold Hallmarking IS 1417:2016 specifies three grades for hallmarking of gold jewellery/ artefacts which are 14 Carat, 18 Carat and 22 Carat and

Indian standard on Silver hallmarking IS 2112: 2014 specifies six grades of silver alloys viz 990,970,925,900,835,800 used in the manufacture of jewellery/artefacts of silver

2.8 Hallmarking charges for the jewellery are – Rs.35/- +GST per piece for gold jewellery and Rs.25/- +GST per piece for silver jewellery irrespective of the weight of the jewellery.

2.9 After grant of registration to jeweller, BIS periodically visit the sales outlet(s) and randomly draws sample of Hallmarked article as on sale and gets it tested according to the relevant Indian Standard at its own referral assay labs at Chennai, Sahibabad and Kolkata to ascertain the purity of the precious metal content in the sample. In case of failure of sample, action is taken on both the jeweller and the assaying and hallmarking centre .BIS also carries out periodic surveillance audit of the A&H centre to ascertain its continuation with the specified requirements.

2.10 For hallmarking of gold bullion and coins of fineness 995 and 999 parts per thousand a refinery or a mint obtains a license and applies hallmark during the manufacturing

Growth of Hallmarking Scheme

3.1 Upto 31st March 2020, 30,626 Jewellers have taken a registration from BIS for selling hallmarked jewellery. The average growth in the number of registered jewellers during the last three years has been nearly 18%. Similarly the number of A& H Centres have also grown at an average growth rate of nearly 25% during the last three years. As on 31st March 2020, 915 BIS recognized assaying and hallmarking centers are operative in the country.

Consumer Protection

4.1 Consumer should buy Hallmarked Jewellery from BIS registered jewellers and the following points should be taken care off:

- a) Please check the BIS certificate of registration displayed in the shop.
- b) Check Hallmark, consisting of four marks, on the article with the help of a magnifying glass of 10 X magnification available in the shop.
- c) Do not pay Hallmarking cost more than Rs.35/- +GST per piece for gold jewellery and Rs.25/- +GST per piece for silver jewellery.
- d) Do not forget to take the bill which should mention hallmarking cost, net weight of precious metal, purity in carat and fineness on the bill.

4.2 BIS follows a well-established complaint redressal procedure. Complaints are recorded centrally at Complaints Management and Enforcement Department (CMED). Complaints can be made both offline and online. Online complaint can be made through mobile app BIS CARE or by use of Consumer Engagement Portal at BIS website www.bis.gov.in.

4.3 Consumers can get their hallmarked jewellery tested from any of the BIS Recognized A&H Centre on chargeable basis and can lodge a complaint with BIS in case of shortage in purity is observed. BIS ensures its redressal by the registered jeweller. In case of

shortage of purity, consumer is entitled to get the compensation calculated on two times the shortage in purity for the weight of the article sold.