

BIS CERTIFICATION SCHEME FOR HALLMARKING OF GOLD JEWELLERY

Government of India' has identified BIS a sole agency in India to operate this scheme. BIS hallmarking Scheme is voluntary in nature and is operating under BIS Act, Rules and Regulations. It operates on the basis of trust and thus it is desirable that aspect of quality control are in built in the system responsible for managing quality.

The BIS Hallmarking Scheme has been aligned with International criteria on hallmarking (Vienna Convention 1972). As per this scheme, licence is granted to the jewellers by BIS under Hallmarking Scheme. The BIS certified jewellers can get their jewellery hallmarked from any of the BIS recognized Assaying and Hallmarking Centre. The recognition to an Assaying and Hallmarking Centre is given against BIS criteria Doc: HMS/RAHC/GO1 which is in line with International criteria on Marking and Control of Precious metals.

Design of Hallmark on Gold Jewellery

BIS Hallmark



Purity/Fineness

958	Corresponding to 23 Carat
916	Corresponding to 22 Carat
875	Corresponding to 21 Carat
750	Corresponding to 18 Carat
585	Corresponding to 14 Carat
375	Corresponding to 9 Carat

Assaying and Hallmarking Centre's Mark



The Logo of
BIS recognized
Assaying and
Hallmarking
Centre
where the
jewellery has
been assayed
and hallmarked

Year of Marking



Code letter represents the year of hallmarking of jewellery and is decided by BIS e.g. letter 'A' Donates Year 2000, 'J' for 2008

Jewellers Identification Mark



Identification mark of BIS Certified Jeweller/Jewellery Manufacturer



As per this scheme the jewellery retailer/manufacturer desirous of obtaining a licence apply to BIS for use of Standard Mark (Hallmark) on their jewellery. If the application submitted with necessary documents and fees is found in order, licence is granted to the jeweller within 7 working days.

After grant of licence, the jeweller (retailer/manufacturer) has to follow a BIS approved Scheme for certification. A BIS certified jewellers (retailer/manufacturers) has right to register himself with any of the BIS recognized Assaying and Hallmarking Centres to get his jewellery hallmarked. BIS maintains surveillance on the

certified jewellers, at a defined periodicity. Market surveillance involves collection of hallmarked gold jewellery from licensee's retail outlet/manufacturing premises and having it tested for conformity in BIS recognized Hallmarking Centre.

Deviations in degree of purity of fine metal and observance of operations not in conformance to the system may result in cancellation of BIS licence, and invoke legal proceedings for penalties under the BIS Act, Rules and Regulations.

An Assaying Centre desirous of obtaining recognition shall apply to BIS alongwith their Quality Manual ensuring implementation of BIS criteria on hallmarking and Quality Management System by the Centre. After ensuring the adequacy of the Quality Manual documented by the Centre with respect to all the requirements of the BIS criteria and commitment of top management to implement Quality management system, a Preliminary Visit of the centre is planned by BIS. The main objectives of the Preliminary visit are to verify the implementation level of Quality Management System and availability of infrastructure. An assessment of the centre is carried out by a team of trained/expert officials from BIS or from organizations of repute in India like India Govt. Mint (IGM). During the assessment, implementation of the documented system, availability of sampling and hallmarking facilities, availability of complete testing facilities as per IS 1417:1999 and IS 1418:1999, competence of manpower and their training, availability of adequate safety and security arrangement and commitment to follow BIS guidelines issued from time to time is ensured. Based on satisfactory assessment report of the assessment team, recognition is granted to a centre for a period of 3 years. A BIS recognized Assaying and Hallmarking Centre can register any of the BIS certified jewellers for the purpose of hallmarking. However, the Hallmarking of the gold jewellery will be done only after ensuring the conformance of gold jewellery received from a particular jeweller with respect to declared fineness. The same is returned within 48 hrs. BIS maintains strict surveillance on the Hallmarking Centre during which visits are paid to the Centre and the purity/fineness of the hallmarked samples verified. The recognition of the hallmarking centre after 3 years is renewed based on the satisfactory performance during surveillance assessment.

BIS also maintains market surveillance on the certified jewellers, at a defined periodicity on random basis. Market surveillance involves collection of Hallmarked Gold Jewellery from licensee's retail outlet/manufacturing premises and having it tested for conformity in BIS recognized hallmarking centre.



Deviations in degree of purity of fine metal and observance of operation not in conformance to the system may result in cancellation of BIS recognition of the centre as per provisions under the BIS act, rules and regulations.

BIS HALLMARK

A Hallmark, consists of five components i.e. BIS Mark, the Fineness number (corresponding to given caratage), Assaying and Hallmarking Centre's Mark, Jeweller's identification Mark and year of Marking denoted by a code letter and decided by BIS (e.g. code letter 'A' was approved by BIS for year 2000, 'B' being used for the year 2001 and 'C' for 2002 and 'J' for 2008). The marking is done either using punches or laser marking machine.

The BIS hallmark, a mark of conformity widely accepted by the consumer bestow the additional confidence to the consumer on the purity of gold jewellery.