

Highlights of First Annual Meeting of Hallmarking Federation of India

Mr James Jose, Past Secretary, Association of Gold Refineries and Mints



The first annual general meeting of the Hallmarking Federation of India was held on 6 and 7 November 2022 in New Delhi. The event was hosted by Association of Hallmarking Centres, Gujarat. The meeting was attended by delegates from various parts of the country and also by associations from Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, North India Hallmarking Centres Association (NIHA) etc. Attached to the event was an exhibition of machinery and equipments for the hallmarking centres, which was well appreciated by the delegates due to the impending mandatory integration of HM centre machines with the HUID portal of BIS.

The meeting discussed the modification of the byelaws of HFI, incorporating the suggestions of other trade associations of hallmarking industry. The panel discussion on the 2nd day with DDG Hallmarking, BIS -Ms.Renu Gupta, Mr Sanjay Goswami – Head of HM Dept, BIS and Shri. Akshay Kaushik –officer incharge of HUID project, was very interactive and gave clarity on various problem areas of HUID hallmarking, with suggestions for the improvement of the scheme. The office bearers of HFI visited the BIS HM dept on the next day and held further discussions on various aspects of the hallmarking scheme Respected Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti - Hon. Minister of State for Consumer



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Affairs could not attend the HFI general meeting on the 2nd day for health reasons. Hence the HFI team was invited to their office at Krishi Bhavan on the subsequent day, where the HFI team apprised the minister about the rampant fake hallmarking in the mandatory regime and requested to announce a timeline for mandatory sale of HUID hallmarked goods. Also requested that the Hallmarking Act may be amended to give permission for hallmarking at smaller towns and cities, instead of the existing mandatory hallmarking at the first point of sale in the manufacturing city, so that a wider network of hallmarking centres shall come up in smaller towns and cities, to enable mandatory hallmarking of jewellery all over the country.

On the next day, the HFI delegation was invited for a hearing by the

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Consumer Affairs at Parliament house annexe, New Delhi. HFI took up the above 2 issues with the parliamentary committee and its members gave a patient listening of the problems of the hallmarking industry, especially the fake hallmarking in old HM logos by a section of the trade. HFI also had discussions with the respected committee members on related issues such as expanding the HM centre network for all India mandatory hallmarking, hallmarking on smaller articles and studded jewellery items, silver hallmarking, increased publicity and media campaign on hallmarking for consumer awareness etc. The meeting had seminars on various topics of the hallmarking industry, such as starting offsite centres, regulatory issues under the new SOP, Vienna Convention on Hallmarking etc and expressed hope that the hallmarking scheme shall achieve greater transparency and credibility with the launch of mandatory integration of HM centre machines with the HUID portal of BIS, so that real time data from the machines are uploaded to the BIS portal, enabling full transparency and traceability for hallmarked jewellery.

