



Taj Mahal – A story in stones

Certification of Stones by IGEP

E-mail: igepfoundation@igep.org, igepnd@vsnl.com

www.igep.org

*I*ndia is one of the largest producers and exporters of granite and other stones. With a market that has grown and modernized successfully since the early 1970s, the Indian stone industry is a world renowned supplier and manufacturer of marble and granite countertops, statues, monuments, and memorials. Germany is the biggest European buyer of natural stones from India.

However, export and related employment and income of thousands of workers and their families is in danger, because it is alleged that all natural stone products are made with child labour. To avoid set backs and losses of the industry, IGEP developed an appropriate strategy to provide evidence that there is no child labour, but social responsibility.

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Accordingly certification agreements have been signed with Indian and German stone associations and individual suppliers and buyers.

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IGEP carries out social auditing projects in the whole stone sector – from the quarries to the port of shipment. This is done in strong cooperation with quarry owners, stone processing companies, exporters and buyers.

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Inspections are based on accepted national and international laws, rules and regulations. The ISES standard 2020 of IGEP is introduced to the companies.

IGEP in India

IGEP has been working in India since 1987. It is an independent private group consisting of the IGEP Foundation (a section 25 company) and the IGEP Consult Pvt. Ltd. The certification is also done to reach the overall objective to make India's economy internationally more competitive and better accepted.

So far, IGEP was known by its internationally recognized standard RUGMARK as a synonym for products without child labour and by its comprehensive social and environmental standard ISES 2020.

Within the last twenty years IGEP carried out social audits and certifications in many industries, as e.g. textiles and garments, leather, handicrafts, jewellery, engineering industry, food, marine products, carpets and natural stones.

Companies certified by IGEP get a compliance certificate for fulfilling basic social and environmental principles (prohibition of child labour, compliance with health and safety measures, payment of minimum wages, good house keeping etc.)



The Certificate for Products without Child Labour

IGEP's certification confirms that stones are made

1. without child labour
2. with proper working conditions according to ILO conventions 182 and others.

It facilitates the access to leading stone buyers in Germany and other EU countries

How to Get this Certification

1. Inform IGEP about your company and your quarries; that you work without child labour and agree upon unannounced controls.
2. Meet IGEP team in your company
3. Get informed about the auditing procedure with surprise check as key element.
4. Have the first round of inspection done in the whole chain from quarry, processing, packaging till shipment followed by unannounced controls.
5. If there is no child labour the IGEP certificate is given with which you can promote your products

That certificate is valid for one year and can be renewed through one simple re-audit



Mrs. Sharda Subramaniam at the inspection site

What Does it Cost?

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The Indian companies provide 0.25% of the export value (f.o.b.) mainly for the control (audit) work.

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The importers give 1%. For buyers groups and associations rebates are possible. The money is primarily used for social projects, mainly in the fields of education, training and health care.

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All expenditure and income are subject to strict controls of the financial authorities and chartered accountants. Full transparency is guaranteed.



IGEP (www.igep.org) is:

the official representative of the two federal states of Germany on behalf of

- the State Ministry for Economics, Transport and Innovation of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg and
- WTSH-Business Development and Technology Transfer Corporation of Schleswig-Holstein.

Associate Projects of IGEP Foundation:

- Hamburg Business Centre at Gurgaon.
- Schleswig-Holstein Business Center at Gurgaon.
- Rugmark India.
- Business Social Compliance Initiative in india for BSCI/FTA in Brussels
- German-Indian Round Table (GIRT).
- The Little Keb-Schools at Jharkhand and Delhi.
- Vocational training centre at Dharmapuri with Caritas india and Natural Stones Companies.

How to contact IGEP

Corporate Office:

Apparel House #630-636, 6th Floor,
Institutional Area, Sector 44
Gurgaon – 122003 (NCR)

Phone: 91-124-4048273/ 77 **Fax:** 91-124-4048275

E-Mail: igepfoundation@igep.org, igepnd@vsnl.com **Web:** www.igep.org

Postal Address:

D-248, Sushant Lok,
Phase I, Gurgaon-122001
Haryana, India