



Date: October 2017

Sub: Invitation for reviewing standard ISES 2020

Dear Sir / ma'am,

We would like to invite you for the review of the standard "ISES 2020".

We have been working with you for so many years, and would like to have your expertise in developing the standard further. ISES is used across many verticals like natural stone industry, textile industry, garment industry, gem & jewellery industry, leather industry, handicrafts, handmade carpets and many other sectors.

ISES 2020 is the revised and advanced version of ISES 2000, which was developed in 1996. The ISES 2020 comprises years of work and audit experience with the ISES 2000 with various companies of different sectors. The adapted standard furthermore gives stronger emphasis to environmental aspects than before.

The ISES 2020 relies on the responsibility of companies complying with the national regulations under labour, social and environmental laws and regulations. It also comprises internationally recognised agreements developed by different organisations. So it is oriented on the core labour standards of the International Labour Organization (ILO) as well as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

For companies and suppliers, the benefits of adopting ISES 2020 are significant. The widespread integrated management system of ISES 2020 based on the philosophy of a total quality management covers the fields of social accountability, health and safety as well as of environment. It has a direct effect on the product, on the production process, quality and in particular on the situation of the employees. Special focus is on social and environmental aspects. So the standard does not only address relevant aspects to the employer and the buyer but also treats issues which are of vital interest for the employees of a company, customers, people living in the production area and/or other stakeholders (Key role for avoiding child labour).

A commitment to improve working conditions and environmental aspects can lead to many benefits for a company. These are mainly organizational efficiency, easier access to foreign markets, stronger competitive position and the possibility to create sustainable employment and income to a great number of workers.



For this purpose at first we would like to have your comments on upgrading our standard by **31st December 2017** (your perspective with respect to standard and what norms / regulations can be upgraded). The basic document of the standard is attached for your kind perusal. It can also be downloaded from the link: <http://igep-zertifikation-natursteine.org/Downloads/ISES%202020.pdf>

It is very important to get your opinion, especially proposals for further improvement.

We look forward to your kind feedback.

With best regards,



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