



Gemmological Report: Terminology, Science and Opinions

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The gemmological laboratory of the Istituto Gemmologico Italiano is responsible for identifying gem materials through the characterisation and interpretation of their physical, optical and spectrometric properties.

The results of the gemmological analyses are communicated to customers, both private individuals and professionals, through documents called 'Gemmological Reports'. These reports contain information that is differentiated according to the gemmological material analysed and certify the characteristics according to objective standards that are the result of 'Know How' and 'Know Why' gained through decades of experience, research and development.

The reports on natural diamonds are an expression of the quality/rarity of the diamond and also contain a judgement on the cut.

Analyses on coloured gemstones do not express judgements on the quality of the gem but are limited to their identification, determining, when possible, the geographical origin and the presence or absence of treatments.

This document is full of scientific terminology that it is now an essential knowledge for anyone wishing to engage with this sector.

We will take a journey through acronyms, abbreviations, nomenclatures and symbologies in search of a way to make the real identity card accompanying gems and jewellery more comprehensible.

The critical nature of some of the entries on the documents will be highlighted and the difference between a scientific data and an analysts' opinion will be evaluated.

Key words: gemmological report, terminology, scientific data, confidence, transparency