

Investment Casting Conditions with Tourmaline In-Situ

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Abstract : The technique of stone in place casting had been established in jewelry production for two decades. However, the process were not widely used since it was limited to precious stones with high hardness and high stability at high temperature. This experiment were tested on tourmaline which is semi-precious gemstone having less hardness and less stability comparing to precious stones. The experiment were designed into two parts. The first part is to understand the phenomena of tourmaline under the heating conditions. Natural tourmaline stones were investigated and compared inclusions inside stones tested at temperature of 500 °C, 600 °C, and 700 °C. The second part is to cast the treated tourmaline with ion-implantation under the stones in place casting conditions. The results showed that stones were able to tolerate as much as at 700 °C showing the growths of inclusions inside the stones. The second part of this experiment were compared tourmaline with ion-implantation and natural tourmaline using on stones in place casting process at different stone setting types. The results showed that the cracks and inclusions of both treat and natural tourmaline with stones in place casting were propagate due to high stress of metal contractions. The stones with ion-implantation were more likely tolerate to cracks and inclusion propagations inside the stones.

Keywords : stone in place casting, tourmaline, ion implantation, metal contraction

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