**USEFUL INFORMATION FOR CUSTOMERS**

**How to obtain status of supplier of precious metal articles and the supplier's mark (name mark)?**

By fulfilling the request for supplier's mark determination and submitting it to the Metrology Instituter you can get the supplier status. The contact person is mag. Suzana Kocijančič, phone number is 03 428 07 65, e-mail address suzana.kocijancic@gov.si.

The request form contains general information about the applicant (company name and location, information where the articles of precious metals are manufactured, marked and sold). Additionally, the way in which the supplier will ensure the conformity of its articles with the prescribed requirements also has to be stated.

Administration fee and the process costs must be paid when the application is made.

Upon request, the supplier gets an administrative decision on his supplier's mark on the basis of which he can make his own stamp. Before marking the articles, the supplier has to deliver the stamp to the Assay Office for the imprint evidence.

**How should be labeled the precious metal articles before putting them on the market?**

The articles of precious metals have to be marked with three markings:

-fineness mark (for example 585),

-supplier‵s mark (name mark of the manufacturer or importer of the article) and

- the mark of conformity (assay mark or mark "S", printed by supplier who ensure himself the conformity of the articles with maintaining the regulations described in technical documentation).

All three markings on precious metal articles guarantee the quality of the articles to the customer.

The supplier (manufacturer or importer) is obliged to mark the articles with the supplier's mark and the finenees mark. Each supplier has a unique label - the supplier's mark, by which customers can recognize it. The supplier's mark may be the manufacturer's mark or the importer's mark. The mark of the manufacturer of the precious metal articles usually consists of two letters of the alphabet, often of initials of the manufacturer's name or company. The importer's symbol is in italic number in Latin.

After marking with the supplier's mark and the fineness mark, supplier must submit his precious metal articles to Assay Office for hallmarking with the conformity mark (assay mark) in accordance with the Precious Metal Articles Act. The conformity of the articles with the prescribed technical requirements is confirmed by the imprint of the conformity mark.

**How does the hallmarking process look like?**

After marking the articles with the supplier's mark and the fineness mark, suppliers are obliged to submit their precious metal articles to the Assay Office for hallmarking with the conformity mark (assay mark) in accordance with the Precious Metal Articles Act.

 Supplier fulfills the request for hallmarking of the precious metal articles and pays an administrative fee. Then he contacts Assay Office in Ljubljana, located in Grudnovo nabrežje 17 (Phone number: 01 24 42 735) or in Celje, located in Tkalska ulica 15 (Phone: 03 428 07 61) in order to book a hallmarking date. The supplier shall submit his articles and completed application form to Metrology Institute for hallmarking. Authorized Assay Office personnel inspects the delivered quantity of the articles (pieces, weight), checks the adequacy of the markings and performs testing of the articles' fineness. In case conformity of the articles is confirmed, they are hallmarked with an assay mark. The supplier is obliged to provide a place on the article for the imprint of the conformity mark.

**How long does the process of hallmarking take?**

After the submission of the request for hallmarking and delivery of the articles to the Assay Office, chemical testing of articles usually lasts up to ten days. Then follows the procedure of hallmarking with the mark of conformity (i.e. assay mark), which takes a few more days.

Smaller number of the precious metal articles can be tested by X-ray fluorescence spectroscopy. In case articles correspond to the declared standard fineness level, they are hallmarked with a conformity mark (i.e. assay mark). This procedure is completed on the same day the customer delivers the articles.

**Which of the precious metal articles do not need to be hallmarked?**

Hallmarking is optional for gold and palladium articles lighter than 1 g, silver articles lighter than 7 g and for raw materials and semi-finished articles made of precious metals. It is therefore not necessary to bring them for hallmarking with the conformity mark, unless the costumer so desires. Which means that the mentioned articles can be put on the market without marking them with the assay mark or with the mark "S". Also the certificate of conformity is not needed. However, the articles still have tomeet the prescribed technical requirements, especially degree of fineness.

The following articles are also exempt from the Precious Metal Articles Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 04/06 - official consolidated text and 7/18):

1. articles intended for export,

2. articles imported on a temporary basis as samples or exhibits,

3. articles completely coated with enamel, precious stones, pearls or with other non-metallic coatings,

4. articles of non-precious metal completely coated with precious metals,

5. coins that are or were legal tender abroad, and foreign coins issued for collection purposes,

6. precious metals in the form of ingots, granules, rods or bars from mints included on the "Good Delivery List" of the London Bullion Marked Association.

**For which precious metal articles certificate of conformity is issued?**

Certificate of Conformity (POS) is issued for the platinum articles lighter than 1 g and for the articles that are so small or delicate that they can not be marked because of technical reasons. The certificate of conformity is also issued in all cases listed in Article 6 of the Precious Metal Articles Act.

**What is the situation in the field of high purity precious metals articles in Slovenia?**

Purchase and production of high purity precious metal articles (investing in gold and silver) represent gold and silver plates, rods and coins. Slovenians buy them in order to invest their savings. Investment gold and silver producers are recognized foreign mints, which are included in the so-called Good Delivery List at the London Bullion Market Association (LBMA). Domestic producers are relatively rare. Every year, the Bank of Slovenia issues one or two series of commemorative coins. These are high-purity gold and silver coins used to mark special historical events or anniversaries.

**Information for importers and exporters of precious metal articles from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK) after Brexit:**

IMPORT: The precious metal articles from the UK that will be placed on the Slovenian market must be in accordance with the Precious Metal Articles Act (ZIPleK) (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 4/06 - official consolidated version and 7 / 18). They also must be marked with the mark of a supplier registered with the Metrology Institute of the Republic of Slovenia (Slovenia Assay Office) or with an institution authorised to register marks of suppliers in another Member State in European Community or in the European Economic Area. The articles from the UK must be also marked with the mark of one of the standard levels of fineness prescribed by Article 7 of the ZIPleK. Such articles will have to be submitted to the Office of Metrology of the Republic of Slovenia for re-marking with the Slovenian mark of conformity (assay mark).

The precious metal articles from the UK can be freely placed on the Slovenian market only if they are marked with the CCM (Common Control Mark), with fineness mark and the UK Conformity mark. Each article with the UK marking that was placed on the Slovenian market before January 1st 2021 can continue to be placed on it if there is evidence that the article was on the market before the end of the transitional period.

EXPORT: Precious metal articles made in Slovenia can be exported to the UK if they are previously tested at the Assay Office of Metrology Institute of the Republic of Slovenia and are hallmarked with the conformity mark (assay mark) and the CCM mark.

**Which articles of the precious metals can be freely placed on the Slovenian market?**

Precious metal articles which, in accordance with national legislation ensuring an equivalent level of protection of the public interest as defined in the legislation of the Republic of Slovenia, are lawfully produced or marketed in other EU Member States as well as in Turkey, or produced in the European Free Trade Association's (EFTA) countries who are at the same time signatories to the European Economic Area Agreement, can be placed directly on the Slovenian market.