

Hallmarking of Palladium

Guidance Notes

The Purpose of these Guidance Notes

The purpose of these notes is to give practical guidance in relation to the 2009 amendments to the 1973 Hallmarking Act, specifically the introduction of Palladium as a hallmarking metal. No reliance must be placed on the document for a legal interpretation. The UK Assay Offices are happy to answer questions arising from these Guidance Notes and on any articles or other issues not specifically mentioned.

Why is Palladium being added to the Hallmarking Act?

Palladium is a white precious metal, which, in recent years has grown in popularity amongst jewellery manufacturers, jewellery retailers and jewellery consumers. Palladium has a monetary value, by weight, of somewhere between that of 9ct and 14ct gold.

Like Gold, Platinum and Silver, Palladium is rarely used in its purest form but instead it is normally alloyed with lesser metals in order to achieve a desired strength and durability etc.

It is not possible to detect by sight or by touch the Palladium content of an item. An independent hallmark confirming the authenticity and fineness of the Palladium alloy will protect the trade and the consumer. It will also increase the appeal and potentially the perceived value of Palladium articles.

When will Palladium Hallmarks be available?

Hallmarking of Palladium was introduced on a voluntary basis from 22nd July 2009. The 4 UK Assay Offices will be able to apply the new legally recognised Palladium Hallmark on articles from this date.

From the 1st January 2010 the hallmarking of Palladium will become compulsory.

What should I do if I have existing stock that is not hallmarked?

Retailers can continue to sell Palladium jewellery without a hallmark up until the 1st January 2010.

As of the 1st January 2010 it will be a legal requirement to hallmark all articles consisting of Palladium (subject to certain exemptions) if they are to be described as being partly or wholly made of Palladium.

Brooch in Palladium by Stephen Webster.

Information from The Assay Offices of Great Britain



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