

Important information about marking articles containing precious metal and base metal.

As you may well be aware the UK Assay Offices are now able to hallmark articles consisting of precious metal and base metal.

Listed below are the guidelines on how such items must be marked. The overriding objective being that the end consumer should be able to make an informed choice with regard to which parts of an article are precious metal and which parts are base metal.

The Assay Office is required to satisfy itself that the above objective is achieved. In order to ensure that our customers share our interpretation of these guidelines we have produced this additional guidance note.

The Existing Guidelines

If an article includes base metal parts

Those base metal parts must be clearly distinguishable from precious metal parts by colour and/or texture and must be clearly visible by their extent.

The word + METAL must be applied next to the hallmark on the precious metal part.

Whenever practical the word METAL or the name of the metal should also be struck on the base metal part/s (brass, stainless steel, titanium etc), in a manner which complies with any Regulation made by The British Hallmarking Council.

The hallmark can only be applied to the precious metal component. Sufficient space must also be available adjacent to the hallmark for the addition of the "+METAL" mark."

Additional Guidance

We consider the application of the word METAL or the name of the metal (brass, stainless steel, titanium etc) on the base metal part/s to be best achieved at the stage of manufacture. As such we consider this mark to be the responsibility of the Sponsor.

In the case where there is more than one base metal part and they are all of the same colour, only one part need be marked METAL.

The Assay Office will apply an additional charge for applying marks to base metal parts if they are not present when submitted for hallmarking

Please note that in the case that the Assay Office are required to apply the word METAL to the base metal part(s) this will take longer than the standard hallmarking process.

All articles consisting of precious metal and base metal must be submitted on a separate hallnote.