

Hallmarking Act 1973  
(Amended 1998)

# Hallmarks on Precious Metals

## Guaranteeing Quality Protecting Consumers

In Britain, Hallmarking has a long history, dating back 700 years and representing the earliest form of consumer protection.

A Hallmark means that the article has been independently tested by an Assay Office and guarantees that it conforms to a specified legal standard of purity. This is called the fineness of the metal and the precious metal content is expressed as a millesimal number. For example, the number 999 means that the metal is 99.9 percent pure.

Unless specifically exempted, all gold, silver and platinum articles offered for sale must be Hallmarked.

The Hallmarking Act permits other European Economic Area Hallmarks and standards of fineness.

### THE UNITED KINGDOM STANDARDS OF FINENESS ARE AS FOLLOW:

GOLD	SILVER	PLATINUM
375 (equivalent to 9 carat)	800	850
585 (equivalent to 14 carat)	925 (Sterling)	900
750 (equivalent to 18 carat)	958 (Britannia)	950
916 (equivalent to 22 carat)	999	999
990		
999		

Further information, including details of other Hallmarks and Standards, can be obtained from your retailer, from any of the Assay Offices of Great Britain (London, Birmingham, Sheffield, Edinburgh) or The British Hallmarking Council, PO Box 18133, London EC2V 8JY

IF YOU HAVE ANY DOUBTS ABOUT THE CORRECT MARKING OF PRECIOUS METALS, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL TRADING STANDARDS OFFICE.

THE HALLMARK  
NOW COMPRISES A MINIMUM  
OF THREE SYMBOLS:



SPONSOR

*The registered mark of the maker or sponsor of the piece*



GOLD



SILVER



PLATINUM

NUMBER

*A millesimal number indicating the precious metal content  
The shape of the shield identifies the metal as gold, silver or platinum*



ASSAY OFFICE

*The mark of the Assay Office where the piece was tested*

THERE MAY BE  
ADDITIONAL MARKS  
SUCH AS:



DATE LETTER

*A letter representing the year in which the piece was hallmarked*



FINENESS SYMBOL

*A traditional symbol denoting one of the older precious metal finenesses*



COMMON CONTROL MARK

*A mark used by countries which are signatories to the  
International Convention on Hallmarking*