

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 FOLLOWS:

GOLD	SILVER	PLATINUM
375	800	850
585	925	900
750	958	950
916	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'S OR MAKER'S MARK
The registered mark of the sponsor or maker of the piece



GOLD



SILVER



PLATINUM

METAL & FINENESS (PURITY) MARK

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



ASSAY OFFICE MARK

The mark of the Assay Office where the piece was tested

THERE MAY BE ADDITIONAL MARKS SUCH AS:



DATE MARK

A letter representing the year in which the piece was hallmarked



TRADITIONAL FINENESS MARK

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*