

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1976 No. 730

HALLMARK

The Hallmarking (International Convention) Order 1976

Made - - - 12th May 1976

Coming into Operation 1st June 1976

The Secretary of State in exercise of her powers under sections 2(1)(c), 2(3) and 22(1) of the Hallmarking Act 1973(a) (hereinafter called "the Act") hereby makes the following Order:—

1. This Order may be cited as the Hallmarking (International Convention) Order 1976, and shall come into operation on 1st June 1976.

2.—(1) In this Order "the Convention" means the Convention on the Control and Marking of Articles of Precious Metals done at Vienna on 15th November 1972.

(2) The Interpretation Act 1889(b) shall apply for the interpretation of this Order as it applies for the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.

3.—(1) The following marks are designated for the purposes of section 2 of the Act as marks recognised pursuant to the Convention, that is to say—

(a) except in a case in which the number is applied to the article by a person other than an assay office authorised as mentioned in subparagraph (b) below, a number in arabic numerals indicating the standard of fineness of an article being—

(i) in the case of gold, 750, 585 or 375;

(ii) in the case of silver, 925; and

(iii) in the case of platinum, 950;

(b) a mark which has been notified in accordance with the Convention as being the mark of an assay office authorised for the purposes of the Convention in the territory of a Contracting State other than the United Kingdom;

(c) the Common Control Mark comprising a number specified in subparagraph (a) above.

(2) The Common Control Mark consists of the representation of a balance together with the number in arabic numerals showing the standard of fineness of the article in relief on a lined background surrounded by a shield indicating the nature of the precious metal. The shields are illustrated in Part I of Schedule 1 hereto; and examples of the Common Control Mark are illustrated in Part II of that Schedule.

(3) The marks referred to in paragraph (1)(b) are illustrated in Schedule 2 hereto.

(a) 1973 c. 43.

(b) 1889 c. 63.

4. Every mark, being the name of a person who submits articles for hall-marking, or an abbreviation thereof or a symbol indicating such a person which has been entered in the official register of a Contracting State other than the United Kingdom, or in the official register of an authorised assay office in the territory of such a Contracting State, is designated—

- (a) as a mark recognised pursuant to the Convention; and
- (b) as a sponsor's mark for the purposes of the Act.

5.—(1) A person submitting an article for hall-marking to an assay office in the United Kingdom authorised for the purposes of the Convention may request the assay office to strike the article with the marks specified in Article 3(1)(a) and (c) above whether or not the article bears or is to bear other approved hallmarks, and (subject to the provisions of the Act and, in particular, section 4 as having effect in the manner indicated in paragraph (2) of this Article) the assay office shall give effect to any such request; and the following provisions of this Article shall apply:

Provided that nothing in this paragraph shall require an assay office to strike an article with the mark specified in Article 3(1)(a) if the article already bears approved hallmarks struck in the United Kingdom which include the mark so specified.

(2) Section 4 of the Act shall have effect in relation to the striking of such specified marks as if—

- (a) subsection (1)(a)(ii) required the striking on the article of the marks specified in Article 3(1)(a) (subject to the proviso to paragraph (1) of this Article), and in Article 3(1)(c), instead of the standard mark;
- (b) subsection (1)(a)(iii) were omitted;
- (c) the words in subsection (1) “and, as respects all such articles” to the end of the subsection and Part IV of Schedule 2 to the Act, did not apply in relation to the Common Control Mark;
- (d) for subsection (2) there were substituted the following:—
 - “(2) If it is shown to the satisfaction of the assay office that the article was made in the United Kingdom, the assay office mark shall be that specified for that assay office in column (2) of paragraph 1 of Schedule 2 to the Act; and otherwise the assay office mark shall be that specified in column (3) of the said paragraph 1.”;
- (e) in subsection (3), in head (c) of the proviso to paragraph (b)(i), “585” were substituted for “500”, and in paragraph (b)(iii), “995” were substituted for “950”;
- (f) in paragraph 4 of Part II of Schedule 2 to the Act—
 - (i) in subparagraph (c), for the words “struck only with the standard mark for the metal of which those parts are made” there were substituted the words “stamped or engraved with a specific designation of the metal”;
 - (ii) the words “and in relation to any article” to the end of paragraph 4 were omitted; and
- (g) in Part III of Schedule 2 to the Act, for paragraph 6(b) (ii) there were substituted the following:—
 - “(ii) those materials are used for filling the handle of a knife, fork or spoon and only in such a quantity as is necessary for joining.”.

6.—(1) A person may submit to an assay office an article wholly or partly of silver with a written request that it be marked as being of a fineness of 800 or 830 as respects the article as a whole or its silver parts; and in such a case the following provisions of this Article shall have effect.

(2) Article 5 shall apply as if—

- (a) the numbers 800 and 830 were specified in relation to silver in Article 3(1)(a);
- (b) for the purposes of section 4 of, and Part III of Schedule 2 to, the Act and paragraph 2 of Schedule 5 to the Act, 800 were the minimum fineness for silver.

(3) Where a silver article is struck with the mark indicating a standard of fineness of 800 or 830 the article shall be struck with the relevant assay office mark set out below instead of the mark set out in column (2) or (3), as the case may be, of paragraph 1 of Part I of Schedule 2 to the Act.

London.....	A silversmith's hammer with the figure I in the bottom left hand corner of the shield.
Edinburgh	A silversmith's hammer with the figure II in the top right hand corner of the shield.
Birmingham.....	A silversmith's hammer with the figure I in the top right hand corner of the shield.
Sheffield	A silversmith's hammer with the figure II in the bottom left hand corner of the shield.

(4) Marks struck by an assay office on an article submitted in accordance with subparagraph (1) above shall not be approved hallmarks for the purposes of section 2(4)(a) of the Act; and accordingly the article shall be unhallmarked.

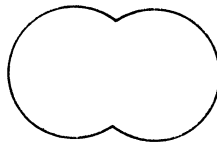
John Fraser,
Department of Prices
and Consumer Protection.

12th May 1976.

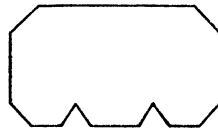
SCHEDULE 1

PART I
SHIELDS

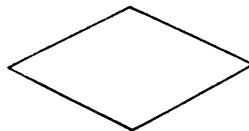
For gold articles



For silver articles



For platinum articles



PART II

EXAMPLES OF THE COMMON CONTROL MARK

For gold articles of the standard of fineness 750



For silver articles of the standard of fineness 925



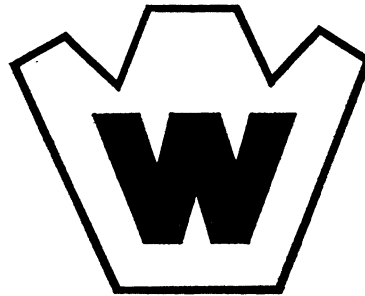
For platinum articles of the standard of fineness 950



SCHEDULE 2

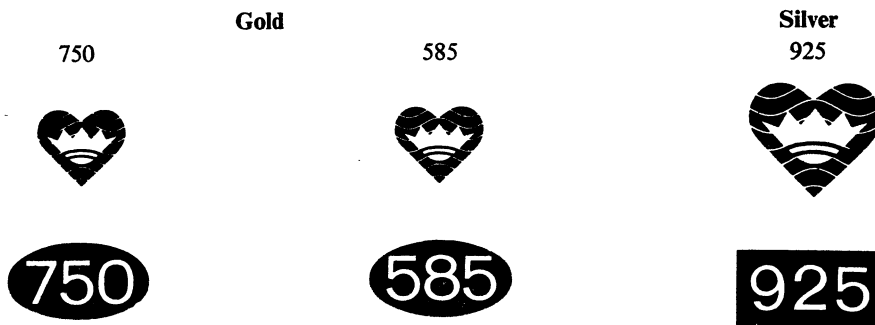
FOREIGN ASSAY OFFICE MARKS

AUSTRIA



FINLAND

1. Articles of precious metals

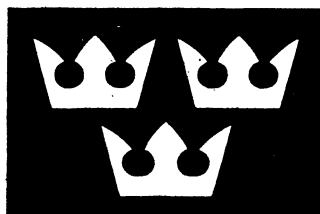


2. Articles of precious metals exported with standards of fineness other than those recognised by Finnish law



SWEDEN

1. For all standards of fineness recognised by the Convention



2. For standards of fineness recognised by the Swedish law, being at least 750 for gold, 830 for silver and 950 for platinum

(a) Articles made in Sweden

small marks

Gold

large marks



small marks

Silver

large marks



Platinum



(b) Articles made elsewhere

Gold



Silver



Platinum



SWITZERLAND

A. OFFICIAL SWISS CONTROL MARKS

1. Articles of precious metals

Gold

750
"Helvetia"



585
"Ecoreuil"



375
"Morgenstern"



Silver

925
"Canard"

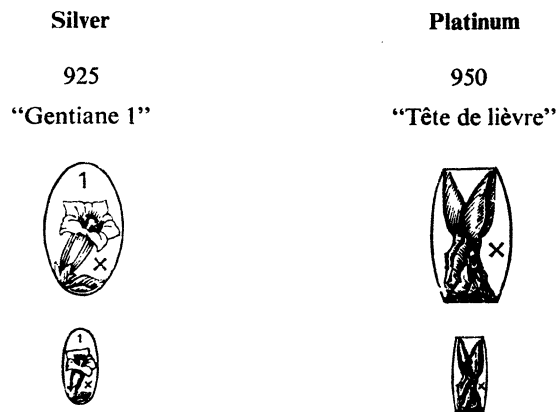
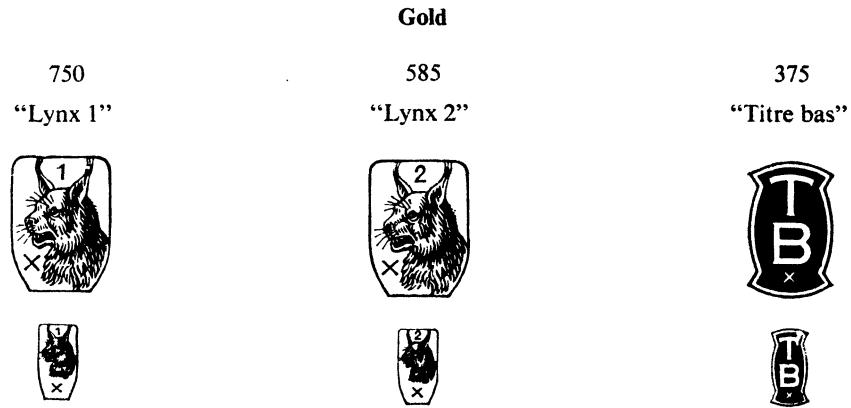


Platinum

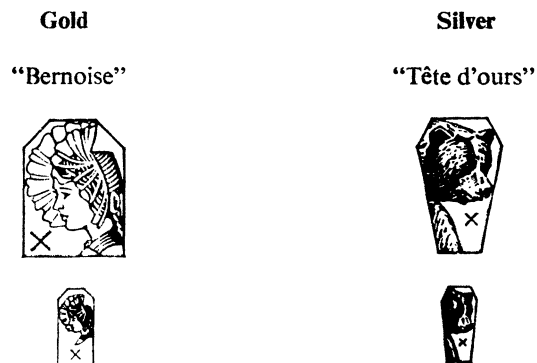
950
"Bouquetin"



2. Watch cases of precious metals not originating in Switzerland



3. Articles of precious metals exported with standards of fineness other than those recognised by Swiss law



B. DISTINCTIVE MARKS OF THE AUTHORISED SWISS ASSAY OFFICES

The distinctive mark of each office is to be found on all Official Swiss Control Marks at the place marked with a cross in the illustrations above.

<i>Office</i>	<i>Distinctive mark</i>
Berne (Head Office)	+ (Swiss cross)
Bâle-ville	★ (5 pointed star)
Bâle-aéroport	M
Bienne	B
La Chaux-de-Fonds	C
Chiasso	t
Genève-ville	G
Genève-aéroport	A
Granges	g
Lausanne	V
Le Locle	L
Neuchâtel	N
Le Noirmont	n
Romanshorn	R
Schaffhouse	S
Zürich-ville	Z
Zürich-aéroport	K

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Note is not part of the Order.)

This Order, which is made under the Hallmarking Act 1973, implements the Convention referred to in Article 2.

It recognises convention hallmarks and sponsors' marks applied in another convention country; and as a consequence articles bearing such marks will be hallmarked for the purposes of the Act and can therefore be described in the United Kingdom as being of the precious metal (gold, silver or platinum) of which they are made.

The Order also provides for the application in the United Kingdom of similar marks which will be recognised in other convention countries. Articles of silver of a fineness of only 800 or 830 (accepted by some countries but not by the United Kingdom) may have applied to them marks appropriate to articles of that fineness, but may not be described in the United Kingdom as being of silver unless they are intended for despatch to a destination outside the United Kingdom.

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