



Directions for Cancelling Ancient Hallmarks

1. Introduction

The Hallmarking Act 1973 s7(1) provides that an assay office may at its discretion cancel or obliterate any mark of the character of a hallmark (whether appearing to be an approved hallmark or to be a mark which in the opinion of the assay office is likely to be confused with such a hallmark) which an article coming into its custody or possession bears and which the assay office is satisfied:

- (a) has not been struck thereon by an assay office according to law; or
- (b) is not a true description because the article appears to have been the subject of an improper alteration.

The Hallmarking Act 1973 s7(2) further provides that an assay office, which does not have the consent of the person appearing to have control of the article to obliterate any ancient mark, shall cancel any ancient mark in a manner authorised in accordance with directions issued by the Council under the Hallmarking Act 1973 s7(3).

An "ancient mark" is defined as a mark of the character of a hallmark appearing to an assay office to have been struck or incorporated before 22 December 1854 (whether or not by an assay office according to law at the time of its marking or incorporation) upon or into an article which has not since been the subject of any improper alteration.

The Council issues at paragraph 2 below directions in respect of the cancellation of ancient marks in accordance with the Hallmarking Act 1973 s7(3).

2. Directions with respect to the manner of cancellation

A diagonal cross shall be applied through each of the individual marks making up the unauthorised ancient mark. The cross may be struck or applied with a laser.

For articles bearing marks which have been transposed by the maker (sponsor), the assay offices may, at their discretion, allow the maker's (sponsor's) mark to remain uncanceled.

The other marks shall be cancelled in the same manner as for the ancient mark as outlined above.

The directions were issued by the Council on 15 April 2013