

JOINT COMMITTEE OF THE ASSAY OFFICES
OF GREAT BRITAIN

REPAIRING AND SIZING OF RING SHANKS

1. This Notice is issued for the guidance of manufacturers and others concerned with the repairing or sizing of gold, silver or platinum rings.

2. UNHALLMARKED RINGS

An unhallmarked ring may be repaired or sized without the consent of an Assay Office.

3. HALLMARKED RINGS

(1) REPAIRING OR SIZING OF SHANK WITHOUT DEFACING THE HALLMARK

According to section 5 (4) of the Hallmarking Act 1973 a hallmarked ring which is not a new ware may be repaired or sized without the consent of an Assay Office if:-

- “(a) the addition is of the same precious metal as that of the article;
(b) the metal added to the article is of a fineness not less than the standard of fineness of the article; and
(c) the amount of metal added does not exceed the lesser of:-
(i) 1 gram of gold, 5 grams of silver or 0.5 grams of platinum, as the case may be; and
(ii) 50 per cent of the weight of the article immediately before the addition was made.”

(2) REPAIRING OR SIZING INVOLVING DEFACEMENT OF HALLMARK AND PROVISION OF NEW SHANK

The hallmark and associated sponsor's mark on the ring may be defaced by obliteration in accordance with the attached Consent Number 4 after which the ring may be repaired or sized without the further consent of an Assay Office.

If, however, it is wished to have the ring re-hallmarked it should be sent to an Assay Office intact before defacement with the new shank as a separate piece. The hallmark on the original shank will be defaced by the Assay Office and the new hallmarked shank may then be substituted for the original. The new shank should preferably be submitted oversize and the Assay Office informed accordingly so that a sample can be cut from it for assay purposes.

4. Attention is drawn to Section 1 (1) of the Hallmarking Act 1973 which states:-

- “(1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, any person who, in the course of a trade or business -
(a) applies to an unhallmarked article a description indicating that it is wholly or partly made of gold, silver or platinum, or
(b) supplies, or offers to supply, an unhallmarked article to which such a description is applied,
shall be guilty of an offence.” Attention is also drawn to

Schedule 1 Part II of the Act which contains a list of articles which are exempt from the provisions of Section 1 (1).

CONSENT No. 4

CONSENT TO THE DEFACING BY OBLITERATION OF A HALLMARK AND ASSOCIATED SPONSOR'S MARK ON A GOLD, SILVER OR PLATINUM RING

CONSENT is hereby given, by and on behalf of each of the Assay Offices, in accordance with Section 5 of the Hallmarking Act 1973 to the defacing by obliteration of the hallmark and associated sponsor's mark on the shank of a gold, silver or platinum ring prior to the making of an addition or repair.

This consent shall remain in force until withdrawn by the Joint Committee of the Assay Offices of Great Britain.

JOINT COMMITTEE OF THE ASSAY OFFICES
OF GREAT BRITAIN
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Birmingham, B3 2DY