



Application of Assessment Criteria for Establishing EEA Hallmark Recognition

Note: all documentation requested must be provided in English language and for Part 1 translations must be provided by an officially qualified independent translator.

Part 1: Independence Assessment Questionnaire for EEA Assay Offices

Independence

Third Party Independence:

- A certificate or letter from the applicant Assay Offices' respective Government Ministry or Department declaring third party independence.
- A certificate or letter from the applicant Assay Offices' respective Government Ministry or Department confirming the Assay Office mark is officially recognised by the applicant State.

Part 2: Technical Equivalence Assessment Questionnaire for EEA Assay Offices

Equivalence

General:

- List the precious metal tested and marked by the applicant Assay Office (gold, silver, platinum, palladium).
- List the standards of fineness marked for each precious metal.
- Detail the process for registration of the Responsibility mark (i.e. manufacturer or sponsor).

Technical competency:

- State any accreditation held by the applicant Assay Office and the scope for which it is held.
- State any quality system certification held by the applicant Assay Office and the scope for which it is held.
- List any international inter-laboratory comparison in which the applicant Assay Office participates and the frequency of participation.
- List the test methods used for each precious metal tested along with any standard reference and state if the method is accredited to ISO 17025 or non-accredited.

Standard Operating Procedures:

- Confirm that the applicant Assay Office operates a zero negative tolerance policy when testing prior to the application of a hallmark.
- Confirm that marking is only carried out by the Assay Office and is not licensed to any other party under any other arrangements.

Part 3: Technical Intelligibility Assessment Questionnaire for EEA Assay Offices

Intelligibility

Hallmarks:

- Provide a table containing pictures of each mark applied by the applicant Assay Office.
- If pictorial marks contain only symbols without millesimal fineness, please supply a table detailing the meaning of each symbol. This will be used to allow UK consumers to relate each symbol to a corresponding millesimal fineness.
- The table should demonstrate the order in which symbols will appear in a hallmark.

Part 4: Sub-office Assessment Questionnaire for EEA Assay Offices

Sub-office

On-shore

- Specify if the applicant Assay Office operates one or more sub-offices and provide confirmation that those sub-offices are operated under the same terms of the main Assay Office as outlined in Parts 1 to 3 above.
- If a different mark is used by the sub-office(s), provide an image of that mark.

Off-shore

- Specify if the applicant Assay Office is permitted to hallmark outside of its national territory and provide confirmation that those sub-offices are operated under the same terms of the main Assay Office as outlined in Parts 1 to 3 above.
- If a different mark is used by the off-shore sub-office(s), provide an image of that mark.

NOTE: The assessment criteria above have been devised by the National Measurement and Regulation Office (NMRO) in conjunction with the British Hallmarking Council (BHC). They represent the joint considered opinion of the NMRO and the BHC. It is, however, ultimately for the UK courts to decide whether a hallmark applied in an EEA State meets the statutory requirements for recognition in the UK i.e. to decide whether:

- **the hallmark is applied by an independent body in accordance with the law of that state;**
- **the hallmark provides information which is equivalent to the information provided by UK hallmarks; and**
- **the information is intelligible to UK consumers.**

(Hallmarking Act 1973 s2(1)(d)).

A decision of the courts shall be legally binding.

2 February 2015