New Hallmarking Dealer's Notice to be introduced

The Dealer's Notice, which must be displayed by all dealers supplying precious metal items, is being updated to add two new marks, in a version that will be compulsory from 1 May 2020.

The updated version incorporates:

- a new differentiated hallmark for articles hallmarked outside of the UK by Birmingham Assay Office
- a new type 2 standardised CCM mark.

Legal requirement

One of the requirements of the Hallmarking Act 1973 is that all dealers supplying precious metal jewellery (or other items made of precious metal) shall display a notice explaining the approved hallmarks.

This must be the notice produced by the British Hallmarking Council (BHC).

New version

The Dealer's Notice has been updated to incorporate the following.

A new differentiated hallmark for articles hallmarked outside of the UK by Birmingham Assay Office: the new differentiated Birmingham hallmark is now the only assay office mark being used on articles marked in Birmingham Assay Office's sub-office in Mumbai. The new mark consists of a vertical anchor and a compass with a cut cornered rectangular outline. The decision to invoke a differentiated mark to be used by UK offices hallmarking outside of the UK was made by the British Hallmarking Council in March 2018. The use of this mark has been compulsory since 1 April 2019.

A new type 2 standardised Common Control Mark (CCM) mark: The type 1 or traditional CCM conformity mark uses a different shield shape for each precious metal. It also always contains the millesimal fineness of the alloy. The new type 2 or standardised CCM mark is a single generic conformity mark used for all precious metals and finenesses. It must be accompanied by a mark specifying the millesimal fineness of the alloy and a unique mark for each precious metal or the chemical symbol for the precious metal. These accompanying fineness and metal identifying marks can be separate or combined.

Online retailers

The BHC's view is that, although the Hallmarking Act makes no express reference to the internet, it applies to sales of, and other dealings with,

articles made of precious metal conducted over the internet and accordingly dealers supplying precious metal articles online should display the Dealer's Notice on their websites. A suitable format for this is available.

Dealer's Notice from 1 May 2020

From 1 May 2020 the revised version will be the only legally recognised notice.

Following a 6 month period of grace this will become the only acceptable version as of 1 May 2020. This therefore replaces the previous version, last amended in 2015.