2020 – 1

2020-04-01

CIBJO/PRECIOUS METALS COMMISSION

THE PRECIOUS METALS BOOK

Precious Metals – Terminology & Classification

CIBJO standard

Table of Contents

1. Foreword 3
2. Background: 4
3. Scope 6
4. Terms and definitions 6
4.1. Adhesive 6
4.2. Base metals 6
4.3. Colour of Precious Metals 6
4.4. Fineness 6
4.5. Platinum group metals 6
4.6. Precious metal alloy 6
4.7. Precious metal article 6
4.8. Precious metal coating/plating 6
4.9. Precious metals 7
4.10. Rhodium 7
4.11. Solder 7
4.12. Standard of fineness 7
4.13. Weight of Precious Metals 7
5. Normative references 7
6. Normative Clauses 7
6.1. This CIBJO standard does not apply to: 7
6.2. Fineness' of precious metals applied under this CIBJO standard: parts per thousand by weight of alloy. . 8
6.3. Tolerance 8
6.4. Use of solder 8
6.5. Use of working base metal parts 9
6.6. Use of non-metallic substances for filling flatware and hollow-ware 9
6.7. Coating of precious metal articles 10
6.8. Marking of precious metal articles 11
7. Annex A – Countries who have responded to Questionnaire 13
8. Annex B - Countries who have not responded to Questionnaire 20
9. Annex C – ISO Recognised Precious Metal Standards 25
10. References (informative) 29
11. Index 29

1. Foreword

CIBJO is the French acronym for the **C**onfédération **I**nternationale de la **B**ijouterie, **J**oaillerie, **O**rfèvrerie, des Diamants, Perles et Pierres, which translates as the International Confederation of Jewellery, Silverware, Diamonds, Pearls and Stones (normally shortened to the International Jewellery Confederation). Founded in 1926 as BIBOAH, a European organisation whose mission was to represent and advance the interests of the jewellery trade in Europe, it was reorganised in 1961 and renamed CIBJO, in 2009 it was once again reorganised and officially named “CIBJO, The World Jewellery Confederation”. Today CIBJO, which is domiciled in Switzerland, is a non-profit confederation of national and international trade associations including commercial organisations involved in the jewellery supply chain. It now has members from countries representing all five continents of the world. CIBJO printed its first deliberations on terminology and trade practices in 1968.

It is the task of CIBJO to record the accepted trade practices and nomenclature for the industry throughout the world. The records of the trade practices complement existing fair trade legislation of a nation or in the absence of relevant national laws they can be considered as trading standards. In countries where laws or norms exist, which conflict with the laws, norms or trade practices in other countries, CIBJO will support the national trade organisations to prevent trade barriers developing. The purpose of CIBJO is to encourage harmonisation, promote international co-operation within the jewellery industry, to consider issues which are of concern to the trade worldwide and to communicate proactively with members. Foremost amongst these the aim is to protect consumer confidence in the industry. CIBJO pursues all of these objectives through informed deliberation and by reaching decisions in accordance with its Statutes. CIBJO relies upon the initiative of its members to support and implement its standards, and to protect the trust of the public in the industry.

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

The work of CIBJO is accomplished through Committees, Commissions and Sectors. Committees and Commissions consider standards for use in the jewellery supply chain. Sectors represent levels of trade in the jewellery industry. Sectors and commissions advise the Executive Committee on current trade practices and issues that affect the jewellery industry.

Three independent sectors exist within the confederation:

Sector A - The Products Sector
Sector B - The Supply chain Sector
Sector C - The Service Sector

The Executive Committee may appoint Commissions that consider detailed issues. At present these are:

Coloured Stone

Coral

Diamond

Ethics

Gemmological

Marketing & Education

Pearl

Precious Metals

Responsible Sourcing

The Commissions for Diamonds, Gemstones, Pearls and Precious Metals have collated the guidelines, which present the accepted trade practices for applying descriptions to these materials. It is in the best interests of all those concerned to be aware of them.

The Sectors and Commissions will propose changes in the standards, also known as the Blue Books, to the Executive Committee. After review the Executive Committee will submit the accepted proposals for adoption to the Board of Directors and if approved they will notify the assembly of delegates of the changes at the annual congress.

Furthermore it is our mutual responsibility to support these recommendations, which concern all professional people connected with diamonds, gemstones, pearls and precious metals. CIBJO Standards are subject to government regulations in the respective jurisdictions of CIBJO members.

The national umbrella organization for each country represents, in principle, all the national trade organisations involved in the sectors mentioned above. This democratic structure, which has contributed to CIBJO's world-wide recognition also includes international trade and commercial organisations, it provides an international forum for the trade to collectively draw attention to issues and implement resulting decisions.

CIBJO Secretariat:

CIBJO, The World Jewellery Confederation
Viale Berengario, 19
20149 Milano, Italy

Tel: +39-02-4997-7098 / 7097 / 6187 Fax: + 39 02- 4997-7059
E-mail: cibjo@cibjo.org
Web site: www.cibjo.org

2. Background:

CIBJO's status on the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC) enables it to represent the jewellery industry and present its strategy and objectives in support of the UN development goals. CIBJO's strategy in this respect is multi-layered. It serves to protect its constituents from factors that threaten the confidence of consumers in the jewellery industry, as well as factors that threaten the confidence of consumers in the jewellery product itself, and at the same time promote the jewellery industry, which creates sustainable economic and social opportunity in the countries and regions in which it is active.

The harmonisation of industry standards is a critical element of CIBJO's mission and stands at the heart of its effort to protect the confidence of consumers in the jewellery product itself. To advance the goal of universal standards and terminology in the jewellery industry, CIBJO developed its "Blue Book" system, which involves a definitive set of standards for the grading, methodology and nomenclature of diamonds, coloured gemstones, pearls and other organic materials, precious metals and gemmological laboratories.

Introduction

This CIBJO Precious Metal Blue Book is designed to assist all those involved in the purchase or sale of **platinum, gold, palladium and silver jewellery, flatware and hollow-ware**. It is non-judgmental and the definitions and clauses contained herein are formatted and worded only to ensure that each precious metal item bought or sold is done so with clarity and honesty. The stability of the market place depends upon the use of the proper nomenclature and the declaration of all known facts which ensure a fully informed purchase or sale, throughout the distribution pipeline all the way to the final customer.

In the case of precious metals it is important that those involved in sales or purchases know the fineness in parts per thousand by weight of the precious metal in the alloy being traded.

The following definitions apply in understanding how to implement CIBJO standard and normative references.

- **“shall” indicates a requirement;**
- **“should” indicates a recommendation;**
- **“may” is used to indicate that something is permitted;**
- **“can” is used to indicate that something is possible.**

The Scope (3) of the Standard/rules is set out, as are the Normative References (5). The Terms and Definitions (4) are expansive and are extensively cross referenced throughout the Normative Clauses (6), Annex and Tables. It is important that the reader refers to the relevant Terms and Definitions when consulting each Normative Clause.

The CIBJO Precious Metals Commission

April, 2020

PRECIOUS METALS – TERMINOLOGY AND CLASSIFICATION

3. Scope

The terminology and classification of precious metals are established with reference to commercial usage, in conformity with the classifications and practices of the international precious metals and jewellery trades. The terminology and classifications of precious metals as set out herein shall be used by all traders participating as members of CIBJO member organisations within all member nations.

NOTE - CIBJO recognises that its standards are subject to government regulations in the respective jurisdiction of CIBJO members. In the event there are no government regulations in a member's country, the local industry rule will take precedence as long as it is stricter.

4. Terms and definitions

For the purposes of these CIBJO standard/rules the following terms and definitions apply:

4.1. Adhesive

A non-metallic substance applied to one surface, or both surfaces, of two separate items that binds them together and resists their separation.

4.2. Base metals

Base metals are all metals except precious metals, which are platinum, gold, palladium, and silver. Exceptions can be found in the Russian Federation and in the USA as precious metals definition include platinum group metals, gold and silver. See below 4.9.

4.3. Colour of Precious Metals

Gold – Yellow, Red, Rose, Pink, Green and White.
Platinum – White
Palladium – White
Silver – White

4.4. Fineness

The fineness is the content of the named precious metals measured in terms of parts per thousand by weight of alloy.

4.5. Platinum group metals

The platinum group metals include: platinum, palladium, iridium, rhodium, ruthenium and osmium.

4.6. Precious metal alloy

A precious metal alloy is a solid solution containing at least one precious metal; refer to Normative Clause 6.1.

4.7. Precious metal article

A precious metal article is any item of jewellery, or goldsmith's or silversmith's flatware or hollow-ware, made entirely or in part from precious metals and their alloys.

4.8. Precious metal coating/plating

A precious metal coating or plating is a layer of precious metal or of precious metal alloy applied to all, or part of a precious metal article e.g. by chemical, electrochemical, mechanical or physical process. See also 6.7.

4.9. Precious metals

Precious Metals are platinum (Pt), gold (Au), palladium (Pd) and silver (Ag) in their pure state.
In the Russian Federation and the USA, precious metals include the platinum group metals (see definition 4.4.), gold and silver.

4.10. Rhodium

A platinum group metal element (symbol Rh) sometimes occurring native and in ores associated with platinum, used in alloys.

4.11. Solder

A fusible metal alloy used to create a permanent bond between precious metal parts.

4.12. Standard of fineness

The standard of fineness is the minimum content of the named precious metals measured in terms of parts per thousand by weight of alloy.

4.13. Weight of Precious Metals

The weight of a precious metal item shall always be expressed in grams to two decimal places.

5. Normative references

The following referenced documents are useful for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

, *CIBJO*, (International Confederation of Jewellery, Silverware, Diamonds, Pearls and Stones), the World Jewellery Confederation, Viale Berengario, 19, 20149 Milano, Italy. cibjo@cibjo.org

The Gemmological Laboratory Book, *CIBJO*, (International Confederation of Jewellery, Silverware, Diamonds, Pearls and Stones), the World Jewellery Confederation, Viale Berengario, 19, 20149 Milano, Italy. cibjo@cibjo.org

The Gemstone Book *CIBJO* (International Confederation of Jewellery, Silverware, Diamonds, Pearls and Stones), the World Jewellery Confederation, Viale Berengario, 19, 20149 Milano, Italy. cibjo@cibjo.org

The Pearl Book, *CIBJO*, (International Confederation of Jewellery, Silverware, Diamonds, Pearls and Stones), the World Jewellery Confederation, Viale Berengario, 19, 20149 Milano, Italy. cibjo@cibjo.org

The Coral Book, *CIBJO*, (International Confederation of Jewellery, Silverware, Diamonds, Pearls and Stones), the World Jewellery Confederation, Viale Berengario, 19, 20149 Milano, Italy. cibjo@cibjo.org

The Responsible Sourcing Book, *CIBJO*, (International Confederation of Jewellery, Silverware, Diamonds, Pearls and Stones), the World Jewellery Confederation, Viale Berengario, 19, 20149 Milano, Italy. cibjo@cibjo.org

6. Normative Clauses

6.1. This CIBJO standard does not apply to:

Articles made of alloys of fineness less than 850 for platinum, 333 for gold, 500 for palladium and 800 for silver. Unless alloys meet these minimum finenesses, articles shall not be described as platinum, gold, palladium or silver.

6.1.1. Exceptions:

In Germany and in the USA, there is no minimum fineness for gold and silver. Some further national exceptions can be found in Annex A and Annex B.

6.2. Fineness' of precious metals applied under this CIBJO standard: parts per thousand by weight of alloy.

For platinum	999, 950, 900, 850
For gold	999, 986, 916, 750, 585, 416, 375, 333
For palladium	999, 950, 500
For silver	999, 925, 835, 830, 800

Note 1: Other standards of fineness may be recognised by the Precious Metals Commission depending on international developments. (Some countries still refer to the fineness of gold in terms of karats or carats. A karat is $1/24^{th}$ part of pure gold e.g. 18 karat gold is 18/24ths = 750 parts per thousand by weight).
Note 2: For specific country standards, please consult Annex A and Annex B and particularly for Germany, The Russian Federation and the USA.

6.3. Tolerance

No negative tolerance shall be permitted in relation to the standard of fineness indicated on the article.

NOTE: Separate rules for special manufacturing techniques can be established by the Precious Metals Commission.

6.4. Use of solder

Adhesives may be used instead of the permitted solders.

In solder-filled wire, both the solder and the wire shall be of the permitted fineness. Where a lower solder fineness is permitted, the whole of the wire shall be to a permitted fineness.

Precious Metals shall be soldered with precious metal solders of the same fineness.

Practical exceptions:

Precious metal

The following exceptions are permitted:

Platinum

Solder for platinum articles shall contain at least 800 parts per 1,000 of gold, silver, platinum or palladium.

Gold

The following exceptions are defined:

Gold alloy articles with a fineness of 750/1000 or more shall be soldered with solder of a minimum fineness of 750/1000 gold.

In the case of gold articles of filigree work and watch cases of the 750 standard the solder shall contain not less than 740 parts of gold per 1,000. For white gold articles of the 750 standard the solder shall contain not less than 585 parts of gold per 1,000.

Palladium

Solder for palladium articles of 999 and 950 parts per thousand shall contain at least 700 parts per 1,000 of palladium, platinum, gold or silver, and solder for palladium articles of 500 parts per thousand shall contain at least 500 parts per 1,000 of palladium, platinum, gold or silver.

Silver

For silver articles of all finenesses, the solder used shall contain not less than 550 parts of silver per 1,000.

Mixed precious metals:

The solder can be the permitted solder for the least precious metal fineness.
In the Russian Federation, solder shall meet the requirements of «Rules for Sampling, Analysis and Marking of Jewellery and Other Articles Made of Precious Metals»:
White gold solders for jewellery and other articles made of platinum and palladium may be in fineness 585 and 750.
Solder for jewellery and other articles made of silver shall have minimum fineness of 650.
Special solder not containing precious metals may be used for soldering chains (bracelets) manufactured on automatic machines under condition of guaranteed fineness of the mentioned articles in the range of established fineness's.

Precious metal with base metal:

Any suitable solder, including base metal, can be used.

6.5. Use of working base metal parts

Other exceptions:

Base metal parts may be used as a mechanical function for which precious metals are unsuitable either for strength or durability. Such base metal parts shall not be treated to give the appearance of a precious metal.

For all precious metals (examples)

Steel wires used for the assembling of necklaces (the steel wires shall not be used as decoration);

Magnets for clasps;

Security retainers for tie tacks or badge buttons;

Screws;

Threads;

Springs in clasps.

For silver articles only

Clasps - only the tongue in a box snap;

Pins for silver brooches;

Pins for silver badge buttons;

Clips for hair clasps, tie clasps, etc.

6.6. Use of non-metallic substances for filling flatware and hollow-ware

Permitted fillings of non-metallic substances:

The base may be filled with non-metallic material to achieve better stability (e.g. candle holders, flowerpots and similar silver articles).

The word “filled” shall be engraved / embossed on the base to indicate that the gross weight of the item is not all precious metal.

The handles may be filled with mastic (e.g. cutlery, salad servers, carving knives and forks, dessert knives, manicure sets, toilet sets and similar articles. This is a non-exhaustive list).

6.7. Coating of precious metal articles

6.7.1. Permissible coating

Permissible coatings are subject to the provisions of Clause 6.8.9 concerning the differences of colours on mixed articles and shall meet all health and safety regulations. Coatings shall not lead to other undesirable properties in the finished jewellery or silverware articles. If a sample from the non-soldered portion is tested by the reference method specified in local law without removing the coating, then it shall not fail to comply with the legal fineness standard specified in the local law. Metallic coating (for example: galvanic) shall be in accordance with the tables below:

6.7.1.1. Permitted surface coatings on metal with complete coverage

On - Metal	Permitted surface coatings – COMPLETE COVERAGE
Platinum	Rhodium, Platinum, Ruthenium Titanium based coloured coatings (applied using PVD/CVD technique only)
Gold	Rhodium, Platinum, Gold, Ruthenium Titanium based coloured coatings (applied using PVD/CVD technique only)
Palladium	Rhodium, Platinum, Gold, Palladium, Ruthenium Titanium based coloured coatings (applied using PVD/CVD technique only)
Silver	Rhodium, Platinum, Gold, Palladium, Ruthenium, Silver Titanium based coloured coatings (applied using PVD/CVD technique only) All greyish-white base metals [e.g. a greyish-white version of Cu/Sn, Cu/Zn/Sn alloy coating, greyish-white PCP (Pd/Co) alloy coating or coating with similar properties etc. as a migration barrier between precious metal coatings and silver items] – **As an interlayer only** Inorganic and organic coatings – **Applied as anti-tarnish treatment in the form of a thin film and should only show negligible change in the basic colour of silver metal underneath when examined by the unaided eye**

In the Russian Federation, coatings made of non-precious metals shall not be used: see precious metals definition in 4.9.

6.7.1.2. Permitted surface coatings on metal with partial coverage

In addition to the requirements in Clause 6.7.1.1, samplings from coloured organic coatings should be avoided if they are applied as a decorative application in the form of a very thin film to enhance the beauty of the object and not for the purpose of increasing weight, and the colour of the majority base precious metal is visible to the consumer. When a sample from the non-soldered non-coated portion is tested by the reference method specified in local law then it shall not fail to comply with legal fineness standards specified in the local law. Any article with excessive coatings particularly when applied for the purpose of increasing weight shall be rejected. While taking such a decision consumer interest shall be paramount.

On - Metal	Permitted surface coatings – PARTIAL COVERAGE
Platinum Gold Palladium	Rhodium, Platinum, Gold, Palladium, Ruthenium Coloured inorganic and organic coating (applied using any technique) To be applied as a decorative application in the form of a very thin film to enhance the beauty of object and not for the purpose of increasing weight. Most of the surface shall be the underlying precious metal clearly visible to the consumer
Silver	Rhodium, Platinum, Gold, Palladium, Ruthenium, Silver Coloured inorganic and organic coatings (applied using any technique). To be applied as a decorative application in the form of a very thin film to enhance the beauty of the object and not for the purpose of increasing weight. Most of the surface shall be the underlying precious metal clearly visible to the consumer

NOTE: Although palladium is currently permitted both as plating on palladium itself and on silver, recent concerns point to the possibility that palladium could be an allergen, similar to nickel. If this is proven to be the case, then it should lead to removal from the permitted coatings list, subject to national laws.

Chemical or long-lasting thermal treatments (i.e. sulphured silver, Physical Vapour Deposition (PVD), Chemical Vapour Deposition (CVD).

The colouring of the surface of articles of precious metal by means of chemical transformation of the alloy or its components may be permitted under the terms of this CIBJO standard as long as the standard of fineness is not altered by the process.

Non-metallic coatings (i.e. enamel, niello).

6.7.2. Declaration of coatings

6.7.2.1. Rhodium coating

Rhodium (4.10) coating on yellow gold jewellery is not allowed.
In the USA, precious metals may be coated with rhodium, however the rhodium coating shall be disclosed in every instance.
In some countries, the rhodium coating on yellow gold is accepted for partial coverage as for example for the prongs holding the diamonds or as a decorative element.

6.7.2.2. Coating which changes the colour of precious metal

The coating shall be declared when it changes the colour of the precious metal alloy used to make an article of jewellery, e.g. gold coating on silver; ruthenium coating on any precious metal, titanium based colour coating on any precious metal that is applied by PVD/CVD techniques only.

6.7.2.3. Coating that is the same colour as the alloy used Declaration of coatings

A coating should be declared if it is the same colour as the alloy used to make the article of jewellery, e.g. when using rhodium coating on white gold or silver.

6.8. Marking of precious metal articles

6.8.1. Minimum marks

The following minimum marks shall be applied on articles which satisfy the criteria in Clause 6:

A registered responsibility mark as described in Clause 6.8.5 and the corresponding fineness mark in Arabic numerals in parts per thousand. These marks can be applied by punching, lasering, casting or engraving on the article.

Additional marks may be used as long as they are not confused with the marks mentioned above.

NOTE: Whenever possible, all marks shall be placed in immediate proximity to each other.

6.8.2. Hallmarking

Some countries have independent third party Assay Offices who test precious metal jewellery and then strike a ‘Hallmark’ on the article to guarantee its’ fineness.

A hallmark is a mark or series of marks struck on items made of precious metals. Hallmarks, which are applied by an assay office and guarantee a certain purity or fineness of the metal.

As a pre-requisite to official hallmarking, the maker or sponsor of a piece of jewellery shall usually mark its responsibility mark and the fineness mark. The hallmarking by an assay office is to confirm this claim.

6.8.3. The Vienna Convention

National hallmarking systems differ from country to country. **The Vienna Convention**, signed in November 1972, standardised the hallmarks, legislation and inspection of precious metals in signatory countries to facilitate international trade. Because it is so widespread it is the best example to illustrate how an independent third party hallmarking system works.

Articles which are assayed and found to be in conformity by the qualifying office of a member country receive a hallmark, known as the **Common Control Mark**, and can be exported and immediately sold in any of the Convention countries without further testing.

6.8.3.1. Common Control Mark: CCM

States, which are party to the Convention, recognise that articles, which have been marked with the Convention “Common Control Mark” (CCM) and which are of a legal fineness, can enter their territory without additional control or marking. The CCM is the first international hallmark and accepted not only in the Convention's Contracting States but also in other countries, where it is recognised as a "quality" symbol. The Convention makes it easier for quality precious metals articles, for which there is a high demand, to travel and cross borders.

6.8.4. Other methods of marking articles

The Precious Metals Commission can decide on other methods of marking articles.

6.8.5. Registration of a responsibility mark

The responsibility mark referred to in Clause 6.8.1, shall be registered in an official register of the State and/or trade organisations and/or one of its assay offices, in whose country the article in question is controlled.

6.8.6. Representation of fineness standards

All different standards of fineness listed in this document can be represented.

6.8.7. Articles of more than one fineness of the same precious metal

If an article consists of different alloys of the same precious metal, the fineness mark applied shall be that of the lowest fineness in the article.

6.8.8. Native gold nuggets

Native gold in the shape of nuggets may be unmarked on precious metal articles, irrespective of the standard of fineness and of the criteria for the determination of colours.

6.8.9. Articles consisting of hinged or separable parts

If an article consists of parts which are hinged or readily separable, the above marks shall be applied to the main part. When possible the mark shall also be applied to the lesser parts.

6.8.10. Incorporating a gold or silver ingot fitted with a frame

A pendant incorporating a gold or silver ingot fitted with a frame shall be considered as two separate articles, provided the ingot is loosely fitted and not permanently fixed. The frame may be accepted as a separate and complete article and marked separately.

6.8.11. Articles consisting of different precious metal alloys

6.8.11.1. Articles consisting of different precious metal alloys and if the colour and extent of each alloy are clearly visible, the marks referred to in Clause 6.8.1 shall be applied on the appropriate precious metal**.**

6.8.11.2. Articles consisting of different precious metal alloys and if the colour and extent of each alloy is not visible, the marks referred to in Clause 6.8.1 shall be that of the least precious metal, and the marks shall be applied on the least precious metal, currently in decreasing order of platinum, gold, palladium, silver.

Note: The exceptions are:

In the USA, all precious metals alloys shall be listed with most predominant metal coming first.

On platinum articles, the following parts may be in white gold (750/1000):

Tongues for bracelets and necklaces;
Moving parts of clips for earrings and brooches;
Pins for brooches;
Joints and catches for brooches.

7. Annex A – Countries who have responded to Questionnaire

CIBJO

Recognized Standards of Fineness Reported by Member Countries

Country	Australia							
Recognised Standards of Fineness	**Gold**	999	916	750	585	416	375	
	Silver	999	925	835	800			
	Platinum	999	950	900	850			
	Palladium	999	950	500				
Tolerances Permitted	**Gold**	No Negative Tolerance Allowed						
	Silver	No Negative Tolerance Allowed						
	Platinum	No Negative Tolerance Allowed						
	Palladium	No Negative Tolerance Allowed						

Country	Austria						
Recognised Standards of Fineness	Gold	999	986	900	750	585	
	Silver	925	900	835	800		
	Platinum	950					
	Palladium						
Tolerances Permitted	Gold	No Negative Tolerance Allowed					
	Silver	No Negative Tolerance Allowed					
	Platinum	No Negative Tolerance Allowed					
	Palladium						

Country	Denmark	
Recognised Standards of Fineness	Gold	All finenesses in the range 333 - 999
	Silver	All finenesses in the range 800 - 999
	Platinum	All finenesses in the range 850 - 999
	Palladium	All finenesses in the range 500 - 999
		Note - The concept of **standard** of fineness is not legally applied in Denmark - only minimum finenesses are regulated.
Tolerances Permitted	Gold	No Negative Tolerance Allowed
	Silver	No Negative Tolerance Allowed
	Platinum	No Negative Tolerance Allowed
	Palladium	No Negative Tolerance Allowed

Country	Germany	
Recognised Standards of Fineness	Gold	Jewellery may be stamped in all finenesses (mark has to be in thousand parts) customary are 750, 585, 375, 333 (for utensils such as tableware the law states a minimum fineness of 585)
	Silver	Jewellery may be stamped in all finenesses (mark has to be in thousand parts) customary are 925, 835 (for utensils such as tableware the law states a minimum fineness of 800)
	Platinum	The German law only provides for gold and silver, not for platinum, customary however are : 950, 600 and 500
	Palladium	The German law only provides for gold and silver, not for palladium, customary however are : 950 and 500
Tolerances Permitted	Gold	10/1000*
	Silver	10/1000*
	Platinum	
	Palladium	
		* The negative tolerance must not exceed 10/1000, when the object is melted down on the whole

Country	Israel							
Recognised Standards of Fineness	Gold	999	916	875	750	585	375	
	Silver	999	925	835	800			
	Platinum	999	950	900	850			
	Palladium							
Tolerances Permitted	Gold	No Negative Tolerance Allowed						
	Silver	No Negative Tolerance Allowed						
	Platinum	No Negative Tolerance Allowed						
	Palladium	No Negative Tolerance Allowed						

Country	Italy							
Recognised Standards of Fineness	Gold	750	585	375				
	Silver	925	800					
	Platinum	950	900	850				
	Palladium	950	500					
Tolerances Permitted	Gold	No Negative Tolerance Allowed						
	Silver	No Negative Tolerance Allowed						
	Platinum	No Negative Tolerance Allowed						
	Palladium	No Negative Tolerance Allowed						

Country	Kingdom Of Bahrain							
Recognised Standards of Fineness	Gold	916	875	750	585			
	Silver	925	830					
	Platinum	950						
	Palladium							
Tolerances Permitted	Gold	915	874	748	583			
	Silver	923	828					
	Platinum	950						
	Palladium							

Country	Lithuania							
Recognised Standards of Fineness	Gold	999	916	750	585	375		
	Silver	999	925	830	800			
	Platinum	999	950	900	850			
	Palladium	999	950	850	500			
Tolerances Permitted	Gold	No Negative Tolerance Allowed						
	Silver	No Negative Tolerance Allowed						
	Platinum	No Negative Tolerance Allowed						
	Palladium	No Negative Tolerance Allowed						

Country	New Zealand							
Recognised Standards of Fineness	Gold	999	916	750	585	417	375	
	Silver	999	925					
	Platinum	999	950					
	Palladium	999	950	400				
Tolerances Permitted	Gold	No Negative Tolerance Allowed						
	Silver	No Negative Tolerance Allowed						
	Platinum	No Negative Tolerance Allowed						
	Palladium	No Negative Tolerance Allowed						

Country	Norway							
Current Recognised Standards of Fineness	Gold	750	585					
	Silver	925	830					
	Platinum	950						
	Palladium							
New Proposed Standards, Permitted From 2011	Gold	999	916	750	585	375		
	Silver	999	925	830	800			
	Platinum	999	950	900	850			
	Palladium							
Tolerances Permitted	Gold	No Negative Tolerance Allowed						
	Silver	No Negative Tolerance Allowed						
	Platinum	No Negative Tolerance Allowed						
	Palladium							

Country	Saudi Arabia							
Recognised Standards of Fineness	Gold	999.9	916.6	875	750	Less than 18K is not allowed		
	Silver	999.9	925	900	800			
	Platinum	999.9	950	850				
	Palladium							
Tolerances Permitted	Gold	4 Per Thousand is Allowed by Law						
	Silver	4 Per Thousand is Allowed by Law						
	Platinum	4 Per Thousand is Allowed by Law						
	Palladium							

Country	Switzerland							
Recognised Standards of Fineness	Gold	999	916	750	585	375		
	Silver	999	925	800				
	Platinum	999	950	900	850			
	Palladium	999	950	500				
Tolerances Permitted	Gold	No Negative Tolerance Allowed						
	Silver	No Negative Tolerance Allowed						
	Platinum	No Negative Tolerance Allowed						
	Palladium	No Negative Tolerance Allowed						

Country	Thailand							
Recognised Standards of Fineness	Gold	999	958	916	875	750	585	
	Silver	999	950-925	830	800			
	Platinum	999	950	900	850			
	Palladium	999	650					
Tolerances Permitted	Gold	No Negative Tolerance Allowed						
	Silver	No Negative Tolerance Allowed						
	Platinum	No Negative Tolerance Allowed						
	Palladium	No Negative Tolerance Allowed						

Country	The Russian Federation										
Recognised Standards of Fineness	Gold	999	958	916	875	750	585	583	500	375	
	Silver	999	958	925	800						
	Platinum	950	900	850	585						
	Palladium	850	500								
Tolerances Permitted	Gold	No Negative Tolerance Allowed									
	Silver	No Negative Tolerance Allowed									
	Platinum	No Negative Tolerance Allowed									
	Palladium	No Negative Tolerance Allowed									

Country	United Kingdom							
Recognised Standards of Fineness	Gold	999	990	916.6	750	585	375	
	Silver	999	958	925	800			
	Platinum	999	950	900	850			
	Palladium	999	950	500				
Tolerances Permitted	Gold	No Negative Tolerance Allowed						
	Silver	No Negative Tolerance Allowed						
	Platinum	No Negative Tolerance Allowed						
	Palladium	No Negative Tolerance Allowed						

Country	USA	
Recognised Standards of Fineness	Gold	Jewellery may be stamped in all finenesses (mark is traditionally in Karats) customary are 24K, 18K, 14K, 10K. An item marked just “gold” implies 24K fineness. Any item marked with fineness must be accompanied by registered trade mark.
	Silver	Jewellery may be stamped in all finenesses (mark has to be in thousand parts) customary are 925, 900. “Sterling silver” implies 925 and “Coin” implies 500.
	Platinum	999, 950, 850.
	Palladium	
Tolerances Permitted	Gold	3
	Silver	4
	Platinum	50*
	Palladium	
		* Includes solder

8. Annex B - Countries who have not responded to Questionnaire

Information taken From IAAO 9

Country	Belgium												
Recognised Standards of Fineness	Gold	833	750	585									
	Silver	925	835										
	Platinum	950											
	Palladium												

Country	Bulgaria												
Recognised Standards of Fineness	Gold	916	833	750	585	500	333						
	Silver	950	925	800	750	500							
	Platinum												
	Palladium												

Country	Czech Republic												
Recognised Standards of Fineness	Gold	999	986	900	750	585							
	Silver	999	959	925	900	835	800						
	Platinum	999	950	900	850	800							
	Palladium												

Country	Estonia											
Recognised Standards of Fineness	Gold	375										Minimum Standard
	Silver	800										Minimum Standard
	Platinum	850										Minimum Standard
	Palladium	500										Minimum Standard

Country	Finland											
Recognised Standards of Fineness	Gold	999	916	750	585	375						
	Silver	999	925	830	800							
	Platinum	999	950	900	850							
	Palladium											

Country	Hungary											
Recognised Standards of Fineness	Gold	916	750	585	375							
	Silver	925	900	835	800							
	Platinum	950	900									
	Palladium											

Country	Ireland												
Recognised Standards of Fineness	Gold	999	990	916	833	750	585	417	375				
	Silver	999	958	925	800								
	Platinum	999	950	900	850								
	Palladium												

Country	Latvia												
Recognised Standards of Fineness	Gold	958	916	900	750	585	583	500	375	333			
	Silver	960	925	916	875	830	800	750					
	Platinum	950	850										
	Palladium	850	500										

Country	Malta												
Recognised Standards of Fineness	Gold	916	750	585	375								
	Silver	959	925	830	800								
	Platinum												
	Palladium												

Country	Poland												
Recognised Standards of Fineness	Gold	960	750	585	500	375	333						
	Silver	925	875	830	800								
	Platinum	950											
	Palladium												

Country	Portugal												
Recognised Standards of Fineness	Gold	999	916	800	750	585	375						
	Silver	999	925	835	830	800							
	Platinum	999	950	900	850								
	Palladium												

Country	Republic of Cyprus											
Recognised Standards of Fineness	Gold	916	750	585	375							
	Silver	925	830	800								
	Platinum											
	Palladium											

Country	Romania											
Recognised Standards of Fineness	Gold	999	916	900	833	750	585	500	375			
	Silver	999	925	916	875	800	750					
	Platinum	950										
	Palladium	950										

Country	Slovakia											
Recognised Standards of Fineness	Gold	999	986	900	750	585						
	Silver	999	959	925	900	835	800					
	Platinum	999	950	900	850	800						
	Palladium											

Country	Slovenia											
Recognised Standards of Fineness	Gold	999	990	916	900	840	800	750	585	500	417	375	333
	Silver	999	925	835	800								
	Platinum	999	950	900	850								
	Palladium	999	950	500									

Country	Spain												
Recognised Standards of Fineness	Gold	999	916	750	585	375							
	Silver	999	925	800									
	Platinum	999	950	900	850								
	Palladium												

`	Sweden											
Recognised Standards of Fineness	Gold	375										Minimum Standard
	Silver	800										Minimum Standard
	Platinum	850										Minimum Standard
	Palladium											Minimum Standard

Country	The Netherlands											
Recognised Standards of Fineness	Gold	916	833	750	585							
	Silver	925	835	800								
	Platinum	950										
	Palladium											

9. Annex C – ISO Recognised Precious Metal Standards

9.1. ISO/TC 174 Supporting standards - Jewellery, Watch and Silverware Industries (non-exhaustive).

Standard Number	Title
ISO 8653:2016	Jewellery—Ring-sizes—Definition, measurement and designation
ISO 8654:2018	Jewellery—Colours of gold alloys—Definition, range and designation
ISO 9202:2019	Jewellery and precious metals—Fineness of precious metal alloys
ISO 10713:1992	Jewellery –-Gold alloy coatings
ISO 11210:2014	Jewellery—Determination of platinum in platinum jewellery alloys-Gravimetric method after precipitation of diammonium hexachloroplatinate
ISO 11426:2014	Jewellery—Determination of gold in gold jewellery alloys -Cupellation method (fire assay)
ISO 11427:2014	Jewellery—Determination of silver in silver jewellery alloys-Volumetric (potentiometric) method using potassium bromide
ISO 11490:2015	Jewellery—Determination of palladium in palladium jewellery alloys-Gravimetric determination with dimethylglyoxime
ISO 11494:2014	Jewellery—Determination of platinum in platinum jewellery alloys-ICP-OES method using yttrium as internal standard element
ISO 11495:2014	Jewellery—Determination of palladium in palladium jewellery alloys-ICP-OES method using yttrium as internal standard element
ISO 11596:2008	Jewellery—Sampling of precious metals alloys for and in jewellery and associated products

ISO13756:2015	Jewellery—Determination of silver in silver jewellery alloys—Volumetric (potentiometric) method using sodium chloride or potassium chloride
ISO 15093:2015	Jewellery—Determination of precious metals in 999 0/00 gold, platinum and palladium jewellery alloys—Difference method using ICP-OES
ISO 15096:2014	Jewellery—Determination of silver in silver 999 0/00 silver jewellery alloys—Difference method using ICP-OES
ISO18323:2015	Jewellery—Consumer confidence in the diamond industry

Standards under development:

To be published in 2019:
UPDATE

ISO 11494	Jewellery and precious metals -- Determination of platinum in platinum alloys -- ICP- OES method using an internal standard element
ISO 11495	Jewellery and precious metals -- Determination of palladium in palladium alloys -- ICP-OES method using an internal standard element
ISO 15093	Jewellery and precious metals -- Determination of 999 0/00 gold, platinum and palladium -- Difference method using ICP-OES
ISO 15096	Jewellery and precious metals -- Determination of 999 0/00 silver -- Difference method using ICP-OES

NEW

ISO 22764	Jewellery and precious metals -- Precious metal -- Fineness of solders used with precious metal jewellery alloys

Standards under work in 2019:
UPDATE

ISO 11426	Jewellery and precious metals -- Determination of gold -- Cupellation (fire assay)

NEW

ISO 24018	Jewellery and precious metals -- Gold Ingots --General requirements
ISO 24016	Jewellery and precious metals -- Grading Polished Diamonds

9.2. ISO/TC 114/SC 6 Supporting Standards: Horology

Standard Number	Title
ISO 3160-1:1998	Watch-cases and accessories – Gold alloy coverings— Part 1: General requirements
ISO 3160-1:1998/Amd 1:2000	Watch-cases and accessories – Gold alloy coverings—Part 2: Determination of fineness, thickness, corrosion resistance and adhesion
ISO 16253-2017	Watch-cases and accessories -- Vapour phase deposited coatings
ISO 23160:2011	Watch cases and accessories -- Tests of the resistance to wear, scratching and impacts

9.3. ISO/TC 186 Supporting Standards: Cutlery and table and decorative metal hollow-ware

Standard Number	Title
ISO 4481:1977	Cutlery and flatware -- Nomenclature
ISO 8442-1:1997	Materials and articles in contact with foodstuffs -- Cutlery and table holloware -- Part 1: Requirements for cutlery for the preparation of food
ISO 8442-2:1997	Materials and articles in contact with foodstuffs -- Cutlery and table holloware -- Part 2: Requirements for stainless steel and silver-plated cutlery
ISO 8442-3:1997	Materials and articles in contact with foodstuffs -- Cutlery and table holloware -- Part 3: Requirements for silver-plated table and decorative holloware
ISO 8442-4:1997	Materials and articles in contact with foodstuffs -- Cutlery and table holloware -- Part 4: Requirements for gold plated cut
ISO 8442-5:2004	Materials and articles in contact with foodstuffs -- Cutlery and table holloware -- Part 5: Specification for

sharpness and edge retention test of cutlery

ISO 8442-6:2000 Materials and articles in contact with foodstuffs -- Cutlery and table holloware -- Part 6: Lightly silver-plated table holloware protected by lacquer

ISO 8442-7:2000 Materials and articles in contact with foodstuffs -- Cutlery and table holloware -- Part 7: Requirements for table cutlery made of silver, other precious metals and their alloys

ISO 8442-8:2000 Materials and articles in contact with foodstuffs -- Cutlery and table holloware -- Part 8: Requirements for silver table and decorative hollowware

ISO 8442-9:2018 Materials and articles in contact with foodstuffs -- Cutlery and table holloware -- Part 9: Requirements for ceramic knives

10. References (informative)

- **Convention on the Control and Marking of articles of precious metal, Geneva 1994.**
- **Annexes I and II to the Convention on the Control and Marking of articles of precious metal, entered into force on 10 March 2000.**
- **The Vienna Convention**

11. Index

accepted trade practices 3, 4
BIBOAH 3
Blue Books 4, 5
Board of Directors 4
CIBJO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 13
Commissions 3, 4
Committees 3
Common Control Mark 12
confidence 3, 4, 27
ECOSOC 4
Executive Committee 3, 4
Gemmological Laboratory Book 7
Hallmark 12
ISO 2, 26, 27, 28, 29
mark 11, 12, 13, 15, 20
nomenclature 3, 4, 5
Precious Metals Commission 5, 8, 12
Sector A 3
Sector B 3
Sector C 3
Sectors 3, 4
Sectors and Commissions 3
standards 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 26
TC 114/SC 6 28
TC 174 26
TC 186 28
The Coral Book 7
The Diamond Book 7
The Gemstone Book 7
The Pearl Book 7
The Responsible Sourcing Book 7
The Vienna Convention 12, 30