

The Precious Metals Book

Precious Metals – Terminology & Classification

CIBJO Precious Metals Commission
2026



The World Jewellery
Confederation 
est. 1926

THE BLUE BOOKS

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Foreword

CIBJO is the French acronym for the Confédération Internationale de la Bijouterie, Joaillerie, Orfèvrerie, 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 worldwide. 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 standards of trading. 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 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, coral 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.

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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, coral 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 hollowware. 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. Marketplace stability relies on accurate nomenclature and full disclosure of relevant facts, ensuring informed transactions throughout the distribution chain to the end 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 mass of the precious metal in the alloy being traded.

The following definitions apply in understanding how to implement CIBJO Blue Books and some of its normative references, e.g. when applicable ISO Standards

- **"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 (1) of the Book is set out, as are the Normative References (2). The Terms and Definitions (4) are expansive and are extensively cross-referenced throughout the Normative Clauses (3), 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

July 2025

PRECIOUS METALS – TERMINOLOGY AND CLASSIFICATION

1. 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. All traders who are members of CIBJO-affiliated organisations operating in participating countries shall use the terminology and classifications of precious metals as defined in this document.

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.

2. 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

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

3. Normative Clauses

3.1 General Clauses

This CIBJO standard does not apply to articles made of alloys of finenesses less than 850 parts per thousand by mass for platinum, 333 parts per thousand by mass for gold, 500 parts per thousand by mass for palladium and 800 parts per thousand by mass for silver.

Unless alloys meet these minimum finenesses, articles shall not be described as platinum, gold, palladium or silver.

3.2 Fineness

The following finenesses are recognised in this CIBJO standard (parts per thousand by mass):

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| • For platinum | 999 ‰, 950 ‰, 900 ‰, 850 ‰ |
| • For gold | 999 ‰, 916 ‰, 750 ‰, 585 ‰, 417 ‰, 375 ‰ |
| • 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).

NOTE 2: For specific country standards, please consult Annex A and Annex B.

3.3 Tolerance

Negative tolerance is not permitted for the stated standard of fineness on any article.

NOTE 1: National legal requirements for the designation, marking, and stamping of finished articles in the respective countries must be considered.

NOTE 2: Separate rules for special manufacturing techniques can be established by the Precious Metals Commission.

3.4 Use of solder

3.4.1 General rule

To ensure consistency and consumer protection, the following general rules outline the acceptable use of solder in precious metal articles:

- Precious metals shall be soldered with solders of the same precious metal and of permitted fineness.
- Adhesives may be used instead of solders where technically feasible.
- In solder-filled wire, both the solder and the wire shall conform to the permitted fineness.
- Where lower solder fineness is permitted, the entire wire shall meet the required fineness threshold.

Specific exceptions are allowed for each precious metal, as described in 3.4 to 3.4.5.

3.4.2 Exceptions for Platinum

- Solder shall consist of platinum, palladium, gold, silver, or a combination thereof.
- The minimum combined content of precious metals in the solder shall be ≥ 800 parts per thousand (‰).

3.4.3 Exceptions for Gold

- For gold articles with a fineness ≥ 750 ‰, solder shall be ≥ 750 ‰ gold;
- For Filigree work and watch cases of a fineness of 750 ‰, solder shall be ≥ 740 ‰ gold;
- For white gold articles (fineness of 750 ‰), solder shall be ≥ 585 ‰ gold;
- Gold chains made from wire <1 mm diameter, may be soldered using any type of solder, including non-precious solders, provided the overall measured mean fineness is not lower than the declared value.

3.4.4 Exceptions for Palladium

- For articles with a fineness of 999 ‰ or 950 ‰, solder shall consist of gold, silver, platinum, palladium, or a combination, with a minimum combined content ≥ 700 ‰;
- For articles with a fineness of 500 ‰, solder shall contain ≥ 500 ‰ of these metals.

3.4.5 Exceptions for Silver

- For articles with a fineness of 925 ‰ or 999 ‰, solder shall contain ≥ 650 ‰ of silver;
- For articles with a fineness of 800 ‰, 830 ‰ or 835 ‰, solder shall contain ≥ 550 ‰ silver.

3.4.6 Mixed Precious Metals

Solder shall comply with the requirements for the least precious metal fineness present in the article.

3.4.7 Precious Metal with Base Metal

When precious metals are combined with base metals, any suitable solder, including base metal solder, may be used, provided it does not affect the marked fineness of the precious metal part.

3.5 Use of working base metal parts

Precious metal articles may include working parts made of base metals, provided that:

- The base metal component serves a functional or mechanical purpose (e.g., springs, joints, or clasps).
- The base metal part is not visible from the front of the article during normal wear.
- The base metal part is not likely to be mistaken for a precious metal part by the consumer.
- The use of base metal is clearly limited to the working component and does not extend into the main decorative or structural portions of the article.

Examples of acceptable working base metal parts include:

- Springs in brooch pins or cufflinks.
- Joints and hinges in locket or bracelets.
- Clasps, catches, and stainless-steel screws.
- Mechanical components in expanding bracelets.

3.6 Fillings

Non-metallic materials may be used to fill certain parts of precious metal articles to enhance stability or functionality, subject to the following conditions.

3.6.1 Filling of Bases

The base of an article may be filled with non-metallic material (e.g., resin, cement, or plaster) to enhance structural stability.

This is commonly applied in articles such as:

- Candle holders.
- Flowerpots.
- Other similar silver articles.

To ensure consumer awareness, the word “filled” shall be clearly engraved or embossed on the base of the article. This indicates that the gross mass of the item is not entirely made of precious metal.

3.7 Filling of Handles

The handles of certain articles may be filled with mastic or similar materials for reinforcement and secure attachment. This applies to items such as:

- Cutlery (e.g., knives, forks, salad servers);
- Manicure sets.
- Toilet sets.
- Dessert knives.
- Carving knives and forks.

The above list is non-exhaustive, and the practice may apply to other comparable articles where handle filling is customary and functionally required.

3.8 Coating

The following substrate precious metals are permitted for coating of base precious metals:

Base Precious Metal	Permitted Surface Coatings
Platinum	Rhodium, Ruthenium, Platinum, Gold
Gold	Rhodium, Ruthenium, Platinum, Gold
Palladium	Rhodium, Ruthenium, Platinum, Gold, Palladium
Silver	Rhodium, Ruthenium, Platinum, Gold, Palladium, Silver

- All precious metal coatings shall meet at least the minimum standards of fineness as defined in Clause 3.2 of this document.

- Where the coating and substrate are made of the same precious metal, the coating shall not be of lower fineness than the substrate.
- The use of base metals for coating precious metal articles is strictly prohibited, including:
 - As a final surface coating.
 - As an interlayer between precious metal layers.

3.8.1 Inorganic and Organic Coatings (Anti-Tarnish Treatments)

Thin films applied as inorganic or organic coatings (e.g., anti-tarnish layers) are permitted. Such coatings shall:

- Be transparent or near transparent.
- Cause only negligible change in the visual colour of the underlying metal when viewed with the unaided eye.

3.8.2 Chemical and Thermal Surface Treatments

Chemical or thermal treatments that modify the metal surface are permitted, including:

- Sulphuration (e.g., sulphured silver).
- PVD (Physical Vapour Deposition).
- CVD (Chemical Vapour Deposition).

These treatments are acceptable only when:

- The fineness of the article is not affected by the transformation.
- The treatment is permanent and uniform.
- There is no base metal interlayer.

3.8.3 Non-Metallic Coatings

Non-metallic coatings are permitted for decorative purposes, including:

- Enamel.
- Niello.

3.8.4 Declaration

Where a surface-layer coating of rhodium or any other precious metal is applied to an item described or marked as a precious metal article (e.g. white gold), full and transparent disclosure is mandatory.

Any surface coating shall be clearly declared, particularly in the case of:

- Rhodium-plated white gold.
- Other gold-, platinum-, or palladium-coated items.

This applies regardless of whether the substrate is itself a recognised precious metal alloy.

The disclosure shall be:

- Clear.
- Accurate.
- Unambiguous.

Specifically, the disclosure shall:

- Identify the coating material, e.g. "*rhodium-plated white gold*", "*gold-coated*".
- Indicate the presence of the coating wherever the product is advertised, displayed, sold (online or in-store), labelled or described in any marketing or packaging material.

Omission of such a declaration may be considered misleading or deceptive, particularly if the coating significantly alters the product's appearance, performance, or consumer perception.

This requirement aligns with international best practices and applicable consumer protection laws, (such as U.S. FTC 16 CFR § 23.6 (Jewelry Guides))

3.8.5 Recommended Standard

To promote consistency, transparency, and consumer confidence in the jewellery sector, CIBJO recommends the adoption of ISO 10713, the international standard for the classification of gold plating and rolled gold.

This standard offers a harmonised and measurable framework, based on clear criteria such as:

- Gold coating thickness (expressed in microns).
- Gold fineness (expressed in parts per thousand).

CIBJO encourages member organisations and industry stakeholders to use the classification system defined in ISO 10713 (e.g., GP5, GP3) when describing gold-plated products. This approach enhances transparency, supports fair trade, and reduces the risk of consumer misunderstanding across global markets.

3.9 Marking of Precious Metal Articles

Marking requirements ensure traceability, consumer protection, and legal compliance across jurisdictions. The following sub-clauses define the acceptable methods and standards for marking precious metal articles.

3.9.1 Minimum Required Marks

All precious metal articles shall bear, at a minimum:

- A registered responsibility mark (identifying the manufacturer or sponsor);
- A fineness mark expressed in Arabic numerals in parts per thousand.

Additional notes:

- These marks may be applied using punching, laser engraving, 3D printing, or traditional engraving.
- Other marks may be used, provided they cannot be confused with the responsibility or fineness marks.
- Whenever practicable, all marks should be placed in close proximity to one another.

3.9.2 Hallmarking

In countries where independent third-party Assay Offices operate, these offices test articles for metal fineness and apply a hallmark. A hallmark is a guarantee of the metal's fineness and includes a series of official marks.

Before hallmarking:

- The responsibility mark and fineness mark shall be applied by the manufacturer or sponsor.
- The Assay Office then applies its hallmark upon verifying the claimed fineness.

3.9.3 Vienna Convention

The Vienna Convention (Convention on the Control and Marking of Precious Metals) standardises hallmarking rules to facilitate international trade. It establishes the Common Control Mark (CCM) as a universal guarantee of fineness.

Articles bearing:

- The CCM,
- The national Assay Office mark,
- The responsibility mark,
- The fineness mark,

are exempt from further testing or marking in any Contracting State.

Assay Offices appointed under the Convention shall test platinum, gold, palladium, and silver articles against agreed technical standards.

3.9.4 Alternative Marking Methods

The Precious Metals Commission of CIBJO may approve additional or emerging methods of marking, subject to industry consensus and consumer protection.

3.9.5 Registration of Responsibility Mark

The responsibility mark (Clause 3.9.1) shall be:

- Officially registered in the State, and/or
- Registered with an authorised trade organisation, and/or
- Registered with one of the Assay Offices in the country of control.

3.9.6 Representation of Fineness Standards

Standard fineness levels specified in this document may be represented and marked on precious metal articles only where such fineness levels are expressly recognised and permitted under the applicable national legislation or by international hallmarking conventions to which the jurisdiction is a party. This document does not imply that all fineness levels listed herein are universally accepted or may be applied without reference to such governing rules.

3.9.7 Articles of Varying Fineness (Same Precious Metal)

Where an article contains different alloys of the same precious metal, the applied fineness mark shall represent the lowest fineness used in the article.

3.9.8 Hinged or Separable Parts

For articles with hinged or separable components, the required marks shall be applied to the main part. Where possible, the lesser parts should also be marked.

3.9.9 Articles Incorporating Framed Ingots

For pendants incorporating a precious metal ingot in a frame:

- If the ingot is not permanently fixed (i.e., loosely fitted), it shall be considered a separate article.
- The frame may also be accepted as a separate article and marked independently.

3.9.10 Articles Consisting of Different Precious Metal Alloys

For articles consisting of different precious metal alloys:

- Where an article is manufactured from two or more different precious metal alloys and the colour and extent of each alloy is clearly visible and distinguishable, each visible portion shall bear the required marks in accordance with Clause 3.9.1;
- Where the different alloys are not visibly distinct (i.e., the colours or boundaries cannot be readily distinguished), the article shall be marked with the fineness mark corresponding to the lowest standard precious metal alloy present.

NOTE: For the purposes of this clause, “lowest standard precious metal alloy” refers to the alloy of the least noble metal or of the lowest fineness present, whichever represents the less precious designation.

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 Assay

Procedure to determine quantitatively the concentration of one or several elements contained in an alloy or in a fine metal.

4.3 Base metals

All metallic elements, with the exception of precious metals.

4.4 Colour of Precious Metal

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

4.5 Fineness

Content of the named metal, expressed as parts per thousand (‰) by mass.

4.6 Karat (K)

The Karat is a fractional measure of fineness for gold alloys, in parts fine per 24 parts whole.

4.7 Platinum group metals

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

4.8 Precious metal alloy

A precious metal alloy is an alloy made by combining two or more elements where at least one of it is a precious metal (4.11).

4.9 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.

4.10 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.

4.11 Precious metals

Precious Metals are gold (Au), silver (Ag), platinum (Pt), palladium (Pd), rhodium (Rh), iridium (Ir), ruthenium (Ru) and osmium (Os) in their pure state. Most national legislations have a shorter list of elements for precious metals.

4.12 Solder

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

4.13 Standard of fineness

The standard of fineness is the minimum content of the named precious metals expressed as parts per thousand (‰) by mass.

4.14 Recycled precious metal

A recycled precious metal is a pre-consumer recycled precious metal, a post-consumer recycled precious metal, or a mixture of both. Recycled precious metals exclude investment products (e.g. bullion bars and investment coins).

4.15 Pre-consumer recycled precious metal

A pre-consumer recycled precious metal is a precious metal obtained by refining materials generated during a manufacturing or fabrication process. This includes melted scraps, sweeps, solutions, wastewater treatments, as well as manufactured materials, products, components and alloys which are no longer required, or which can no longer be used for their original purpose. Scraps and materials refined within the organization which generated them can be qualified as pre-consumer recycled gold only if all the starting scraps and materials are already "pre-consumer recycled precious metals".

4.16 Post-consumer recycled precious metal

A post-consumer recycled precious metal is a precious metal obtained by refining products sourced from individuals, organisations or industrial facilities in their role as end-users of the products which are no longer required or desired or can no longer be used for their original purpose. This includes jewellery products and components, electronic and industrial components, dental scrap, numismatic/collectable coins (but not investment coins), decorative products, plated materials/coatings, spent solutions, as well as returns of products by participants in the precious metal supply chain (e.g. excess inventory from wholesalers, retailers...)

5 Annex A – Countries who have responded to the Questionnaire

Country	Gold	Silver	Platinum	Palladium	Tolerances Permitted / Notes
Australia	999, 916, 750, 585, 416, 375	999, 925, 835, 800	999, 950, 900, 850	999, 950, 500	No Negative Tolerance Allowed
Austria	999, 986, 900, 750, 585	925, 900, 835, 800	950	—	No Negative Tolerance Allowed
Denmark	All finenesses 333–999	All finenesses 800–999	All finenesses 850–999	All finenesses 500–999	No Negative Tolerance Allowed. <i>Only minimum finenesses regulated</i>
Germany	All finenesses (customary 750, 585, 375, 333; min. 585 for tableware)	All finenesses (customary 925, 835; min. 800 for tableware)	Not in law; customary 950, 600, 500	Not in law; customary 950, 500	Max negative tolerance 10/1000 (whole melt)
Israel	999, 916, 875, 750, 585, 375	999, 925, 835, 800	999, 950, 900, 850	—	No Negative Tolerance Allowed
Italy	750, 585, 375	925, 800	950, 900, 850	950, 500	No Negative Tolerance Allowed
Kingdom of Bahrain	916, 875, 750, 585	925, 830	950	—	Gold: 915, 874, 748, 583; Silver: 923, 828
Lithuania	999, 916, 750, 585, 375	999, 925, 830, 800	999, 950, 900, 850	999, 950, 850, 500	No Negative Tolerance Allowed
New Zealand	999, 916, 750, 585, 417, 375	999, 925	999, 950	999, 950, 400	No Negative Tolerance Allowed
Norway (current)	750, 585	925, 830	950	—	No Negative Tolerance Allowed
Norway (proposed 2011)	999, 916, 750, 585, 375	999, 925, 830, 800	999, 950, 900, 850	—	—
Saudi Arabia	999.9, 916.6, 875, 750 (<i>less than 18K not allowed</i>)	999.9, 925, 900, 800	999.9, 950, 850	—	4 per thousand allowed (all metals except palladium)
Switzerland	999, 916, 750, 585, 375	999, 925, 800	999, 950, 900, 850	999, 950, 500	No Negative Tolerance Allowed
Thailand	999, 958, 916, 875, 750, 585	999, 950–925, 830, 800	999, 950, 900, 850	999, 650	No Negative Tolerance Allowed
Russian Federation	999, 958, 916, 875, 750, 585, 583, 500, 375	999, 958, 925, 800	950, 900, 850, 585	850, 500	No Negative Tolerance Allowed
United Kingdom	999, 990, 916.6, 750, 585, 375	999, 958, 925, 800	999, 950, 900, 850	999, 950, 500	No Negative Tolerance Allowed
USA	Jewellery may be stamped in all finenesses; customary 24K, 18K, 14K, 10K. “Gold” implies 24K.	Jewellery may be stamped in all finenesses; customary 925, 900. “Sterling” = 925; “Coin” = 500.	999, 950, 850	—	Tolerances: Gold 3, Silver 4, Platinum 50 (includes solder)

6 Annex B - Countries who have not responded to Questionnaire

Country	Gold	Silver	Platinum	Palladium	Notes
Belgium	833, 750, 585	925, 835	950	—	—
Bulgaria	916, 833, 750, 585, 500, 333	950, 925, 800, 750, 500	—	—	—
Czech Republic	999, 986, 900, 750, 585	999, 959, 925, 900, 835, 800	999, 950, 900, 850, 800	—	—
Estonia	375 (minimum)	800 (minimum)	850 (minimum)	500 (minimum)	Only minimum standards apply
Finland	999, 916, 750, 585, 375	999, 925, 830, 800	999, 950, 900, 850	—	—
Hungary	916, 750, 585, 375	925, 900, 835, 800	950, 900	—	—
Ireland	999, 990, 916, 833, 750, 585, 417, 375	999, 958, 925, 800	999, 950, 900, 850	—	—
Latvia	958, 916, 900, 750, 585, 583, 500, 375, 333	960, 925, 916, 875, 830, 800, 750	950, 850	850, 500	—
Malta	916, 750, 585, 375	959, 925, 830, 800	—	—	—
Poland	960, 750, 585, 500, 375, 333	925, 875, 830, 800	950	—	—
Portugal	999, 916, 800, 750, 585, 375	999, 925, 835, 830, 800	999, 950, 900, 850	—	—
Republic of Cyprus	916, 750, 585, 375	925, 830, 800	—	—	—
Romania	999, 916, 900, 833, 750, 585, 500, 375	999, 925, 916, 875, 800, 750	950	950	—
Slovakia	999, 986, 900, 750, 585	999, 959, 925, 900, 835, 800	999, 950, 900, 850, 800	—	—
Slovenia	999, 990, 916, 900, 840, 800, 750, 585, 500, 417, 375, 333	999, 925, 835, 800	999, 950, 900, 850	999, 950, 500	—
Spain	999, 916, 750, 585, 375	999, 925, 800	999, 950, 900, 850	—	—
Sweden	375 (minimum)	800 (minimum)	850 (minimum)	— (minimum)	Only minimum standards apply
The Netherlands	916, 833, 750, 585	925, 835, 800	950	—	—

Based on the search carried out on the internet.

Annex A – Countries who responded to the Questionnaire (Updated Version)						
Country	Gold (Au)	Silver (Ag)	Platinum (Pt)	Palladium (Pd)	Tolerances / Notes	Source / Notes
Australia	999, 916, 750, 585, 416, 375	999, 925, 835, 800	999, 950, 900, 850	999, 950, 500	No negative tolerance	CIBJO, Convention
Austria	986, 900, 750, 585	925, 900, 835, 800	950	—	No negative tolerance	Convention profile – Au 999 not listed
Denmark	All finenesses 333–999 (min. 333)	All finenesses 800–999 (min. 800)	All finenesses 850–999 (min. 850)	All finenesses 500–999	No negative tolerance. Only minimum fineness legally regulated	Convention + Danish law
Germany	Any fineness (customary 750, 585, 375, 333; min. 585 tableware)	Any fineness (customary 925, 835; min. 800 tableware)	Not in law; customary 950, 600, 500	Not in law; customary 950, 500	10‰ negative tolerance max (whole melt)	German Precious Metals Law
Israel	999, 916, 875, 750, 585, 375	999, 925, 835, 800	999, 950, 900, 850	—	No negative tolerance	National standards
Italy	750, 585, 375	925, 800	950, 900, 850	950, 500	No negative tolerance	Convention
Bahrain	916, 875, 750, 585	925, 830	950	—	~4‰ tolerance cited; law not online	Bahrain MoC FAQ, secondary sources
Lithuania	999, 916, 750, 585, 375	999, 925, 830, 800	999, 950, 900, 850	999, 950, 850, 500	No negative tolerance	Convention
New Zealand	Industry: 999, 916, 750, 585, 417, 375	999, 925	999, 950	999, 950 (400 unconfirmed)	No statutory hallmarking: tolerances unclear	NZ law: hallmarking voluntary; Pd 400 doubtful
Norway	999, 916, 750, 585, 375	999, 925, 830, 800	999, 950, 900, 850	—	No negative tolerance	Convention profile
Saudi Arabia	999.9, 916.6, 875, 750 (<18K not allowed)	999.9, 925, 900, 800	999.9, 950, 850	—	4‰ tolerance cited in sources	SASO/secondary
Switzerland	999, 916, 750, 585, 375	999, 925, 800	999, 950, 900, 850	999, 950, 500	No negative tolerance	Swiss Precious Metals Ordinance
Thailand	Market norm Au 965 (~96.5%); official lists sometimes 958/916/875/750/585	925–950, 830, 800	999, 950, 900, 850	Pd 650 (uncertain)	No primary legal confirmation	Thai market practice
Russian Federation	999, 958, 916, 875, 750, 585, 583, 500, 375	999, 958, 925, 800	950, 900, 850, 585	850, 500	No negative tolerance	GOST / Assay Chamber; secondary
United Kingdom	999, 990, 916.6, 750, 585, 375	999, 958, 925, 800	999, 950, 900, 850	999, 950, 500	No negative tolerance	UK Hallmarking Act

United States	24K, 18K, 14K, 10K (any fineness if marked + trademark)	925, 900 ("Sterling" = 925; "Coin" = 500)	999, 950, 850	—	Gold: 3‰ (7‰ with solder); Silver: 4‰ (10‰ with solder); Platinum: ~50‰ incl. solder	FTC Jewelry Guides
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Annex B – Countries who did not respond (Updated Version)

Country	Gold (Au)	Silver (Ag)	Platinum (Pt)	Palladium (Pd)	Notes / Source
Belgium	833, 750, 585	925, 835	950	—	Belgian law; aligns with Convention
Bulgaria	916, 833, 750, 585, 500, 333	950, 925, 800, 750, 500	—	—	Secondary sources; national list
Czech Republic	999, 986, 900, 750, 585	999, 959, 925, 900, 835, 800	999, 950, 900, 850, 800	—	Convention profile
Estonia	375 (minimum)	800 (minimum)	850 (minimum)	500 (minimum)	Only minimum standards apply
Finland	999, 916, 750, 585, 375	999, 925, 830, 800	999, 950, 900, 850	—	Convention profile
Hungary	916, 750, 585, 375	925, 900, 835, 800	950, 900	—	Convention profile
Ireland	999, 990, 916, 833, 750, 585, 417, 375	999, 958, 925, 800	999, 950, 900, 850, 600	500, 950, 999	Irish Assay Office
Latvia	958, 916, 900, 750, 585, 583, 500, 375, 333	960, 925, 916, 875, 830, 800, 750	950, 850	850, 500	Convention + Latvian law
Malta	916, 750, 585, 375	959, 925, 830, 800	—	—	Secondary sources
Poland	960, 750, 585, 500, 375, 333	925, 875, 830, 800	950	—	Convention profile
Portugal	999, 916, 800, 750, 585, 375	999, 925, 835, 830, 800	999, 950, 900, 850	—	Convention profile
Republic of Cyprus	916, 750, 585, 375	925, 830, 800	—	—	Convention profile
Romania	999, 916, 900, 833, 750, 585, 500, 375	999, 925, 916, 875, 800, 750	950	950	National law
Slovakia	999, 986, 900, 750, 585	999, 959, 925, 900, 835, 800	999, 950, 900, 850, 800	—	Convention profile
Slovenia	999, 990, 916, 900, 840, 800, 750, 585, 500, 417, 375, 333	999, 925, 835, 800	999, 950, 900, 850	999, 950, 500	National law
Spain	999, 916, 750, 585, 375	999, 925, 800	999, 950, 900, 850	—	Convention profile
Sweden	375 (minimum)	800 (minimum)	850 (minimum)	— (minimum)	Only minimum standards apply
The Netherlands	916, 833, 750, 585	925, 835, 800	950	—	Convention profile

7. ISO Recognised Precious Metal Standards

7.1 ISO/TC 174 (Jewellery and Precious Metals)

Standard	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 11210:2023	Jewellery and precious metals — Determination of platinum – Gravimetry using ammonium chloride
ISO 11426:2021	Jewellery and precious metals — Determination of gold – Cupellation method (fire assay)
ISO 11427:2024	Jewellery and precious metals — Determination of silver —g Potentiometry using potassium bromide
ISO 11490:2023	Jewellery and precious metals — Determination of palladium — Gravimetric using dimethylglyoxime
ISO 11494:2019	Jewellery and precious metals — Determination of platinum in platinum alloys –ICP-OES method using yttrium as internal standard element
ISO 11495:2019	Jewellery and precious metals — Determination of palladium in palladium alloys-ICP-OES method using an internal standard element
ISO 11596:2021	Jewellery and precious metals — Sampling of precious metals and precious metal alloys
ISO 13756:2024	Jewellery and precious metals — Determination of silver — Potentiometry using sodium chloride or potassium chloride
ISO 15093:2020	Jewellery and precious metals — Determination of high purity gold, platinum and palladium — Difference method using ICP-OES
ISO 15096:2020	Jewellery and precious metals — Determination of high m silver — Difference method using ICP-OES
ISO 18323:2015	Jewellery—Consumer confidence in the diamond industry
ISO 19376-1	Jewellery and precious metals — Vocabulary — Part 1: Precious metals and units
ISO 22764:2020	Jewellery and precious metals — Fineness of solders used with precious metal jewellery alloys
ISO 23345:2021	Jewellery and precious metals — Non destructive precious metal fineness confirmation by ED-XRF

7.2 ISO/TC 114/SC 6 (Horology)

Standard	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

7.3 ISO/TC 186 (Cutlery and table and decorative metal hollowware)

Standard	Title
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 8442-6:2000	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