



THE BRITISH HALLMARKING COUNCIL

GUIDANCE ON HALLMARKING OF MOKUME GANE ARTICLES CONTAINING PRECIOUS METAL(S)

Preamble

Following the introduction of the mixed-metals amendment to the Hallmarking Act in 2007, there has been an element of confusion and inconsistency in the application of hallmarks to articles made of Mokume Gane.

A Guidance note from the British Hallmarking Council would therefore be welcome to clarify this matter.

A draft Guidance note from the Technical Committee on behalf of the British Hallmarking Council is attached for approval.

Approved by the British Hallmarking Council on 15 April 2013

GUIDANCE

Mokume Gane is a mixed metal laminate with distinctive layered patterns. The traditional components are relatively soft metals and alloys of gold, silver and copper, but modern processes have enabled the inclusion on non-traditional metals such as titanium, platinum, iron, bronze, and brass.

1. Hallmarking Mixed Precious Metal Mokume Gane

Mokume Gane articles consisting of more than one precious metal can be hallmarked, subject to the following conditions:

- The item can only be marked if, in the opinion of the Assay Office, an ordinary person will be able clearly to distinguish by colour the different precious metals.
- Each precious metal component must be at least the minimum legal fineness for that metal i.e. Gold 375, Silver 800, Platinum 850, Palladium 500 (parts per thousand).
- The Assay Office must be able to test the metals, otherwise the articles will be rejected for hallmarking in accordance with normal Assay Office procedures.
- Whenever possible the item will be hallmarked in accordance with normal mixed metal rules, i.e. the full hallmark (Assay Office and fineness mark) will be applied to the least precious metal, in order, silver, palladium, gold and platinum. A part/minor mark (fineness mark) of the "higher precious" metal(s) will be stamped on these precious metal areas. If this is not possible, then the full hallmark and part/minor marks can be applied across the article.

2. Hallmarking Mixed Precious Metal and Non-Precious Metal Mokume Gane

Mokume Gane articles made of precious metals and base metals can be hallmarked, subject to the following conditions:

- The item can only be marked if, in the opinion of the Assay Office, an ordinary person will be able to clearly distinguish by colour the precious metal(s) from the non-precious metal(s).
- Each precious metal component must be at least the minimum legal fineness for that metal i.e. Gold 375, Silver 800, Platinum 850, Palladium 500 (parts per thousand).
- The Assay Office must be able to test the precious metal(s), otherwise the articles will be rejected for hallmarking in accordance with normal assay office procedures.
- The word "+ METAL" must be applied next to the hallmark in a manner which complies with any Regulation made by The British Hallmarking Council. Where practical, the word METAL or the name of the metal (e.g brass, copper etc) will be applied to the base metal surfaces.

NB: If it is not practical to apply the full hallmark and "+ METAL" on the specific precious metal and base metal surfaces, the marks will be applied across the article. Sufficient space must be available adjacent to the hallmark for the addition of the "+METAL" mark.

A hallmark is a guarantee of the precious metal fineness only and does not guarantee or imply a guarantee of compliance with other regulations .e.g. REACH