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Pursuant to Article 17 paragraph 3 of the Law on Control of Precious Metals (Official Gazette of Montenegro 40/10), the Ministry of Economy hereby adopts the

## **RULEBOOK**

### **ON THE METHOD OF ASSAYING AND HALLMARKING OF PRECIOUS METAL ARTICLES AND ASSAY EQUIPMENT**

**(Official Gazette of Montenegro 40/11 dated 8 August 2011)**

#### **Article 1**

This Rulebook lays down the method of assaying and hallmarking of precious metal articles as well as the assay equipment.

#### **Article 2**

Precious metal articles composed of several parts easily separable by hand shall be assayed in such a way that each part is assayed individually.

Where the bond between the individual parts is firm or indivisible, it shall be sufficient to assay only one part.

Precious metal articles made of parts of different alloys shall be assayed in such a way that each part is assayed separately.

#### **Article 3**

Precious metal articles coated with other precious metals shall be assayed in the way that the precious metal of which the article was made is assayed.

The precious metal coating on articles made of non-precious metals shall not be assayed.

#### **Article 4**

Assaying of precious metal articles includes:

- 1) Visual inspection;
- 2) Determination of the degree of fineness.

#### **Article 5**

The visual examination shall determine:

- 1) The condition of the precious metal article submitted for assaying;

- 2) Whether or not the prescribed marks are in place on items of precious metals submitted for assaying are.

The visual inspection of precious metal articles shall also determine the accuracy of the information provided in the request for assaying and hallmarking of precious metal articles.

#### **Article 6**

The degree of fineness of precious metal articles shall be determined by:

- 1) Touchstone testing;
- 2) X-ray fluorescence spectrometry (XRF);
- 3) Quantitative chemical analysis.

#### **Article 7**

Assaying of precious metal articles by touchstone testing shall be done for determining the type of precious metals and their alloys and the approximate determination of fineness of precious metals.

In addition to the method referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, the determination of the type of precious metals and their alloys and of the fineness of precious metals may also be done by X-ray fluorescence spectrometry (XRF).

#### **Article 8**

Quantitative chemical analysis shall be used to assay the fineness of precious metals or alloys of one or more precious metals.

For assaying by means of quantitative chemical analysis, the following methods are used:

- 1) Cupellation, for assaying gold and articles made of gold;
- 2) Volhard method or potentiometric method, for assaying silver and articles made of gold;
- 3) Atomic absorption method, for assaying platinum and articles made of platinum;
- 4) ICP spectrometry, for assaying palladium and articles made of palladium.

#### **Article 9**

Precious metal assay equipment shall be in accordance with the Montenegrin standard MEST EN ISO 11426 and the international standard ISO 13756.

#### **Article 10**

Precious metal articles composed of several parts easily separable by hand shall be assayed in such a way that each part is assayed individually.

### **Article 11**

Precious metal articles composed of firmly joined pieces of the same precious metal of different fineness shall be hallmarked with the lowest determined degree of fineness of the precious metal.

Precious metal articles composed of firmly joined pieces of different precious metals shall be hallmarked with the hallmark for the degree of fineness of the precious metal that is most prevalent in the article.

Where the prevalence of precious metals in the article referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article is equal, each individual part of the article shall be hallmarked with a hallmark for the determined degree of fineness for the corresponding precious metal.

### **Article 12**

Precious metal articles made up of parts of precious metals and parts of other materials shall be hallmarked on the part which is made of a precious metal.

### **Article 13**

The national hallmark shall be imprinted next to the manufacturer's or importer's mark and the fineness mark.

The national hallmark may also be imprinted elsewhere on the precious metal article, provided that it is clearly visible.

### **Article 14**

On the day of entry into force of this Rulebook, the Rulebook on the Method of Assaying and Hallmarking of Precious Metal Articles (Official Gazette of FRY 8/95) shall cease to apply.

### **Article 15**

This Rulebook shall enter into force on the eighth day following that of its publication in the Official Gazette of Montenegro.

Number: 0904-1996/3  
Podgorica, 22 July 2011  
Minister  
Vladimir Kavarić PhD, m.p.