

DECREE

By the Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic
Of May 13, 2013

Which implements some provisions of the Act no. 94/2013 Coll. on Hallmarking and Testing of precious metals (Hallmarking Act) and on changing some laws.

The Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic pursuant to § 50 of Act no. 94/2013 Coll. On hallmarking and testing of precious metals (Hallmarking Act) and on the amendment of certain laws (hereinafter referred to as "the Act") stipulates:

§1

This decree specifies:

- a) description and depiction of marks, markings "METAL", the mark of the Assay Office of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as "the Office") and the official mark for marking ingots,
- b) details of the hallmark inspection and testing of precious metal products,
- c) composition of jewellery alloys,
- d) fineness of solders,
- e) goods according to § 2 par. 3 letters a) of the Act with a very low weight,
- f) old goods that are not subject to hallmark control,
- g) the method of selecting samples from the minting of coins according to § 2 par. 3 letters d) of the Act submitted for verification of fineness,
- h) details of labelling of ingots.

§2

- (1) The mark for gold goods of fineness 999/1000 consists of the image of an eagle's head looking to the left in the outline of a circle; the Arabic numeral 0 is located in the lower left part of the mark.
- (2) The mark for gold goods of fineness 986/1000 consists of the image of an eagle's head looking to the left in the outline of a semicircle with cut off corners; the Arabic numeral 1 is located in the lower left part of the mark.
- (3) The mark for gold goods of fineness 900/1000 consists of the image of an eagle's head looking to the left in a rectangular outline with arched sides; Arabic numeral ca 2 is located in the lower left part of the mark.
- (4) The mark for gold goods of fineness 750/1000 consists of the image of a rooster's head looking to the left in the outline of a non-equilateral pentagon; the Arabic numeral 3 is located in the upper right part of the mark.
- (5) The mark for gold goods of fineness 585/1000 consists of the image of a swan's head looking to the left in an outline for a drawn irregular hexagon; the Arabic number 4 is located in the upper left part of the mark.

(6) The mark for gold goods of fineness 375/1000 consists of the image of a double cross on a triple peak located in the outline of an irregular heptagon with semi-circular cutouts in the upper and lower right. The fineness number 375 expressed in Arabic numerals is located in the right part of the mark, in the lower left part there is the designation of the precious metal "Au".

§3

(1) The mark for silver goods of fineness 999/1000 consists of the image of the head of a chamois looking at peace on the left in the outline of a circle; the Arabic numeral 0 is located in the upper left part of the mark.

(2) The mark for silver goods of fineness 959/1000 consists of the image of a chamois head looking at the peace on the left in the outline of a circle with a downward projection; Arabic numeral 1 is located in the lower part of the outline of the mark.

(3) The mark for silver goods of fineness 925/1000 consists of the image of the head of a chamois looking to the left in the outline of a non-equilateral hexagon symmetric along the vertical axis. The upper horizontal side of the mark is arched, supplemented by a downward projection; the Arabic numeral 2 is located in the lower part of the outline of the mark.

(4) The mark for silver goods of fineness 900/1000 is the image of a hare's head looking to the left in the outline of an irregular hexagon; the Arabic numeral 3 is located in the lower right part of the mark.

(5) The mark for silver goods of fineness 835/1000 consists of the image of a hare's head looking to the left in the outline of a trapezoid, the lower side of which is arched; the Arabic numeral 4 is located in the lower right part of the mark.

(6) The mark for silver goods of fineness 800/1000 consists of the image of a hare's head looking to the left in the outline of a rectangle whose sides are arched; the Arabic numeral 5 is located in the lower right part of the mark.

§4

Marks for platinum goods of all legal fineness have in common the depiction of a stylized royal crown, in the lower central part of which is placed the Arabic numeral

- a) 0 for the fineness of 999/1000 in the outline of a circle,
- b) 1 for the fineness of 950/1000 in the outline of a rectangle with the upper side curved,
- c) 2 for the fineness of 900/1000 in the outline of the rectangle with the sides curved,
- d) 3 for the fineness of 850/1000 in the outline of a symmetrical hexagon,
- e) 4 for the fineness of 800/1000 in the outline created by the partial intersection of two circles of the same diameter.

§5

(1) Capital letters placed inside the mark shall be used to distinguish the branch of the Office, which marked the goods with the hallmark.

(2) Office branches are referred to as

- a) B – Bratislava,
- b) K – Košice,
- c) L – Levice,
- d) T – Trenčín.

§6

The mark for base metals consists of the inscription of "METAL", "MET" or "M" in capital letters placed in a rectangular or square outline.

§7

The mark of the Authorised Assay Office consists of the image of a double cross on a triple peak located in the outline of a circular shape cut off in the lower part. The country code "SK" is placed in capital letters in the left part, the capital letter is placed in the right part to distinguish the branch of the Office according to § 5 par. 2.

§8

The official mark for labelling of ingots is the state emblem of the Slovak Republic, in the upper part, in a separate outline of the rectangle, there is the inscription "PÚ" in capital letters, next to which a capital letter is placed through a dash to distinguish the branch of the Office according to § 5 par. 2.

§9

The illustrations of the hallmarks, the "METAL" mark, the Office mark and the official bullion marking symbol are provided in the appendix.

§10

(1) The permanent marking of goods with a mark is performed by a mechanical impression of a stamp. The mark is placed on the main part of the goods, if it is technically possible. If the goods consists of parts that are not firmly connected, the mark is also placed on all separable parts, taking into account the nature of the goods.

(2) If goods made of several precious metals are to be permanently marked with different hallmarks, the corresponding hallmark shall be placed on the relevant part of the goods; if this is not possible, the hallmarks are placed partially over each other, first the hallmark of the metal, which is less valuable.

(3) If the goods are made in combination of precious and base metals, the corresponding part made of precious metal is marked with a hallmark and the part made of base metal with a mark according to § 6.

(4) The certificate of fineness of the goods contains, a description of the goods, its weight, the determined fineness, the type of precious metal from which the goods are made, and an imprint of the official seal. The certificate is issued for each piece of goods separately as a replacement for the permanent marking with a hallmark and is valid only for the goods for which it was issued.

§11

- (1) In addition to gold, a gold alloy may contain silver, copper, zinc, manganese, nickel, iron and palladium.
- (2) In addition to silver, a silver alloy may contain copper and zinc.
- (3) In addition to platinum, a platinum alloy may contain palladium, gold, copper, tungsten, cobalt and nickel.
- (4) Metals up to 5 ‰ are not taken into consideration.

§12

- (1) The fineness of the solder for soldering gold goods with the fineness of 375/1000, 585/1000 and 750/1000 cannot be lower than the fineness of the soldered goods.
- (2) The fineness of solder for soldering gold goods with a fineness of 900/1000 or higher must be at least 750/1000 of gold.
- (3) The fineness of solder for soldering silver goods must be at least 600/1000 of silver.
- (4) The fineness of solder for soldering platinum goods must be at least 585/1000 of gold.
- (5) For soldering machine-made gold chains or silver chains, it is also possible to use solder with a lower fineness, than specified in paragraphs 1 and 2, or solder from base metals, if the average fineness of the chains, produced in this way, does not fall below the relevant legal fineness.
- (6) Solder may contain additives to lower the melting point.

§13

- (1) "Very low weight limit goods" are considered to be goods whose weight does not exceed
 - a) 0.5 g in the case of gold goods and platinum goods,
 - b) 2 g in the case of silver goods.
- (2) Goods with a very low weight limit shall be marked with the relevant fineness mark on the main part, if it is technically possible. If the products consists of parts that are not firmly connected, the fineness mark is also placed on all freely separable parts, taking into account the nature of the products.

§14

Old goods that are not subject to hallmark control are medals and plaques:

- a) minted before 1939, if they are not part of the goods in a fixed connection, for example by soldering or threading,
- b) minted before the end of 1992 by the State Mint in Kremnica and marked with a mint mark consisting of the capital letter "K" placed in a horizontally hatched octagon.

§15

(1) From each batch of minted coins, a commission appointed by the manufacturer selects three coins by random selection without prior testing of purity and weight, which it submits in a sealed envelope together with a protocol entry to the Office for conducting a chemical analysis. For the selection of coins, the producer shall invite a representative of the issuer of the coinage, who can participate in the selection of coins.

(2) A batch is a quantity of coins minted from a semi-finished product, the weight of which for gold coins, platinum coins and palladium coins shall be no more than 15 kg, and for silver coins shall be no more than 100 kg.

§16

(1) The fineness of gold coins is determined by the cupellation method according to the technical standard. The determined fineness is affirmed with an accuracy of 0.1 ‰.

(2) The fineness of silver coins is determined by potentiometric titration according to the technical standard. The determined fineness is affirmed with an accuracy of 1 ‰.

(3) The fineness of platinum coins is determined by the gravimetric method according to the technical standard. The determined fineness is affirmed with an accuracy of 0.1 ‰.

(4) The fineness of palladium coins is determined by the gravimetric method according to the technical standard. The determined fineness is affirmed with an accuracy of 1 ‰.

§17

Ingots of precious metals weighing up to 50 g are marked only with the official mark; ingots with a weight of 50 to 1,500 g are marked with the official mark and with a number of the ingot, and ingots with a weight over 1,500 g are additionally marked with information on fineness and weight.

§18

Silver goods with a weight of no more than 3 grams made before December 31, 2013 are considered “very low weight limit goods”.

§19

This decree enters into force on June 1, 2013 except for § 13 par. 1 letter b), which enters into force on January 1, 2014.