TREATY SERIES 2011
Nº 17

Annexes I and II to the Convention on the Control and Marking of Articles of Precious Metals

Adopted at Tel Aviv on 11 October 2010

Entered into force with respect to Ireland
on 3 August 2011

Presented to Dáil Éireann by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade

ANNEXES I AND II TO THE CONVENTION ON THE CONTROL AND MARKING OF ARTICLES OF PRECIOUS METALS

ANNEX I

Definitions and Technical Requirements

1. Definitions

For the purpose of this Convention the following definitions apply:

1.1 Precious metals

Precious metals are platinum, gold, palladium and silver. Platinum is the most precious metal followed by gold, palladium and silver.

1.2 Precious metal alloy

A precious metal alloy is a solid solution containing at least one precious metal.

1.3 Precious metal article

A precious metal article is any item of jewellery, goldsmith's, silversmith's or watchmaker's ware or any other object made entirely or in part from precious metals or their alloys. “In part” means that a precious metal article may contain (i) non-metallic parts (ii) base metal parts for technical reasons or decoration. A precious metal article, which contains base metal parts for decoration, is referred to as "multimetal article".

1.4 Fineness

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

1.5 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.

1.6 Coating/plating

Coating or plating is one or more layers of:

(i) precious metal (or precious metal alloy);

(ii) base metal (or base metal alloy);

(iii) non-metallic substance;

applied to all, or part, of a precious metal article e.g. by chemical, electrochemical, mechanical or physical process.

1.7 Base metals

Base metals are all metals except platinum, gold, palladium, and silver.

1.8 Other definitions

The Standing Committee may decide on other definitions.

2. Technical Requirements

2.1 The Convention does not apply to:

(a) Articles made of alloys of a fineness less than 850 for platinum, 375 for gold, 500 for palladium and 800 for silver;

(b) Any article which is intended to be used for medical, dental, veterinary, scientific or technical purpose;

(c) Legal tender;

(d) Parts or incomplete semi-manufactures (e.g. metal parts or surface layer);

(e) Raw materials such as bars, plates, wire and tubes;

(f) Base metal articles coated with precious metal;

(g) Any other object decided by the Standing Committee.

The articles referred to in a) to g) above cannot therefore be marked with the Common Control Mark.

2.2 Standards of fineness applied under the Convention*:

for platinum	999, 950, 900, 850
for gold	999, 916, 750, 585, 375
for palladium	999, 950, 500
for silver	999, 925, 830, 800

2.2.1 Other standards of fineness may be recognised by the Standing Committee, depending on international developments.

* See Article 1, Paragraph 2 of the Convention

2.3 Tolerance

2.3.1 No negative tolerance is permitted in relation to the standard of fineness indicated on the article.

2.3.2 Separate rules for special manufacturing techniques are established by the Standing Committee.

2.4 Use of solder

2.4.1 Solder may be used only for joining purposes. In principle, the standard of fineness of the solder shall be the same as the standard of fineness of the article.

2.4.2 Practical exceptions from this principle and other methods of joining are defined by the Standing Committee.

2.5 Use of base metal parts and non-metallic substances

2.5.1 It is permitted to use base metal parts and non-metallic parts in precious metal articles both for technical reasons and for decoration, subject to the following conditions:

(a) Base metal parts and non-metallic parts shall be clearly distinguishable from the precious metal.

(b) They shall be neither coated nor treated to give the appearance of a precious metal.

(c) They shall not be used for the purpose of strengthening, weighting or filling.

(d) They shall be stamped or engraved "METAL" (or the name of that metal in English).

2.5.2 The Standing Committee may decide on further details or exceptions.

2.6 Coating of precious metal articles

2.6.1 The Standing Committee decides on permitted coatings.

ANNEX II

Control by the authorised assay office(s)

1. General

1.1 The authorised assay office(s) (thereafter referred to as "the assay office") shall examine whether articles of precious metals which are presented to it in order to be marked with the Common Control Mark fulfil the conditions of Annex I to the Convention.

1.2 If an article is found by the assay office to be complete as to all its metallic parts and if it complies with the provisions of Annex I to this Convention, the assay office shall, on request, mark the article with its assay office mark and the Common Control Mark. In cases where the Common Control Mark is applied the assay office shall, before the article leaves its custody, ensure that the article is fully marked in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs below.

1.3 The testing of articles of precious metals submitted for marking with the Common Control Mark consists of the two following steps:

(a) the evaluation of the homogeneity of the batch, and

(b) the determination of the fineness of the alloy.

2. Methods of analysis and test methods

2.1 The assay office may use any of the test methods to evaluate the homogeneity of a batch as defined by the Standing Committee.

2.2 The assay office shall use any of the approved methods of analysis in assaying articles of precious metals as defined by the Standing Committee.

3. Sampling

The number of items taken from a batch and the number of samples taken from these items for testing and analysis shall be sufficient to establish the homogeneity of the batch and ensure that all parts of all articles controlled in the batch are up to the required standard of fineness. Sampling guidelines are established by the Standing Committee.

4. Marking

4.1 The following minimum marks shall be applied on articles which satisfy the criteria in Annex I:

(a) a registered responsibility mark as described in paragraph 4.4;

(b) the mark of the assay office;

(c) the Common Control Mark as described in paragraph 4.5; and

(d) the corresponding fineness mark in Arabic numerals.

4.2 The Standing Committee can decide on exceptions for mark d). Marks b) and c) shall be applied on the article by the assay office. The following are accepted methods of marking: punching and laser. The Standing Committee can decide on other methods of marking articles.

4.3 Whenever possible, all marks shall be placed in immediate proximity to each other. Other marks (e.g. year mark), which are not to be confused with the marks mentioned above, are allowed as additional marks.

4.4 The responsibility mark referred to in paragraph 4.1 a), shall be registered in an official register of the Contracting State and/or one of its assay offices, which controls the article in question.

4.5 The Common Control Mark shall consist of the representation of a balance together with the number in Arabic numerals showing the standard of fineness of the article in parts per thousand in relief on a lined background surrounded by a shield indicating the nature of the precious metal as shown in the following examples:

Platinum / Platine	Gold / Or	Palladium	Silver / Argent
			
			
			
			
			

4.6 The approved sizes of the Common Control Mark are defined by the Standing Committee.

4.7 Articles consisting of more than one alloy of the same precious metal

Where an article consists of different alloys of the same precious metal, the fineness mark and the Common Control Mark applied shall be that of the lowest fineness present in the article. Exceptions can be decided on by the Standing Committee.

4.8 Articles consisting of parts

If an article consists of parts which are hinged or readily separable, the above marks shall be applied to the main part. Where practicable the Common Control Mark shall be applied also to the lesser parts.

4.9 Articles consisting of different precious metal alloys

4.9.1 If an article consists of different precious metal alloys, and if the colour and extent of each alloy are clearly visible, the marks referred to in paragraph 4 a), b), c) and d) shall be applied on one precious metal alloy and the appropriate Common Control Mark on the other(s).

4.9.2 If an article consists of different precious metal alloys and if the colour and extent of each alloy is not visible, the marks referred to in paragraph 4 a), b), c) and d) shall be applied on the least precious metal. The Common Control Mark relating to the more precious metals may not be applied.

4.9.3 Exceptions from the rules above justified by technical reasons are decided on by the Standing Committee.