SWEDAC

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SWEDAC – the Authority for Articles of Precious Metal

Articles of precious metals are defined as articles of gold, silver, platinum and palladium. To be put on the market an article of precious metal shall contain, if the article made of

- **gold, 375 parts per thousand or more of fine gold (corresponds to 9K),**
- **silver, 800 parts per thousand or more of fine silver,**
- **platinum, 850 parts per thousand or more of fine platinum,**
- **palladium, 500 parts per thousand or more of fine palladium.**

Manufacturers, importers and retailers are responsible for ensuring that the articles that are sold as precious metals meet the requirements for fineness and marking.

When put on the market or when sold, articles of gold or platinum with a weight of one gram or more must be marked with a fineness mark and a name mark, alternatively, a fineness mark and a control mark.* Aside from the compulsory marks, the articles of precious metal may also have voluntary responsibility marks, e.g. town mark or year mark. There are no requirements for marking of articles of palladium.

*) Marking of articles of silver is voluntary regardless of weight.

Responsibility Marks



Fineness Mark

Fineness mark is a compulsory marking that states the amount of gold, silver or platinum of an article of precious metal. The fineness is stated in parts per thousand (Arabic numerals). For gold, the precious metal content is most often stated in carats (K) in which 24K corresponds to 100% gold. For example, a fineness mark of 750 or 18K for gold means that the article contains 75% gold. The remaining 25% is made up of other metals.

750	18K	925	950
Gold	**Gold**	**Silver**	**Platinum**

Name Mark

A name mark is a stamp affixed by a manufacturer or an importer to guarantee that the fineness mark affixed is correct. The name mark shall consist of only capital letters. The letters shall be at least two and of the same size. The letters shall be placed equidistant from each other and surrounded by a rectangular shield. The name mark must be approved and registered by SWEDAC. Name marks from other European Economic Area (EEA) countries are equal to Swedish name marks as long as they are traceable, e.g. officially registered by a competent public body in an EEA-country. Such name marks do not need to be registered in Sweden.

ALC

Town Mark

A town mark is a voluntary mark that indicates the residence of the manufacturer or the importer. Town marks used by Swedish manufactures or importers shall be confirmed by SWEDAC. The town mark consists of one letter that is the first letter of the town's name. There are however some exceptions. For example, Stockholm has its city arms in the town mark. When town names begin with the same letter, it is normally only the typeface and the frame that distinguish one town mark from another.



Year Mark

The year mark is a voluntary marking that indicates the year of manufacture by means of one letter followed by a numeral or numerals. Since a name mark can have different owners through the years, the year designation functions as a good complement when identifying the manufacturer of a particular article. Sweden has an unbroken series of year designations, common for the whole country, since 1759. The letter A was initially used, and when the whole alphabet had been gone through in 1782 (with the exception of J, W, Å, Ä and Ö), the number two (2) was placed after the letter, and after 24 years the number three (3) and so on.

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Control Marks

If there is no name mark, then the compulsory fineness mark shall be complemented with a control mark. The control mark indicates that an independent inspection body (assay office) has assessed the amount of the precious metal (fineness) of the article.

The Swedish Control Mark

In Sweden, the control mark consists of the small national coat of arms (three crowns) in a trefoil-shaped shield. The Swedish control mark is often referred to as the "Cat's Paw". The Cat's Paw only is used for gold, while the Cat's Paw followed by an S in a hexagonal shield is used for silver, and for platinum, the Cat's Paw is followed by a P in a hexagonal shield. The Cat's Paw may only be affixed by an inspection body accredited by SWEDAC. The control mark shall be followed by the identification number of the accredited inspection body in order to make it possible to distinguish between the different inspection bodies' control marks.



The Swedish control mark by Svenska Guldkontrollen (Cat's Paw with identification number 1)



The Swedish control mark before 1st January 2002 (Cat's Paw without identification number)



The Swedish control mark by SP Technical Research Institute of Sweden (Cat's Paw with identification number 2)



The Swedish control mark for imported articles before 1988 (oval Cat's Paw)



The Swedish control mark by Inspecta Oy (Cat's Paw with identification number 3)

International Control Marks

Sweden is a member of the Convention on the Control and Marking of Articles of Precious Metals. If an article of precious metal is marked in accordance with the Convention's requirements it may be sold in all countries who are members of the Convention, without the need of adding the receiving country's national control mark. The Convention's control mark, known as the Common Control Mark (CCM), is a balance beam scale in relief within a frame together with the numerals that state the fineness in parts per thousand. The type of frame indicates the precious metal. The CCM mark which is also called the "Scale Mark" may be used with articles of gold, silver and platinum.

According to the Convention a precious metal article must bear four marks: a fineness mark, a manufacturers name mark, a national control mark and the CCM. If possible, these marks shall be placed close to each other. In Sweden, the national control mark*) and the CCM may only be affixed by the accredited inspection body. More information on CCM-marking can be found on the Convention's website www.hallmarkingconvention.org

*) the Cat's Paw

Complete CCM-marking on an article of precious metal is shown below

Precious metal	Name mark	CCM (Balance Beam Scale Mark)	Fineness mark	National control mark
Gold	ALC	750	750	2 2
Silver	ALC	925	925	2 2 S

SWEDAC is the authority responsible for matters regarding articles of precious metal

Since January 1st 2000, SWEDAC has been the central administrative authority for matters regarding articles of precious metal. This means that SWEDAC

- issues regulations relevant to this field,
- approves Swedish name marks and maintains the national name mark register,
- establishes Swedish town marks for articles of precious metals,
- accredits (assesses the competence of) the inspection bodies that may conduct control marking,
- conducts precious metals market surveillance.

Market surveillance is the random sampling of precious metal articles on the market for the purpose of ensuring that articles fulfil the requirements for marking and fineness. The purpose of market surveillance is to safeguard the interests of the consumers and to ensure that the market functions well for enterprises. If regulations are not followed, SWEDAC may issue a prohibition on sales with financial penalties.

More information on name marks and town marks, as well as on what companies are accredited to carry out control marking, may be found on SWEDAC's website www.swedac.se

Current legislation in the field of precious metals

- The Act (1999:779) Concerning Trade in Articles of Precious Metals
- The Ordinance (1999:780) Concerning Trade in Articles of Precious Metals
- The Ordinance (1975:49) on Common Control Marks etc. for Articles of Gold, Silver or Platinum
- SWEDAC's Regulations (STAFS 2001:3) on Control Marks for Articles of Precious Metals
- SWEDAC's Regulations (STAFS 2001:4) on Control Forms for Control Marking of Articles of Precious Metals
- SWEDAC's Regulations and General Guidelines (STAFS 2008:8) on Responsibility Markings on Articles of Precious Metals
- SWEDAC's Regulations on Fees for Registration of Name Marks for Articles of Precious Metals.

The jewellery was designed and produced by:
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