

Palladium UPDATE



Palladium is recognised as a new opportunity for the world's jewellery industry. One of the Platinum group, it is a white, durable and tarnish resistant metal.

Palladium is enabling jewellery designers to produce stunning pieces which are wearable, affordable and offer high perceived value to the consumer.

Many designers are now successfully introducing Palladium items to their ranges.

In order to protect consumers and those selling Palladium, hallmarking legislation to regulate the fineness of this Platinum group metal is expected to come into force in April 2009.

The amendment to the Hallmarking Act 1973 will ensure that suppliers compete on equal terms. It will also help to build consumer confidence in this relatively unknown metal.

The establishment of fineness standards and a statutory hallmark will mean that Palladium will be recognised, in its own right, as a part of the fine jewellery industry.



Stephen Webster used Palladium for the first time for a special exhibition at the Global Luxury Forum. The brooch features intertwining fighting fish.

Palladium UPDATE

HALLMARKING ACT 1973

(Application to Palladium and Miscellaneous Amendments) Order 2009

After lengthy consultation with the trade, the details of the legislation have been agreed and are expected to come into force in April 2009.

At this time a legally recognised UK Hallmark for Palladium will be established.

Initially, Hallmarking of Palladium will be voluntary. It is anticipated that Hallmarking will become a legal requirement for all Palladium articles with a metal weight of over one gram, which are placed on the market, after January 1, 2010.

All members of the supply chain are advised to commence Hallmarking as soon as possible to avoid having to carry out stock recall.

Please note that until the legislation is passed the UK Assay Offices cannot apply a Palladium Hallmark.

An optional traditional mark for Palladium is anticipated for early 2010.

The fineness standards will be:



WATCH THE NEWS PAGES OF WWW.THEASSAYOFFICE.CO.UK FOR MORE INFORMATION.

This information is provided by The Birmingham Assay Office in association with The Assay Offices of Great Britain



London



Birmingham



Sheffield



Edinburgh

GUARANTEEING THE
QUALITY OF PRECIOUS
METALS SINCE 1327