

**Royal Decree
No. 109/2000
Promulgating the Law of Precious Metals Control**

We, Qaboos bin Said, Sultan of Oman
Having reviewed the Basic law of the state promulgated by the Royal Decree No. 101/96.

And the Royal Decree No. 1/78 defining the jurisdictions of the Directorate General of Specifications and Measurements of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

And in accordance with the public interest.

Have decreed as billows

- Article (1) : The attached law shall come into force as to the precious metals control.
- Article (2) : The Ministry of Commerce and Industry shall issue the regulations and decisions necessary for the implementation of the provisions of the present law.
- Article (3) : Whatever contravenes the attached law or contradicts it's provisions shall be cancelled.
- Article (4) : This Decree shall be published in the Official Gazette , and shall take effect as from the date of its publication.

**Qaboos bin Said
Sultan of Oman**

Issued on : 18 Sha'aban 1421 H
Corresponding to : 15 November 2000.

Article (1) : For the purposes of the present law, the following words and expressions shall have the meanings assigned to them hereunder unless the context requires otherwise:

The Minister	: The Minister of Commerce and Industry
The Directorate	: The Directorate General of Specifications and Measurements of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
Precious metals	: Gold, silver and platinum in the form of manufactured, semi-manufactured articles, bullion or coin.
Articles	: Low standard plated and inlaid articles.
Low standard articles	: Every manufactured mixed article containing a quantity of a pure precious metal of a standard less than the minimum legal standards according to the provisions of the present law.
Plated articles	: Every article of a precious or a non-precious metal plated with a more precious metal according to the provisions of the present law.
Inlaid articles	: Every article of a non-precious metal inlaid with a precious metal or more or with precious stones.
Precious stones	: Natural precious stones such as diamond, emerald, pearl, sapphire, semi-precious stones and synthetic stones similar to precious and semi-precious stones in colour and form.
Standard	: The number of pennyweights in every 1000 pennyweights of the pure precious metal.
Hallmarking	: Affixing official, recognized marks on precious metals or articles made of such metals to indicate their legal standards.
Hallmark Section	: The Hallmark Section of the Directorate
Share	: 1/1000 gm of the precious metal.

Article (2) : The precious metals legal standards Approved in the Sultanate:

A- Gold

(24) Karats or 999 shares

(22) Karats or 916 shares

(21) Karats or 875 shares

(18) Karats or 750 shares

B- Silver 999 shares

925 shares

800 shares

C- Platinum 950 shares of pure platinum

However, the Minister may issue a decision any other standards, if necessary.

The welding substance must be of the same standard precious metal.

Article (3) : Manufactured, semi-manufactured or non-manufactured precious metals shall not be sold, displayed for sale or possessed with the intention of selling them unless they carry the official hallmark of the Sultanate or a recognized hallmark of an Arab or a foreign country.

Also the bullion or coins of such metals shall not be sold, displayed for sale or possessed with the intention of selling them unless they are hallmarked according to the previous paragraph, stamped, stamped with another stamp indicating the word gold, silver or platinum and another stamp carrying the letter indicating the date of the hallmarking and numbering.

Article (4) : Article of low standard shall not be sold, displayed for sale or possessed with the intention of selling them unless they are numbered with a number indicating the ratio of the precious metal they contain in Thousandth parts together with its kind. However, if the volume of such articles does not allow that, a tag indicating the said details shall be attached thereto.

Article (5) : Plated articles shall not be sold, displayed for sale or possessed with the intention of selling them unless they are stamped with the word "plated" in Arabic, English or the language of the exporting Country; and if their volume does not allow that, a tag indicating the said word shall be attached thereto. Should the article be of a precious metal and plated with a more precious metal, it must carry the hallmark of the precious metal.

- Article (6) : Inlaid articles shall not be sold, displayed for sale or possessed with the intention of selling them unless they are stamped with the word "Inlaid" in Arabic, English or the language of the exporting country and numbered with a number indicating the ratio of the precious metal they contain in Thousandth parts together with its kind. If the volume of such articles does not allow that a tag indicating such details shall be attached thereto.
- Article (7) : Precious stones shall not be sold, displayed for sale or possessed with the international of selling them unless a tag indicating the name of the stone, its class, weight, colour, the standard of its quality in terms of purity, characteristics, freedom from fracturing, fracturing, scratching and any other defects and whether it was subjected to any form of processing.
- Article (8) : The official hallmarks and numbers of precious metals and articles as well as the official hallmarks and numbering systems of Arab and foreign countries acceptable in the Sultanate on recipractal basis shall be determined by decision of the Minister. The Minister shall also decide the cases in which precious metals shall be exempted from hallmarking and numbering according to the provisions of the present law.
- Article (9) : Hallmark section shall examine precious stones, assay precious metals and articles, state their standards and number and hallmark them. However, the section shall not hallmark any piece or number it unless it is in its final form except in case obligated by industrial necessities under the regulations implementing the present law.

The private sector may be permitted to establish precious metals and articles assay laboratories subject to the terms and conditions to be set by the Directorate.

The Implementing Regulations shall stipulate the terms and procedures for assaying, standardization, hallmarking, numbering and the fees payable for such services. The decision of the Hallmark section as to the examination, assaying or standardization shall be final in all the cases.

- Article (10) : The Hallmark Section may examine any sample of precious metals or precious stones if the persons concerned so require provided they are given a certificate of the result of such examination.
- Article (11) : The importers of unstamped or unnumbered precious metals and articles, under the provisions of the present law, must submit them to the Hallmark section to stamp or number them after payment of the customs duties payable thereon.
The Hallmark section must provisionally seize any precious metals or articles submitted to it for stamping or numbering unless it receives what proves that they have legally entered the Sultanate. Provided that it notifies the competent authorities of the case.
- Article (12) : The importers of the precious metals and articles provided for in the previous article must re-export them if the Hallmark section refused to hallmark or number them, in which case such metals and articles shall be treated as legally re-exported goods and the importer shall have the right, on re-exportation, to recover the paid customs duties.
- Article (13) : The officials of the Directorate to be appointed by decision of the Minister of justice in agreement with the Minister shall have the judicial investigation capacity in proving the offences relating to breaching the provisions of the present law and its implementing decisions. They shall also have the right, for the sake of monitoring the implementation of the provisions of the present law and its implementing decisions, to enter the shops , factories, stores and other places prepared for making , selling or pledging jewelry and size the items violating its provisions.
- Article (14) : Without prejudice to the provision of article (193) of the Omani penal code, whoever stamps or numbers precious metals or articles with fake hallmarking or numbering marks shall be subject to imprisonment penalty for a term of not more than three months and a fine not exceeding Rials Omani five Hundred or to either of these two penalties . And every merchant or manufacturer who sells such metals or articles or displays them for sale or possesses them with the intention of

selling them or deals in them though he knows of the forgery, shall be subject to the same penalty. And in all case the court shall adjudge the confiscation of the forged items.

- Article (15) : Whoever effects a change or alteration in precious stones or articles, after their hallmarking or numbering, that makes them non-conformity with the standard hallmarked thereon shall be awarded on imprisonment penalty for a period for a period of not less then six months and not more than two years and a fine of R.O. 1500 minimum or R.O. 3000 maximum or one of these two penalties. And whoever sells, displays for sale or possesses such metals or articles with the intention of selling them or deals therein though his is aware of the change or alteration effected therein shall be subject to the same penalty.
- Article (16) : Every merchant or manufacturer who puts on sale or deals in any way whatsoever in unstamped or unnumbered precious metals articles shall be imprisoned for a period of not less than three months and not more than one year and a fine of not less than Rials Omani one thousand and not more then Rials Omani one thousand and five hundred.
If the violator is convicted and the seized metals or articles are of a legal standard, the Hallmark section shall hallmark them with the proper standard and they shall be given back to their owner after he pays twice the determined fees.
- Article (17) : Shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of not more than three months and a fine not exceeding Rials Omani five hundred or by either of these two palties whoever hinders the performance by any of the officials mentioned in article (13) of this law of the functions of his post any how.
- Article (18) : Whoever breches the provision of this law or the decisions issued in implementation thereof, except what is provided for in the previous articles, shall be punished by a term of imprisonment not to exceed six months and a fine of Rials Omani two hundred, minimum, Rials Omani one thousand, maximum , or by either of these two penalties.

Royal/Lab8