U.S. Department of Commerce
National Institute of Standards and Technology-NIST
[formerly the National Bureau of Standards-NBS]

Jewelry Fact Sheet

The Commercial Standards (CS) and the Voluntary Product Standards (PS) concerning jewelry were withdrawn by the U.S. Department of Commerce effective March 21, 1984 (Federal Register, Vol. 49, No. 14, January 20, 1984, page 2499).

PS67-76, Marking of Gold Filled and Rolled Gold Plate Articles Other than Watchcases

PS68-76, Marking of Articles Made of Silver in Combination with Gold

PS69-76, Marking of Articles Made Wholly of or in Part of Platinum

PS70-76, Marking of Articles Made of Karat Gold

PS71-76, Marking of Jewelry and Novelties of Silver

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Despite the withdrawal of these product standards they are still cited in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Title 16, Part 23-Guides for the Jewelry Industry. The Federal Trade Commission is the regulatory agency responsible for CFR Title 16, Parts 0 - 999. **Call Toll Free** - FTC Hotline at 877-FTC-HELP (877-382-4357) or website address: http://www.ftc.gov (click on Consumer Protection - go to Products and Services - scroll down to Guides).

For assistance and additional information on FTC regulations, guides, and other requirements and sources, contact, Enforcement Division, Bureau of Consumer Protection, **U.S. Federal Trade Commission (FTC)**, 6th and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC, USA 20580, USA; Telephone: (202) 326-3042; Fax: (202) 326-2558; Internet: http://www.ftc.gov .

Note: The Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) and Federal Register (FR) are available in most libraries and on the internet (summary, PDF file, text) at website address: http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara .

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The following organizations can provide assistance and information on the subject:

Jewelers Vigilance Committee (JVC), 25 West 45th Street, New York, New York 10036, USA; Telephone: (212) 977-2002; Fax: (212) 997-9148. JVC can provide assistance and information on markings, advertising, related jewelry industry laws and, 'Guide to Jewelry Markings and Descriptions.'

Manufacturing Jewelers & Silversmiths of America-MJSA (formerly New England Jewelers' and Silversmiths' Association), 1 State Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02908-5035, USA; Telephone: (800) 444-MJSA or (401) 274-3840; Fax: (401) 274-0265; Internet: http://mjsa.polygon.net .

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Voluntary Product Standard

WITHDRAWN

PS 71-76

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE/National Bureau of Standards

MARKING OF JEWELRY AND NOVELTIES OF SILVER

AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARD

ANSI/VPS PS 71-76

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, Juanita M. Kreps, Secretary

Dr. Sidney Harman, Under Secretary
Jordan J. Baruch, Assistant Secretary for Science and Technology

NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS, Ernest Ambler, Acting Director

WITHDRAWN

Voluntary Product Standard
PS 71-76

Marking of Jewelry and Novelties of Silver

Approved by the American National Standards Institute on April 18, 1977, as American National Standard ANSI/VPS PS 71-76

Abstract

This Voluntary Product Standard covers the marking of jewelry and novelties of silver, as herein defined, (other than flatware, hollow-ware, and toilet ware) offered for sale in the United States of America. Requirements are given for marking of "Sterling Silver," "Silver," or "Solid Silver" and for the marking of "Coin" or "Coin Silver." Definitions of trade terms used and methods for identifying products that comply with this standard are included.

Key words: Jewelry, "Silver," marking of; novelties, "Silver", marking of; "Sterling Silver," "Silver," or "Solid Silver," marking of; "Coin" or "Coin Silver," marking of.

Nat. Bur. Stand. (U.S.), Prod. Stand. 71–76, 4 pages (Aug. 1977)
CODEN:XNPSAX

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VOLUNTARY PRODUCT STANDARDS

Voluntary Product Standards are developed under procedures published by the Department of Commerce in Part 10, Title 15, of the Code of Federal Regulations. The purpose of the standards is to establish nationally recognized requirements for products, and to provide all concerned interests with a basis for common understanding of the characteristics of the products. The National Bureau of Standards administers the *Volunatry Product Standards* program as a supplement to the activities of the private sector standardizing organizations.

Establishment of a VOLUNTARY PRODUCT STANDARD

The role of the National Bureau of Standards in the establishment of a Voluntary Product Standard is to (1) act as an unbiased coordinator in the development of the standard, (2) provide editorial assistance in the preparation of the standard, (3) supply such assistance and review as is required to assure the technical soundness of the standard, (4) seek satisfactory adjustment of valid points of disagreement, (5) determine the compliance with the criteria of the Department's procedures, (6) provide secretarial functions for each committee appointed under the Department's procedures, and (7) publish the standard as a public document.

Producers, distributors, users, consumers, and other interested groups contribute to the establishment of a *Voluntary Product Standard* by (1) initiating and participating in the development of the standard, (2) providing technical or other related counsel as appropriate relating to the standard, (3) promoting the use of and support for the standard, and (4) assisting in keeping the standard current with respect to advancing technology and marketing practices.

Use of a VOLUNTARY PRODUCT STANDARD

The use of a *Voluntary Product Standard* is voluntary; the National Bureau of Standards has no regulatory power in the enforcement of the provisions of the standards. However, since the standards represent a consensus of all interested groups, their provisions are likely to become established as trade customs. In addition, when a standard is made a part of a legal document, such as a sales contract or code, compliance with the standard is enforceable.

The benefits derived from *Voluntary Product Standards* are in direct proportion to their general recognition and actual use. Producers and distributors whose products meet the requirements of a *Voluntary Product Standard* may refer to the standard in advertising and on labels to promote greater public understanding of or confidence in their products. Purchasers may order products conforming to the requirements of the standards.

For copies of the *Voluntary Product Standards* procedures or for more information concerning the development and use of these standards you may write to: Standards Development Services Section, National Bureau of Standards, Washington, D.C. 20234.

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Voluntary Product Standard PS 71-76
Supersedes Commercial Standard CS 118-44

Marking of Jewelry and Novelties of Silver

Effective April 12, 1976 (See section 5.)

(This Standard, which was initiated by the Jewelers Vigilance Committee, has been developed under the *Procedures for the Development of Voluntary Product Standards* of the U.S. Department of Commerce as a revalidation of CS 118-44, *Marking of Jewelry and Novelties of Silver*. See Section 6, *History of Project*, for further information.)

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Voluntary Product Standard is to establish nationally recognized marking requirements for jewelry and novelties made of silver and to provide producers, distributors, and users with a basis for common understanding of the characteristics of this product.

2. SCOPE

This Voluntary Product Standard covers the marking of jewelry and novelties of silver, as herein defined, (other than flatware, hollow-ware, and toilet ware) offered for sale in the United States of America. Definitions of trade terms used and methods for identifying products that comply with this Standard are included.

3. REQUIREMENTS

3.1. General—Products represented as complying with this Voluntary Product Standard shall meet all of the requirements specified herein.

3.2. Application of quality marks—No article shall be marked "Sterling," "Sterling Silver," "Silver," or "Solid Silver" unless 925/1000 parts of the metal, purporting to be or having the appearance of silver, of which such article is manufactured, is pure silver.

3.3. Coin—No article shall be marked "Coin" or "Coin Silver" unless 900/1000 parts of the metal, purporting to be or having the appearance of silver, of which such article is manufactured, is pure silver.

3.4. Requirements—No quality marks shall be used on any article covered by this standard other than those herein specified.

3.5. Abbreviation—The terms "Sterling" and "Coin" shall not be abbreviated, and neither term shall be applied in any manner to a silver-plated article.

3.6. Tolerance—The tolerances for fineness shall be those provided by the National Gold and Silver Stamping Act of 1906[1] or any amendment thereof.

3.7. Exemptions—The only exemptions recognized and not to be included in any assay for quality include screws, rivets, springs, spring pins for wristwatch straps; posts and separable backs of lapel buttons; pin posts, clutches of insignia, wire pegs, posts and nuts used for applying mountings or other ornaments, which mountings or ornaments shall be of the quality marked; pin stems of badges, brooches, emblem pins, hatpins, and scarf pins; levers for belt buckles; and blades and skeletons of pocket knives.

3.8. Trademark—Any article herein defined having applied thereto a quality mark, shall also have applied thereto and immediately adjacent to such quality mark, and equally visible, legible, clear, and distinct therewith, the name or a trademark duly applied for or registered under the laws of the United States, of the manufacturer or seller of such articles or the trade name of the manufacturer or seller. Initials shall not be used in place of a name unless registered as a trademark, as above provided.

3.9. Class, pattern, type or style mark—If an article herein defined has applied to it the name or a trademark duly applied for or registered under the laws of the United States of the manufacturer or seller of such article, and a quality mark conforming to the requirements

[1] This Act provides that "There shall be allowed a divergence in the fineness of 4 one-thousandths parts" where the article or part of the article taken for test contains no solder. The Act also provides for an additional test where solder is used—that "The actual fineness of the entire quantity of silver or of its alloys contained in such article, including all solder and alloys of interior fineness used for brazing or uniting the parts of such article (all such silver alloys and solder being assayed as one piece) shall not be less by more than 10 one-thousandths parts than the fineness indicated by the mark * * *."
For full text see 15 U.S.C. 294 et seq.

of this standard, it may also have applied to it numerals or other indication to identify the class, pattern, type or style of the article, provided such numerals are not incorporated with the quality marks and are not placed so as to mislead or deceive.

4. DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this Standard, the following definitions shall apply:

Apply or Applied—Apply or applied includes any method or means of application or attachment to, or of use on, or in conjunction with, or in relation to an article, whether such application, attachment, or use is to, on, by, in, or with (1) the article itself, (2) anything attached to the article, (3) anything to which the article is attached, (4) anything in, or on, which the article is, or (5) any bill, invoice, order, statement, letter, advertisement, or anything so used or placed as to lead to a reasonable belief that it refers to the article in question.

Sterling, Sterling Silver, Silver or Solid Silver—Sterling, sterling silver, silver or solid silver means an alloy of silver containing 925/1000 or more parts of pure silver.

Coin or Coin Silver—Coin or coin silver means an alloy of silver containing 900/1000 parts of pure silver.

Mark—Mark means any letter, figure, number symbol, sign or device, or any combinations thereof.

Quality mark—Quality mark means any mark, as herein defined, indicating or purporting to indicate that an article is composed of silver, or the quality, fineness, or kind of silver in an article.

5. EFFECTIVE DATE AND IDENTIFICATION

The effective date of this Standard is April 12, 1976. As of the effective date, reference to PS 71–76, may be made in contracts, codes, advertising, invoices, product labels, and the like, but no product may be advertised or represented in any manner which would imply or tend to imply approval or endorsement of that product by the National Bureau of Standards, the Department of Commerce, or by the Federal Government.

The following statements are suggested for use in representing products as conforming to all requirements of this Standard:

(1) "This article conforms to all requirements established in Voluntary Product Standard PS 71–76, developed and published in accordance with the U.S. Department of Commerce *Procedures for the Development of Voluntary Product Standards.* Full responsibility for the conformance of this product to the standard is assumed by (name and address of producer or distributor)."

(2) "Conforms to PS 71–76, (name and address of producer or distributor)."

6. HISTORY OF PROJECT

In 1941 Commercial Standard CS 118–44, *Marking of Jewelry and Novelties of Silver*, was developed at the request of the New England Manufacturing Jewelers' and Silversmiths' Association (renamed Manufacturing Jewelers and Silversmiths Association, Inc.), supported by the Jewelers Vigilance Committee, Inc., and was published in August 1944.

In December 1974 the Jewelers Vigilance Committee, Inc., the recognized trade association for the jewelry industry, requested that the National Bureau of Standards initiate a revalidation of CS 118–44 under the *Procedures for the Development of Voluntary Product Standards.* Appointments were made to the Standing Committee, and the Jewelers Vigilance Committee, Inc., recommendation was forwarded to them in July 1975 for review. The Standing Committee indicated the standard should be revalidated and in December 1975 they were asked to vote on the appropriateness of the proposal. In February 1976 all members of the Standing Committee approved the proposal to revalidate CS 118–44.

The new edition of the standard was designated Voluntary Product Standard PS 71–76, *Marking of Jewelry and Novelties of Silver*, and became effective on April 12, 1976.

Technical Standards Coordinator:

C. W. Devereux
Standards Development Services Section
National Bureau of Standards
Washington, D.C. 20234

7. STANDING COMMITTEE

A Standing Committee has been appointed to assist in keeping this Voluntary Product Standard up to date. The names of the members of the committee are available from the Standards Development Services Section, Washington, D.C. 20234, which serves as the secretariat of the committee.

NBS TECHNICAL PUBLICATIONS

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JOURNAL OF RESEARCH reports National Bureau of Standards research and development in physics, mathematics, and chemistry. It is published in two sections, available separately:

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To begin publication as a single journal, July-August, 1977

DIMENSIONS/NBS (formerly Technical News Bulletin)—This monthly magazine is published to inform scientists, engineers, businessmen, industry, teachers, students, and consumers of the latest advances in science and technology, with primary emphasis on the work at NBS. The magazine highlights and reviews such issues as energy research, fire protection, building technology, metric conversion, pollution abatement, health and safety, and consumer product performance. In addition, it reports the results of Bureau programs in measurement standards and techniques, properties of matter and materials, engineering standards and services, instrumentation, and automatic data processing.

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NOTE: At present the principal publication outlet for these data is the Journal of Physical and Chemical Reference Data (JPCRD) published quarterly for NBS by the American Chemical Society (ACS) and the American Institute of Physics (AIP). Subscriptions, reprints, and supplements available from ACS, 1155 Sixteenth St. N.W., Wash. D. C. 20056.

Building Science Series—Disseminates technical information developed at the Bureau on building materials, components, systems, and whole structures. The series presents research results, test methods, and performance criteria related to the structural and environmental functions and the durability and safety characteristics of building elements and systems.

Technical Notes—Studies or reports which are complete in themselves but restrictive in their treatment of a subject. Analogous to monographs but not so comprehensive in scope or definitive in treatment of the subject area. Often serve as a vehicle for final reports of work performed at NBS under the sponsorship of other government agencies.

Voluntary Product Standards—Developed under procedures published by the Department of Commerce in Part 10, Title 15, of the Code of Federal Regulations. The purpose of the standards is to establish nationally recognized requirements for products, and to provide all concerned interests with a basis for common understanding of the characteristics of the products. NBS administers this program as a supplement to the activities of the private sector standardizing organizations.

Consumer Information Series—Practical information, based on NBS research and experience, covering areas of interest to the consumer. Easily understandable language and illustrations provide useful background knowledge for shopping in today's technological marketplace.

Order **above** *NBS publications from: Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.*

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Federal Information Processing Standards Publications (FIPS PUBS)—Publications in this series collectively constitute the Federal Information Processing Standards Register. Register serves as the official source of information in the Federal Government regarding standards issued by NBS pursuant to the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 as amended, Public Law 89-306 (79 Stat. 1127), and as implemented by Executive Order 11717 (38 FR 12315, dated May 11, 1973) and Part 6 of Title 15 CFR (Code of Federal Regulations).

NBS Interagency Reports (NBSIR)—A special series of interim or final reports on work performed by NBS for outside sponsors (both government and non-government). In general, initial distribution is handled by the sponsor; public distribution is by the National Technical Information Services (Springfield, Va. 22161) in paper copy or microfiche form.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES

The following current-awareness and literature-survey bibliographies are issued periodically by the Bureau:

Cryogenic Data Center Current Awareness Service. A literature survey issued biweekly. Annual subscription: Domestic, $25.00; Foreign, $30.00.

Liquified Natural Gas. A literature survey issued quarterly. Annual subscription: $20.00.

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Stephen B. Strauss,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Trade Information and Analysis.

[FR Doc. 83-1565 Filed 1-19-83; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-25-M

National Bureau of Standards

Status Report on Voluntary Product Standards

AGENCY: National Bureau of Standards, Commerce.

ACTION: Development, maintenance, and withdrawal of certain voluntary standards.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On August 30, 1982, the Department of Commerce (Department) announced in the **Federal Register** (47 FR 38171) the status of 26 standards classified as voluntary standards. The announcement was made in accordance with the revised "Procedures for the Development of Voluntary Product Standards" (15 CFR Part 10).

The August 30, 1982, notice specified the retention of specific standards for fixed periods of time. The updated status of all existing voluntary standards is indicated below.

The following Voluntary Product Standards will continue to be maintained by the Department:

Standard and Proponent Organization

PS 1-74 "Construction and Industrial Plywood", American Plywood Association

PS 20-70 "American Softwood Lumber Standard", American Lumber Standards Committee

PS 73-77 "Carbonated Soft Drink Bottles", Glass Packaging Institute

The Department has agreed to sponsor the development of a Voluntary Product Standard for the production of carbonated soft drinks in glass bottles, which was requested by the National Soft Drink Association. It has been determined that this standards project meets the six requirements for Department sponsorship stated in § 10.0(b) of the mentioned Procedures.

The following standards will be retained by the Department until January 20, 1984, to permit the orderly transfer of sponsorship of such standards from the Department to the identified organizations.

PS 56-73 "Structural Glued Laminated Timber", American Institute of Timber Construction

PS 67-76 "Marking of Gold Filled and Rolled Gold Plate Articles Other Than Watchcases", Jewelers Vigilance Committee

PS 68-76 "Marking of Articles Made of Silver in Combination with Gold", Jewelers Vigilance Committee

PS 69-76 "Marking of Articles Made Wholly or in Part of Platinum" Jewelers Vigilance Committee

PS 70-76 "Marking of Articles Made of Karat Gold", Jewelers Vigilance Committee

PS 71-76 "Marking of Jewelry and Novelties of Silver", Jewelers Vigilance Committee

PS 72-76 "Toy Safety", American Society for Testing and Materials

In accordance with § 10.13 of the mentioned Procedures, notice is hereby given of the withdrawal of the following standards. This action is taken in furtherance of the Department's announced intentions as set forth in the August 30, 1982, notice to withdraw these standards. The effective date for the withdrawal of the standards will be March 21, 1983. This withdrawal action terminates the authority to refer to these standards as voluntary standards developed under the Department of Commerce procedures. The organizations listed below have assumed responsibility for the standards.

PS 36-70 "Body Measurements for the Sizing of Boys' Apparel", American Society for Testing and Materials

PS 42-70 "Body Measurements for the Sizing of Women's Patterns and Apparel", American Society for Testing and Materials

PS 45-71 "Body Measurements for the Sizing of Apparel for Young Men (Students)", American Society for Testing and Materials

PS 51-71 "Hardwood and Decorative Plywood", Hardwood Plywood Manufacturers Association

PS 54-72 "Body Measurements for the Sizing of Girls' Apparel", American Society for Testing and Materials

PS 63-75 "Latex Foam Mattresses for Hospitals", American Society for Testing and Materials

PS 66-75 "Safety Requirements for Home Playground Equipment", American Society for Testing and Materials

CS 151-50 "Body Measurements for the Sizing of Apparel for Infants, Babies, Toddlers and Children (for the Knit Underwear Industry)", American Society for Testing and Materials

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Karl G. Newell, Jr., Office of Product Standards Policy, National Bureau of Standards, Washington, D.C. 20234, Telephone: (301) 921-2368.

Dated: January 6, 1983.

Ernest Ambler,

Director.

[FR Doc. 83-927 Filed 1-19-83; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-13-M

Office of the Secretary

President's Private Sector Survey on Cost Control; Open Meeting

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of Public meeting of the Executive Committee of the President's Private Sector Survey on Cost Control.

SUMMARY: The President's Private Sector Survey on Cost Control was established by the President pursuant to Executive Order 12369 of June 30, 1982, and extended by Executive Order 12398 of December 31, 1982. The Executive Committee of the Survey is chartered by the Department of Commerce as a public advisory committee in accord with the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

The purpose of the President's Private Sector Survey on Cost Control is to conduct a private sector survey on cost control in the Federal Government and to advise the President, the Secretary of Commerce, and other Executive agency heads with respect to improving managment and reducing costs.

Time and Place

February 4, 1983 at 11:00 a.m. The meeting will take place at the U.S. Department of Commerce Auditorium, First Floor, Herbert C. Hoover Building, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20230.

Agenda

(1) Receive a status report on activities of the President's Private Sector Survey.

(2) Establish a Subcommittee of the Executive Committee. The purposes of the Subcommittee are: (i) To review the recommendations submitted, including task force reports and public comments, and (ii) determine which recommendations should be made to the President and Departments and Agencies.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: To accomplish the President's objective that the survey be funded, to the