

# FOCBS – PMC Responsibility mark

## 1. General information

### 1.1 What it is about

In order to protect consumers from inferior goods, manufacturers from unfair competition and the good reputation of Swiss quality in the precious metals sector, precious metal products, multimetal products and plated products may only be imported if they have been marked by the manufacturer with a responsibility mark registered in Switzerland or if they fall under an exception to the marking requirement specifically mentioned in the Precious Metals Control Ordinance.

### 1.2 Basics and information

- Precious Metals Control Act (PMCA; [SR 941.31](#))
- Precious Metals Control Ordinance (PMCO; [SR 941.311](#))
- Internet FOCBS -> Precious Metal Control -> [Responsibility mark](#)

### 1.3 Note in Tares

Tariff items that are relevant from a precious metals law perspective contain the note «Permit obligation: FOCBS-PMCR».

### 1.4 Terms

Precious metal articles	<p>Precious metal articles are goods made of a precious metal alloy with a legal minimum fineness (fineness = ratio indicating how much pure precious metal an alloy contains).</p> <p>Switzerland recognises the following legal fineness:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Articles in gold: 999, 916, 750, 585 and 375 parts per thousand;</li><li>• Articles in silver: 999, 925 and 800 parts per thousand;</li><li>• Articles in platinum: 999, 950, 900 and 850 parts per thousand;</li><li>• Articles in palladium: 999, 950 and 500 parts per thousand.</li></ul>
Multimetal articles	<p>Multimetal articles are goods consisting of parts made of precious metals of a legal fineness and base metals and are marked according to their actual composition.</p>
Plated articles	<p>Plated articles are goods in which a layer of precious metal is firmly bonded to a base of another material and which are marked according to their quality. The minimum layer thickness is 5 micrometres for gold, platinum and palladium plating and 10 micrometres for silver plating (1 micrometre [µm] corresponds to one thousandth of a millimetre).</p> <p>For watch cases and additional parts (in particular watch straps), a higher quality, known as 'coiffe or', with a minimum layer thickness of 200 micrometres is also used.</p>

## 2. Information in the customs or goods declaration

Anyone importing precious metal, multimetal or plated articles must declare the restrictions in the goods declaration and record the authorisation from the FOCBS.

<b>Identification</b> Regulation	Passar:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Regulation 1 (yes)</li> <li>- Regulation code 990 «FOCBS – PMC Responsibility mark»</li> </ul>
	e-dec:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Authorisation requirement «yes»</li> <li>- Authorisation authority «090 FOCBS-PMCR»</li> </ul>
<b>Further indications</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Authorisation type 2 General authorisation<sup>1</sup></li> <li>- Authorisation number               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Number (and sign) responsibility mark; or</li> <li>o «without» (no responsibility mark)</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Licensee<sup>2</sup> (responsibility mark)</li> </ul>

Articles that would normally require authorisation (marking) but can be transported without authorisation (marking) due to an authorisation exemption (marking exemption) must be declared accordingly:

<b>Identification</b> Regulation	Passar:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Regulation 1 (yes)</li> <li>- Regulation code 990 «FOCBS – PMC Responsibility mark»</li> </ul>
<b>Exemptions from authorisation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- FOCBSPMC001: Articles according to <u>Art. 45 para. 1 let. b</u> PMCO (articles over 50 years old)</li> <li>- FOCBSPMC002: Articles according to <u>Art. 45 para. 1 let. d</u> PMCO (works of art destined for public collections)</li> <li>- FOCBSPMC005: Articles according to <u>Art. 52</u> PMCO (Supplies and semi-finished products)</li> <li>- FOCBSPMC003: Articles according to <u>Art. 126 para. 3</u> PMCO (state treaties)</li> <li>- FOCBSPMC004: Articles according to <u>Art. 128</u> PMCO (personal property transferred when moving residence and acquired by inheritance, personal effects, gifts, etc.)</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Only for declarations in the system e-dec

<sup>2</sup> Only for registrations in the Passar system