
**Jewellery and precious metals —
Sampling of precious metals and
precious metal alloys**

*Joannerie, bijouterie et métaux précieux — Échantillonnage des
métaux précieux et des alliages de métaux précieux*



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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

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For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 174, *Jewellery and precious metals*.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 11596:2008), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

- The content has been reviewed to allow a broader field of application of the standard;
- The scope has been aligned with the ISO standards related to the present document and delimited more clearly;
- Terms and definitions have been reorganized.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

Jewellery and precious metals — Sampling of precious metals and precious metal alloys

1 Scope

This document specifies a method of sampling precious metals and precious metal alloys for the determination of their precious metal content and for the assessment of their homogeneity. The document is applicable to raw materials, semi-finished products and finished products and is intended to be used only for the sampling of entirely metallic materials.

NOTE 1 Standards for determination of precious metals contents for different metals are listed in the Bibliography.

NOTE 2 For assaying techniques different from the listed ones other sampling procedures can be required.

NOTE 3 For the purpose of production control or lot inspections the International Standards for the sampling indicated in the Bibliography or corresponding guidelines can be applied in addition.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 3954, *Powders for powder metallurgical purposes — Sampling*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <https://www.electropedia.org/>

3.1 Sampling

3.1.1

sampling

defined procedure whereby a part of a substance, material or product is taken to provide a representative *sample* (3.1.4), or samples, of the whole for analysis

3.1.2

dip sampling

sampling (3.1.1) method intended to produce primary samples representative for a melt

Note 1 to entry: A secondary sampling is then required in order to produce the samples for analysis.

Note 2 to entry: Depending on the specific sampling technique adopted, dip sampling is also referred to as pin sampling, or as bead (or button) sampling, respectively.