



Our Product Standard for General Jewellery

All products supplied to Sainsbury's Argos must comply with the General Product Safety Regulations. They must be legal, safe under reasonable foreseeable use and fit for their intended purpose. These requirements shall be upheld irrespective of compliance with national or European standards.

Sainsbury's Argos Standard for General Jewellery products is mandatory and applies to all products that are bought and ranged in the Jewellery range. Sainsbury's Argos Technologists will be able to provide clarification if a product is within the scope of this standard.



1. General Requirements for Diamond and other Gem Stones

- 1.1 The minimum acceptable standard for diamonds must be to the appropriate GIA equivalent standard as agreed by the Buyer.
- 1.2 The diamond quality stating clarity, cut, colour and carat will be briefed on the Buying brief. Sealing samples must match the required specification. Any stones below the quoted quality or significantly different in appearance to the sealed sample will be rejected.
- 1.3 Diamond set product under 10 points must be stamped 'DIA'.
- 1.4 Diamond set product 10 points and over must be stamped with the relevant points (i.e. – 10pts or 0.10ct)
- 1.5 Diamond cutting must be consistent, chipped or cracked diamonds are not acceptable.
- 1.6 There must be no unauthorised treatment of diamond finish such as laser treatment to remove inclusions or fracture filling of cracks. The only exception is treatments to coloured diamonds which must be discussed with the Technologist and Buyer and given prior agreement before production commences.
- 1.7 Large black inclusions & external inclusions are not acceptable.
- 1.8 All stones in a multi-stone item of jewellery must be of equal cut, clarity, size and colour.

Settings – General

- 1.9 The table and the girdle of the stone must be set level, with no noticeable slanting.
- 1.10 The stone must fit securely and firmly in the setting, regardless of setting style. There must be no gaps, no danger of falling out, and no loose stones. A loose stone is cause for rejection, even if there is no possibility of the stone falling out.
- 1.11 The setting of gemstones should be set at a consistent height on all production runs.

2. Claw Settings

- 2.1 Where stones are set with claws, there must be sufficient claws to hold the stone.
- 2.2 Claws holding more than one stone must be of sufficient size and strength to do so.
- 2.3 On claws, grains must not be cut too deeply causing weakness of the claw.
- 2.4 The claws must tightly grip the stone (and be pulled over). There must be no stone movement.
- 2.5 When viewing a ring from the side claws must appear to be uniform in height and location.
- 2.6 Claws must be symmetrically positioned and equal in length and shape within the piece and throughout the production run.
- 2.7 Claws must be properly polished and finished, with no sharp edges.
- 2.8 On heart shaped stones the claw on the point of the heart should have a 'V' style claw not a round wire claw.

3. Channel Settings

- 3.1 Channel Set stones must have enough metal to be securely set (Nick setting method must not be used)
- 3.2 All stones in the channel must be set in the same plane. No stone should be crooked or at a different height than any adjacent stones.

4. Rubover Settings

- 4.1 The edges of the setting must meet the surface of the stone tightly with no gaps.
- 4.2 The setting must be of even height all around the stone.
- 4.3 The setting must be smooth all the way around with no sharp edges.
- 4.4 The stone should not be set too low in the setting in such a way that is detrimental to the appearance of the stone.

5. Pave Settings

5.1 Ensure stones are centred properly and give an even look.

5.2 Ensure stones are set to avoid loss. There must be sufficient grains and/or metal around the stones.

6. Gluing

6.1 Wherever possible, gluing is to be avoided.

6.2 Where gluing is unavoidable a two part epoxy type glue must be used.

6.3 All glued parts must be securely joined and aligned. The proper type and amount of glue must be used to sufficiently secure the joined parts.

6.4 The glue must be thoroughly dried prior to packing and shipping.

6.5 Any visible or excess glue on the piece, either on the front or reverse side, is not acceptable.

7. Agreed Weight Requirements

7.1 All precious metal jewellery items must meet the agreed total weight specification on delivery. Articles under 5g in weight are allowed a +/-10% tolerance, articles 5g or over are allowed +/-5% tolerance in weight.

7.2 Stock delivered under the agreed minimum tolerance is subject to being returned back to the supplier. If the supplier finds that production is underweight before delivery this must be discussed with the relevant Buyer. If the quality and function of the item is not compromised then a cost price reduction may be negotiated at the discretion of the Buying team.

7.3 Jewellery that has a guaranteed weight stated in the catalogue or on-line has no minus tolerance. i.e. any item supplied which weighs less than the guaranteed weight will be rejected therefore ALL lines that come with a guaranteed weight must be weighed individually before delivery.

8. Weight Conversion Chart

Ounces Troy	Grams
1/8 oz	3.89g
1/4 oz	7.77g
1/3 oz	10.37g
1/2 oz	15.55g
3/4 oz	23.33g
1 oz	31.10g
1.5 oz	46.65g
2 oz	62.20g
3 oz	93.30g
4 oz	124.40g
6 oz	186.60g

9. Hallmarking

9.1 It is an offence under the Hallmarking Act 1973 to describe un-hallmarked articles as being made totally or partly of gold, silver, platinum or palladium, or supply or offer to supply an article that is made of gold, silver, platinum or palladium which has not been hallmarked.

9.2 Any article described as being wholly or partly made of gold, silver, platinum or palladium that is not covered under exempt articles should be hallmarked.

9.3 Main exceptions: Articles below a certain weight are exempt from hallmarking. The exemption weight is based on the precious metal content only, excluding, for example, weight of diamonds, stones etc, except in the case of articles consisting of precious metal and base metal in which case the exemption weight is based on the total metal weight.

9.4 Note: It is the supplier's responsibility to ensure that any precious metal item that is exempt from hallmarking meets the minimum standard of fineness as detailed in The Hallmarking Act 1973.

9.5 In relation to hallmarking & items offered for sale in the ROI for gold, silver, palladium or platinum there is no minimum weight applied & as such all articles and removable parts must have a hallmark applied. Suppliers must ensure that all articles under the minimum weights for UK hallmarking are suitable to be hallmarked for sale in ROI.

9.6 The precious metal fineness standard for UK hallmarking is expressed in parts per thousand for each precious metal.

9.7 Permitted solders for hallmarking standards are available under the International Hallmarking Convention (common control mark).

9.8 Gold and silver can only be soldered with the same metal. Platinum and palladium can be soldered with one or a combination of all four precious metals as long as the total precious metal fineness is to the correct standard.

10. Plating

10.1 Gold Plated Silver

10.1.1 Items must have the following gold plating thicknesses:

- Rings – 2 Microns
- Earrings – 0.5 Micron
- Pendants – 1 Micron
- Bracelets – 2 Microns
- Necklaces – 2 Microns

10.1.2 All Micron levels listed above are subject to a 20% tolerance

10.1.3 Please note - Reduced plating thicknesses can be used in conjunction with a protective coating subject to the completion of a plating wear test at the discretion of the Technologist. The process for gaining a comparison & the place of testing to be dictated by the Technologist.

10.2 Gold Plated Base Metal

10.2.1 Items must have the following gold plating thicknesses :

- Rings – 0.5 Micron
- Earrings – 0.3 Micron
- Pendants – 0.3 Micron
- Bracelets – 0.5 Micron
- Necklaces – 0.5 Micron

All Micron levels listed above are subject to a 20% tolerance

10.2.2 Platinum Plated items must have a plating thickness of 0.20 microns.

10.2.3 Rhodium plating must have a plating thickness of 0.10 microns & not exceeding 0.2 microns.

10.2.4 Rhodium plated White Gold items must be manufactured from a suitable white alloy which will be visually acceptable in the event of the Rhodium wearing through.

10.2.5 Rhodium plating finish must be precise and not overspill where not intended.

10.2.6 Plating on gold jewellery must always be the same colour as the underlying alloy of the article.

10.2.7 Silver products must have a U.K compliant anti-tarnish coating applied.

10.2.8 The colour definition of Multi-coloured products must be clearly apparent and be representative of the original selection sample

10.2.9 On gold the standard of fineness of plating must not be less than the standard of the fineness of the articles itself.

10.2.10 Any precious metal used for plating must never be used at less than the minimum UK standard of fineness.

10.2.11 Hallmarked articles may be plated as follows;

Article made of	Plating permitted
Platinum	Platinum, rhodium
Gold	Gold, platinum, rhodium
Palladium	Palladium, gold, platinum, rhodium
Silver	Silver, palladium, gold, platinum, rhodium

10.2.12 The use of base metal for plating on precious metal articles is not permitted.

11. Bonded Gold

11.1 Bonded Gold on a base metal core

11.1.1 'Bonded gold' on a base metal core cannot be hallmarked.

11.1.2 'Bonded gold' on a base metal core does not require any marks.

11.1.3 If they are marked they must be done in one of the following ways below.

- **9ct Bonded Gold or Bonded Gold 9ct**
- **9ct Bonded gold or Bonded gold 9ct**
- **9ct bonded gold or bonded gold 9ct**

11.1.4 Please note that 'bonded Gold' or anything that emphasises the word 'gold' must **never** be used.

11.1.5 9ct not 9k must always be used

11.1.6 'Bonded gold' must never be used without the 9ct designation.

11.2 Bonded Gold on a silver core

11.2.1 'Bonded gold' on a silver core can only be hallmarked with a full silver hallmark.

11.2.2 In addition to the silver hallmark, 800 or 925 stamp on underweight items the following marks are allowed. Using the 925 stamp as an example

- **925 & 9ct Bonded Gold or 925 & Bonded Gold 9ct**
- **925 & 9ct Bonded gold or 925 & Bonded gold 9ct**
- **925 & 9ct bonded gold or 925 & bonded gold 9ct**

11.2.3 Please note that 'bonded Gold' or anything that emphasises the word 'gold' must never be used

11.2.4 9ct (not 9k or 9kt) must always be used

11.2.5 'Bonded gold' must never be used without the 9ct designation.

11.3 Further general requirements for bonded gold

11.3.1 10K quality 'bonded gold' must be marked 9ct for the U.K market.

11.3.2 All marks must use the 9ct, 18ct format, not the 9k,18k format.

11.3.3 The articles cannot be marked 375 or 750 in the place of 9ct or 18ct.

11.3.4 'American Style' mixed marks are not permitted, for example 925 1/20 9k

11.3.5 The only acceptable marks are listed in sections 9.1 & 9.

12. White Gold

12.1 General

12.1.1 Only carat gold with a Yellowness Index (YI) of 32.0 or less can be called a "white gold".

12.1.2 As a minimum standard "Standard White (Grade 2)" white gold must be used.

12.1.3 For premium products Trading Team may require "Premium White (Grade 1)" white gold to be used.

12.1.4 Premium White (Grade 1) YI value <19.0 does not need rhodium plating.

12.2 9ct Alloys

12.2.1 Premium White Category: 37.5% Gold + Minimum 62% silver

12.2.2 Standard White Category: 37.5% Gold + Minimum 45% Silver + 17.5% other alloying elements

12.2.3 If silver is to be replaced with other alloying elements then the following norms may be followed:

12.2.4 Approximate effect of whiteners: 1% Silver is equivalent to 1% Zinc, 0.6% Palladium.

12.2.5 While replacing silver with other alloying elements the alloys suitability for jewellery applications and metallurgical aspects needs to be considered as excessive additions of other alloying elements may enhance colour of the alloy to bright white but make the alloy unsuitable for jewellery applications.

12.3 14ct Alloys

12.3.1 Premium White Category: 58.5% Gold + Minimum 26.5% whiteners (of which 16.55% are primary whiteners i.e. Ni or Pd or both) +15% other alloying elements.

12.3.2 Standard White Category: 58.5% Gold + Minimum 22.5% whiteners (of which 12% are primary whiteners i.e. Ni or Pd or both) + 19% other alloying elements.

12.4 18ct Alloys

12.4.1 Premium White Category: 75.0% Gold + Minimum 17.5% whiteners (of which 13.5% are primary whiteners i.e. Ni or Pd or both) +7.2% other alloying elements.

12.4.2 Premium White Category: 75% Gold + Minimum 24.5% whiteners (of which 17% are primary whiteners i.e. Ni or Pd or both) +7.5% other alloying elements.

12.4.3 Standard White Category: 75% Gold + Minimum 19.5% whiteners (of which 7.4% are primary whiteners i.e. Ni or Pd or both) + 5.5% other alloying elements.

12.5 22ct Alloys

12.5.1 Cannot be whitened

13. Ethical Requirements

13.1 RJC (Responsible Jewellery Council) Kimberley Process and Warranty Statements

13.1.1 Suppliers must ensure they read the Sainsbury Argos Sourcing Policy which outlines requirements. Suppliers supplying precious metal and/or diamond jewellery are encouraged to become members of the RJC.

13.1.2 All suppliers supplying diamonds must adhere to the Kimberley Process and in order to meet the aims and requirement they must have the following warranty statement included on each purchase order and/or delivery note.

13.1.3 “The diamonds herein invoiced have been purchased from legitimate sources not involved in funding conflict and in compliance with United Nations resolutions. The seller hereby guarantees that these diamonds are conflict free, based on personal knowledge and/or written guarantees provided by the supplier of these diamonds.”

13.2 Marange Diamonds

13.2.1 We will not accept Diamonds mined from the Marange region, whilst the EU Restrictive Measures are in place. Diamond mines outside of the Marange region are not currently affected by the EU Restrictive Measures.

13.2.2 Refer to <http://www.fco.gov.uk/resources/en/pdf/about-us/what-we-do/eu-restrictive-measures-zimbabwe141111>.

13.2.3 A full list of EU Restrictive Measures can be found on the HM Treasury website at: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/fin_sanctions_zimbabwe.htm.

14. Labelling and Consumer Information Requirements

14.1 On Packaging – For unbranded jewellery items

14.1.1 Seven digit catalogue number

14.1.2 Supplier code

14.1.3 REFERENCE TO DUMBELL/LABELLING SIZES AS LAID OUT IN Packaging Standards & Labelling Specification for Sainsbury's Argos Stocked In Product

14.2 In Pack / On Product

14.2.1 Earrings and Body Jewellery Care Card

All earrings and body jewellery must carry a care card. The card size should be 3cm x 3cm and packed inside the individual polybag the jewellery item comes in. The following information should be written on the care card.

WARNINGS FOR PIERCED JEWELLERY

These earrings should not be worn during sleep as they may cause a choking hazard or studs may become embedded in the ear.

This product must not be used while a wound caused by piercing is healing. It **MUST NOT** be inserted into a pierced part of the body before the healing process is completed.

ALL earrings & body jewellery are non returnable due to hygiene reasons.

14.3 Pendant Care Card

14.3.1 The card size should be 3cm x 3cm and packed inside the individual polybag the jewellery item comes in. The following information should be written on the care card.

PENDANT CARE CARD

This item is delicate & should be handled with care.

Always leave the pendant fastened when not in use to avoid tangling & knotting.

It is recommended that you do not wear during sleep, in the shower or during physical activity.

FOR LOCKET

1. To close do not press centre of locket. Close by pressing edge of locket near catch.
2. To avoid hinge damage do not force hinge open too wide.
3. Avoid exposure to perfume, deodorants, hairspray, water, moisture, chemicals or abrasive substances.
4. To clean, wipe with a soft cloth.

14.4 Silver Jewellery Care Card

14.4.1 The card size should be 3cm x 3cm and packed inside the individual polybag the jewellery item comes in. The following information should be written on the care card.

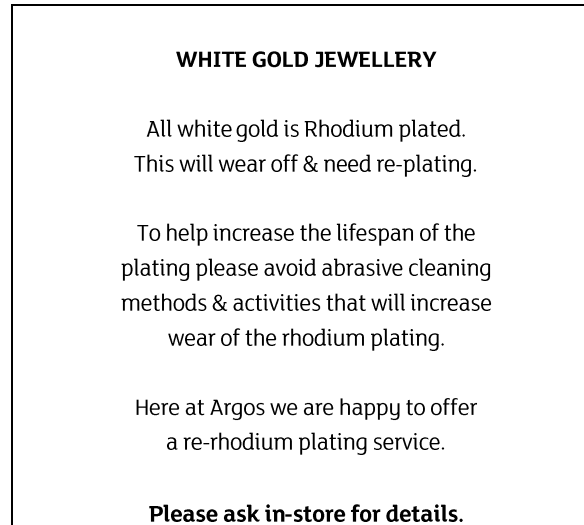
SILVER JEWELLERY

To reduce the risk of tarnishing please ensure you take care to:

1. Avoid exposure to perfume, deodorants, hairspray, salt water, abrasive substances and other chemicals.
2. Store in a suitable airtight container.
3. Clean regularly using a silver polishing cloth or jewellery cleaner.

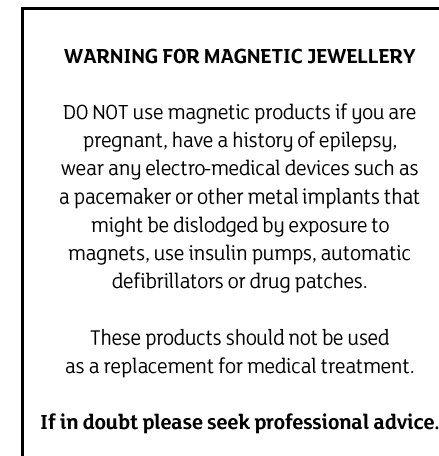
14.5 Rhodium Plating Care Card

14.5.1 All Rhodium Plated jewellery must carry a care card. The card size should be 3cm x 3cm and packed inside the individual polybag the jewellery item comes in. The following information should be written on the care card.



14.6 Magnetic Care Card

14.6.1 All magnetic jewellery must carry a care card. The card size should be 3cm x 3cm and packed inside the individual polybag the jewellery item comes in. The following information should be written on the care card.



Appendix 1

1. Hallmarking

1.1 The Hallmarking Act 1973 provides details on the law covering hallmarking, assaying and describing articles made of, or containing precious metals (gold, silver and platinum). The act defines the marks that are stamped on an item when it has passed the Assay Office tests. The law says hallmarks must be 'approved'. Due to changes in the law, the definition of approved hallmarks has been extended to include hallmarks which come from countries within the European Economic Areas (EEA Marks). The approved hallmarks which are allowed are those which are stamped by an independent organisation according to the law of the member states.

2. Important amendments to the Hallmarking Act 1973

2.1 Changes in UK hallmarking law have meant that European Member States have now agreed upon minimum standards of 'fineness' for articles made of precious metals. These changes are now in force throughout the European Union. In the United Kingdom, the regulations came into force on 1 January 1999.

3. Sponsor's marks

3.1 Before you send an article to an Assay Office to be stamped with the approved hallmarks; it must be stamped with a sponsor's mark. Or, you can make arrangements with the Assay Offices for them to stamp on a sponsor's mark before they stamp the approved hallmarks.

The sponsor's mark shows who made the item or paid for it to be made and the mark must be registered with an Assay Office before it can be used.

3.1 Changes to marks

3.1.1 The regulations introduce two new gold standards of 990 and 999 parts of gold per thousand of metal.

3.1.2 For silver, two new standards of 800 and 999 parts of silver per thousand of metal are introduced.

3.1.3 For platinum, three new standards of 850, 900 and 999 parts of platinum per thousand of metal are introduced.

3.1.4 Standards of fineness must now be expressed in parts per thousand. However, manufacturers can continue to ask for traditional marks such as the lion, crown or orb to be stamped alongside the parts per thousand mark.

3.1.5 The marks which were previously used to distinguish British goods from imports no longer exist. All marks are now the same no matter where the goods are from.

3.1.6 The date at which an article is considered to be an antique and so exempt from hallmarking has changed from 1900 to 1920.

3.1.7 Until 1999 the date letter was compulsory. This is no longer the case, but it can be applied voluntarily in addition to the compulsory marks. The date letter changes once a year on the 1st January.

4. Compulsory Symbols

4.1 The UK hallmark comprises of a minimum of three compulsory symbols

4.1.1 Sponsor's or Maker's Mark - Indicates the maker or sponsor of the jewellery. In the UK this mark consists of at least two letters within a shield.

4.1.2 Metal and Fineness (Purity) Mark - Indicates the precious metal content and that it is not less than the fineness of the article indicated. The fineness is indicated by parts per thousand and the metal type is indicated by the shape of the surround.

4.1.3 Indicates the particular Assay Office at which the item was tested and marked. There are now four Assay Offices in the UK which are London, Edinburgh, Birmingham, and Sheffield. Optional marks that can be applied alongside the Hallmark maybe requested these are, Traditional Fineness Symbols (for example Sterling Silver, Sterling silver Scotland, Britannia Silver, Palladium, Gold, Platinum)

5. The Common Control Mark and Convention Marks

5.1 The UK has been signatory to the International Convention on Hallmarks since 1972. The Convention Hallmarks from other member countries are legally recognised in the UK. Articles bearing the Convention Hallmark do not have to be re-hallmarked in the UK.

Finenesses recognised under the Convention are:

- Silver: 800, 925, 999
- Gold: 375 585, 750, 916, 990, 999
- Palladium: 500, 950, 999
- Platinum: 850, 900, 950, 999

A Convention Hallmark consists of four marks:

- Sponsor
- Common Control Mark
- Fineness (Purity) Mark
- Assay Office Mark

Example



The sponsor's mark, fineness mark and assay office mark are compulsory marks as below;



Appendix 2 Conflict Diamonds

1. Background

1.1 Conflict diamonds have been defined by the United Nations as ‘those diamonds that originate from areas controlled by forces or factions opposed to legitimate and internationally recognised governments, and are used to fund military action in opposition to those governments, or in contravention of decisions of the United Nations Security Council.’

Principally, those countries that have previously been affected are Angola, Congo, Sierra Leone and Liberia. As of Dec 07, the only case of rebel forces controlling diamond producing areas is in Cote d’Ivoire.

We want to be able to reassure our customers and employees that we do not sell diamonds from such sources.

The Kimberley Process established a certification scheme which has been in effect since January 1 2003. Rough diamonds must be exported in sealed containers with numbered, government issued certificates of origin. Once diamonds have been cut, a system of warranties complements the Kimberley Process.

In order to meet the aims of the ‘Kimberly Process Certification Scheme’, Sainsbury’s Argos requires its suppliers to warrant that all diamonds supplied to Sainsbury’s Argos have been purchased from legitimate sources which are not involved in funding conflict. Sainsbury’s Argos requires its suppliers to ensure that an audit trail is in place.

This document sets out below the policy on conflict diamonds. It will be the responsibility of the QA Manager to ensure this policy is adhered to.

In order to meet the aims and requirements of the Kimberley Process, Sainsbury’s Argos requires its suppliers to warrant that they will not source diamonds from conflict regions.

2. In particular Sainsbury’s Argos will

2.1 Seek written assurances from each diamond supplier

- *that diamonds are sourced from non-conflict regions
- *that diamonds conform to the Kimberley Process certification scheme
- *that an audit trail is in place which fully supports this statement

2.2 Cease trading with suppliers who are unable to provide the assurances above

2.3 Alert store staff to the conflict diamonds policy via training manuals etc

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For the purposes of this document Sainsbury's Group means Sainsbury's Supermarkets Limited, Argos Limited and Habitat Retail Limited only.

Sainsbury's Argos is the trading name of both:

- 1) Argos Limited, Registered office: 489-499 Avebury Boulevard, Milton Keynes, United Kingdom, MK9 2NW, registered number: 01081551 (England and Wales); and
- 2) Sainsbury's Supermarkets Limited, Registered office: 33 Holborn, London, EC1N 2HT, registered number: 03261722 (England and Wales).

All companies listed above are subsidiaries of J Sainsbury plc (185647).