



Renewal of the responsibility mark for precious metal, multimetal articles and plated articles

1. Renewal procedure

About 3 months before the expiry of the validity the owners of the responsibility Mark will be contacted in written form if they want to renew their responsibility mark for the period of 20 years.

Following documents have to be sent for the renewal:

- The application form (Application form for a responsibility mark), duly filled in and signed;
- A certified extract of your registration in the commercial registry or, if you are not registered in the commercial registry, an official attestation of the seat of your company or of your workshop, the document must be less than 1 year old;
- If you are represented, an express authority in favour of your agent.

In case of no-renewal, the renunciation has to be communicated in written form; the mark will be cancelled free of charge from our register and published in the Swiss Trade Bulletin.

2. Fees

The renewal fee for 20 years and for each mark makes 525.-- Swiss franc.
An invoice in CHF or in € will be sent automatically with our renewal letter.

In this amount the following achievements are included:

- any changes of the address (locality/country) or of the company name;
- publication of the renewal of the responsibility mark in the Swiss Trade Bulletin;
- issue of a certificate after the renewal.

3. Remarks

- The legal regulations do not permit a renewal of shorter period (less than 20 years). For responsibility mark owners, who stand shortly before the closing of their business, the possibility exists of selling their responsibility mark. In this case the owner change must be communicated to the Central Office.
- Registration of responsibility marks at the same time by the Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property (SFIP) and by the central office for precious metals control:
 - Until the year 1993 marks were registered at the same time by the Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property (SFIP) as a trade mark and by the central office of precious metals control as a responsibility mark.
 - With the revision of the Precious Metal Control Law in 1993 this compelling double registration has been abrogated: starting from this date, a responsibility mark is not automatically registered by the SFIP as a trade mark.
 - It can happen that at the end of a period of protection of a responsibility mark registered before 1993, both offices (SFIP + Central Office) ask the owner for renewing his mark.
If the registered mark serves only for marking of precious metal articles such as jewels, watches etc., **the renewal as a responsibility mark by the Central Office is necessary**, but not by the SFIP if the owner does not need a protection in the sense of the trademark law.
A eventually renewal as **trade mark** by the **SFIP** costs about **CHF 700** for a **10 years protection**; the renewal fee for the **responsibility mark** by the **Central Office** amounts **CHF 525** for a **20 years period**.
 - For manufacturers of precious metals articles (jewellery, watches, cutlery, etc.) the renewal of the responsibility mark by the Central Office is compulsory as long as they produce or sell precious metals goods in Switzerland.

Central office for precious metals control