

BullionProtect® - FAQ

What is the colour-changing patch on the bullion I received?

You are referring to the BullionProtect® seal, a SICPA security feature with inherent properties which can be unequivocally and instantly identified and verified through different authentication means. It is designed to prevent faked or counterfeited gold bars to be mistaken for genuine ones.

I have a bullion bearing a BullionProtect® seal. Does that mean it is 100 percent genuine?

While the presence of a genuine security seal indicates genuine bullion hallmark, the seal must be verified using one of the associated authentication means. For seal authentication devices, please contact your bullion refiner.

I have received an authentication device. Is it usable on only one specific seal?

All BullionProtect® seals can be verified using the same authentication device.

Does the BullionProtect® seal has an impact on the weight of the bullion?

The seal, unlike standard labels, is tamper-resistant and carries a negligible weight (<25mg). The exact weight depends on the design of the seal. The seal is applied on the bullion after its weight has been checked and graded.

I have a received a bullion and its security seal is scratched. Is that a problem?

There is no reason to be alarmed. While the seals are tamper-resistant, they may be scratched during transportation and handling.

How can I remove the seal when using the bullion for industrial applications (ie processing of precious metals)?

The security seal is tamper-resistant, however, it can be removed delicately from the surface of the bullion by using a cutter, a Scotch-Brite or a metallic brush and cleaning up the surface with acetone. The robust seal, once removed, can be disposed of.

I received a bullion bar without any seal from the refiner adopting the BullionProtect® solution. Does it mean it is a faked/counterfeited bar?

In the absence of the seal, the bullion can be part of a series without security seal, or the seal has been removed. The bar may therefore require further verification.

What is the security technology behind BullionProtect® seals?

BullionProtect® seals use proprietary security inks developed by Swiss-based company SICPA SA on a range of international governmental records such as identity documents and passports. BullionProtect® is the first usage of the security ink technology directly on bullions. The technology has proven its counterfeit robustness on a range of state-related security applications.

Is the BullionProtect® seal customisable?

The solution is highly versatile and the seal can be customised into various colours and designs.

The BullionProtect® seal can be removed by relatively simple means (e.g. by roll milling of the bars), has this risk been considered?

Yes, the seal can be removed, however, BullionProtect® seals have been designed to make reusing the seal not only difficult but time-consuming as well.

How do we apply the seal on the bullions?

SICPA is responsible for the supplies of BullionProtect® seals, the application on the bars can be performed via different options (manual or semi-automatic) to be arranged based on client's specific setup.

Once BullionProtect® seals are adopted, are we constrained to use this security feature only or can we employ other means of security at the same time?

There are no constraints on the use of BullionProtect®. The security feature is compatible with other security features from SICPA and as well as from other technology providers.

Is BullionProtect® designed exclusively for gold kilobars ?

No. BullionProtect® can also be applied on other metal bullions of different sizes.