

## **Exchange Approved & ISO Certified Manufacturers of Bullion Bars**

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Bullion bars are produced by a variety of manufacturers, public and private, large and small. Many privately held, small companies produce excellent quality bars, but are not widely known. For investors and dealers, this can be problematic in that quality may be questionable and, therefore, liquidity may be impacted negatively.

One way of gaining confidence in the quality of any product is to look at the credentials of its manufacturer. For bullion, there are two independent groups that certify acceptability. The first and best known is the commodity exchanges such as Nymex, Comex, NYSE-Liffe, CBOT and LBMA. Manufacturers like Johnson Matthey, Engelhard and Handy & Harman are well known exchange approved refiners/manufacturers. Another group that certifies the quality of manufacturers' processes is ISO. Although not well known in investor circles, ISO is well known throughout the manufacturing world. Of particular importance to investors, both exchange approved and ISO certified brands of bullion bars are generally acceptable in the marketplace and specifically acceptable in IRAs.

ISO (short for "ISOS," the greek word for equal) is the International Organization for Standardization. ISO is the world's largest developer and publisher of International Standards. ISO is a network of national standards institutes in 157 countries with a Central Secretariat in Geneva, Switzerland, that coordinates the system. ISO sets standards for quality (the 9001 family of standards) and environment (the 14001 family of standards).

In the context of ISO 9001, "certification" refers to the issuing of written assurance (the certificate) by an independent external body that it has audited a management system and verified that it conforms to the requirements specified in the standard. "Registration" means that the auditing body then records the certification in its client register. So, the organization's management system has been both certified and registered. "Certification" is the term most widely used worldwide, although registration is often preferred in North America, and the two are used interchangeably.

For more information about the International Organization for Standardization, visit [www.iso.org](http://www.iso.org).

ISO certified manufacturers of bullion bars include:

- Academy Precious Metals, NM
- Ohio Precious Metals, OH
- Pyromet, PA
- Reliable Silver, CT
- Wolverine Joining Technologies, RI