

IMITATION COINS

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SYNOPSIS OF DETERMINATIONS FOR 15 U.S.C. § 2101 (1) (B)
GOLD BULLION INTERNATIONAL, LTD., DOCKET NO. 7094

It is unlawful under the Hobby Protection Act (15 U.S.C. § 2101 et seq.) and an unfair or deceptive act or practice under the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. § 45) to

1/ distribute in commerce, any "imitation numismatic item" which is not plainly and permanently marked "COPY."

1/ An "imitation numismatic item" is an item which appears to be, but in fact is not, an "original numismatic item" or which is a reproducing copy of such item. Imitation numismatic items include not only those items that are exact replicas in every respect of original numismatic items, but also items that might be mistaken for original numismatic items by an unsuspecting consumer examining and observing them in a casual manner. For example, a coin that is an exact reproduction of an original numismatic item in all respects, except for a minor variation in the date would still be an imitation numismatic item.

a/ An "original numismatic item" is anything that has been a part of a coinage or issue which has been used in exchange or has been used to commemorate a person or event. The term includes coins, tokens, paper money, and commemorative medals. An item has been "used in exchange" if it has been traded in the marketplace and used as a means of payment. The term does not apply to items that are used only as a collector's item.

2/ Rules issued by the Federal Trade Commission require that the word "COPY" shall be marked upon the item legibly, conspicuously and nondeceptively. The word "COPY" shall appear in capital letters. The word "COPY" shall be marked on either the obverse or reverse of the item. It shall not be marked on the edge of the item. An imitation numismatic item shall be marked with the word "COPY" in sans-serif letters having a vertical dimension of not less than two millimeters and a minimum depth of three tenths of one millimeter (0.3 mm) or to one-half the thickness of the reproduction, whichever is the lesser. An imitation item composed of nonmetallizable material shall be marked with the word "COPY" in sans-serif letters having a vertical dimension of not less than two millimeters. The word "COPY" shall be so marked that it is clearly visible to the consumer.