

MITSUI MINING & SMELTING CO LTD

GOLD BAR MANUFACTURER IN JAPAN

Mitsui Mining & Smelting Co Ltd, which produces gold mainly as a by-product of copper smelting, has its headquarters in the Shinagawa-ku area of Tokyo.

Gold refining and bar manufacture take place at the Takehara Refinery in the Hiroshima Prefecture, about 500 km west of Tokyo.

The company issues a standard range of 5 bars:

Cast: 400 oz, 10 kg, 1000 g, 500 g

Minted: 100 g

While most bars are sold in Japan, its London Good Delivery 400 oz bars are traded internationally.

A representative range of Mitsui Mining bars has been included in the Industry Collection.

BACKGROUND

Mitsui Mining & Smelting Co Ltd, incorporated in 1950, is a major smelter of copper, lead and zinc. It also manufactures chemicals, materials and products, notably for the electronics, environmental and automotive industries. Its history in non-ferrous metals dates back to the start of mining operations by its predecessor, Mitsui Gumi, in 1874.

The Takehara Refinery has acted as the company's gold refinery since its establishment in 1943.

Since 2000, the sale of the company's gold bars has been undertaken jointly with Mitsui Mining & Smelting Co Ltd following the establishment of **Pan Pacific Copper Co Ltd** (PPCU), which is owned by Nippon Mining (66%) and Mitsui Mining (34%).

Mitsui Mining & Smelting Co Ltd operates internationally through more than 40 subsidiary and affiliated companies that are located in Japan, China, Hong Kong, India, Malaysia, Peru, South Korea, Taiwan and the USA.

Annual gold refining capacity at the Takehara Refinery is around 22 tonnes.

Number of employees: 2,200 (total company).

Accreditation

1981 London Bullion Market Association

1982 Tokyo Commodity Exchange

Websites:

Mitsui Mining & Smelting Co Ltd: www.mitsui-kinzoku.co.jp

Pan Pacific Copper Co Ltd: www.ppcu.co.jp



Mitsui Mining & Smelting Co Ltd, incorporated in 1950, traces its origins back to 1874.



The Takehara Refinery has refined gold since its establishment in 1943.



The company has issued London Good Delivery 400 oz bars since 1982.



TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION

Weight	Type	Fineness	Shape	Dimensions mm	First Made	Serial Number System	System Introduced
400 oz	Cast	999.9	Rectangular	255 x 77.5 x 35 240 x 60 (base)	2007	6 numbers Plus year date	1982 2007
10 kg*	Cast	999.9	Rectangular	80 x 55 x 48	1960	n.a.	n.a.
1000 g	Cast	999.9	Rectangular	117 x 52 x 9	1982	7 numbers	1982
500 g	Cast	999.9	Rectangular	86 x 42 x 8	1982	7 numbers	1982
100 g	Minted	999.9	Rectangular	47.5 x 27.5 x 4.3	1982	7 numbers	1982

Source: Mitsui Mining & Smelting Co Ltd. * Approximate weight.

HISTORY OF GOLD BAR MANUFACTURE

The company's gold bars were originally denominated in monmes (1 monme = 3.75 g) until 1952, when a 5 kg cast bar was introduced, followed by a 10 kg bar in 1960. The 5 kg bar was discontinued in 1981.

In 1982, three new cast bars were introduced: 400 oz, 1000 g and 500 g. In the same year, the 100 g and 50 g minted bars were launched. In 1998, the 50 g minted bar was discontinued.

In 2007, the dimensions of the 400 oz bar were changed to conform with LBMA requirements. The dimensions of the historical 400 oz bar in mm: 169 x 71 (top), 186 x 67 (base), 50 (thickness).

The official stamp has retained the same symbol since 1943, the current version of the symbol used since 1982.



Refining gold at the Takehara Refinery, located in the Hiroshima Prefecture.

EXAMPLES OF GOLD BARS



1000 g



500 g

OFFICIAL STAMP

On bars issued since 1982.

CERTIFICATION MARK

On small bars, 1000 g and less, since 1982.





400 oz



10 kg

Not actual size

The dimensions of the London Good Delivery 400 oz bar were modified in 2007.

THE INDUSTRY COLLECTION OF GOLD BARS WORLDWIDE

The **Industry Collection of Gold Bars Worldwide** is a worldwide effort to create a unique collection of standard, innovative and unusual gold bars to support the promotion of gold.

Since 1993, manufacturers from across the globe have supported this international project by making their bars available. The Founder was **N.M. Rothschild & Sons (Australia) Limited**, associated with N M Rothschild & Sons Limited, London. The Custodian and Official Location is **The Perth Mint**, wholly owned by the Government of Western Australia.

The Curator is **Grendon International Research Pty Ltd** (GIR). Apart from acting as a consultant within the gold industry, GIR has published several reference books on gold, including *The Industry Catalogue of Gold Bars Worldwide*.

Refer to disclaimer on website: www.goldbarsworldwide.com

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