



POINÇON DE GENÈVE

Summary of changes

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1. Preamble

This document summarises the changes in the "Poinçon de Genève."

It explains, develops and illustrates the stipulations of Law I 1 25 instituting the Geneva Laboratory of Horology and Microengineering.

The "Hallmark of Geneva" Technical Commission defines herein the careful attention that craftsmen involved in watch construction, watchmaking, finishing and mechanics must bring to the various quality components of the "Poinçon de Genève."

1.1 Definition

The "Poinçon de Genève" is a standard of excellence stemming from the tradition of Fine Watchmaking.

It is a guarantee of origin (mechanical movement assembled, adjusted and cased-up in the Canton of Geneva), quality of craftsmanship, durability and exceptional knowhow.

For over a century, the "Poinçon de Genève" has been a benchmark for quality that is synonymous with the excellence of a traditional knowhow.

Since 2009, the Geneva Laboratory of Horology and Microengineering (hereafter TIMELAB) has been responsible for the activities of the "Poinçon de Genève".

2. Admission conditions

Only mechanical watch movements and additional modules crafted based on the finest watchmaking practices in compliance with the approval criteria for the "Poinçon de Genève" shall be considered.

Assembly, adjustment and casing-up of the movement and the additional module shall be performed in the Canton of Geneva.

The applicant must be registered with the Trade Register of the Canton of Geneva.

- Assembly – assembling all the constituent components on a movement and an additional module.
- Adjustment – mounting, starting and adjusting the regulating organ in the movement.
- Casing-up – fitting the dial and hands, inserting and securing the movement in the watch case.

Each movement and watch case must be individually numbered.

2.1 The different steps for obtaining the "Poinçon de Genève"

To obtain the "Poinçon de Genève," it is essential to comply with the steps described below, namely:

- Approval of the movement, additional modules and the external components.
- Hallmarking the movement with the "Poinçon de Genève".
- Certification of the movement, additional modules and the external components.
- Certification of the "watch head", or cased-up watch.
- Printing of the watch certificate.

3. Approval of the movement and the external components

The approval applies to all components of the movement, to any additional modules and to the external components. In referring to one or several module(s), the singular form is used. All of the components must meet the "Poinçon de Genève" criteria.

The application for approval must be duly completed.

The applicant must submit the following items in the order listed:

- A set of 2D drawings ¹.
- All components of the movement and/or any additional modules.
- An assembled movement and/or module.
- All the external components.

When all components meet the "Poinçon de Genève" criteria, the applicant shall submit:

- A complete reference kit of all components of the movement, any additional modules and the external components ¹.
- A reference movement/module ¹.

TIMELAB (the Foundation of the Geneva Laboratory of Horology and Microengineering) draws up:

- An approval report.

The standard time required for approval is 2 weeks.

All hallmarked movements must be fitted into a "Poinçon de Genève" watch.

¹ Depending on the complexity, confidentiality and production, a waiver may be requested from the technical commission.

4. Certification of the movement

For each movement or additional module approved (hereafter the movement), the certification phase can be initiated.

Certification ensures that the components are identical in all respects to those that have been approved.

Inspections are carried out at several stages of production:

- Component inventory
- Movement assembly
- Assembled movement inventory

TIMELAB guarantees the compliance with the criteria through periodic inspections at the company.

These inspections are carried out by TIMELAB personnel under the supervision of the "Poinçon de Genève" department.

The inspections are scheduled according to a monitoring plan that specifies the method and frequency of monitoring.

The purpose of these periodic inspections is to verify that each component fully meets the "Hallmark of Geneva" criteria based on the reference kit of the approved movement.

In case of dispute, only the reference kit of the calibre, owned by TIMELAB, shall constitute authoritative proof.

Each inspection is documented by a monitoring report (see appendices).

5. The criteria for the movement

5.1 Assessment conditions

The workmanship is assessed with a 4x magnification lens (N° 2^{1/2}).
If necessary the assessment can be confirmed by using a lens of up to 15x magnification.

5.2 Materials

Components made of polymers are not permitted.
The technical commission of the Geneva hallmark may at any time adapt the criteria according to the development of new materials in watchmaking.

5.3 Shaped parts and supplies

Shaped parts and supplies must have polished chamfers, straight-grained sides and smoothed down or levelled faces.

- Screw heads have to be polished or circular-grained with chamfered edges and slots.
- Domed screw heads have to be polished or circular grained.
- Colouring is permitted provided the finish conforms.
- The end of the screw foot must be polished and have no trace of its detachment.
- The flat or domed ends of pins must be polished.
- All parts that are not mentioned in the technical regulations must comply with the requirements laid down in the homologation of the calibre.

5.4 Strip springs and jumper springs

- Wire springs are not accepted.
- The entire edges of springs and jumper springs must be chamfered except for the functional parts.
- Any operation on a strip spring of 0.18 [mm] thickness or less that could be detrimental to the functional stiffness of the spring may be waived.
- All strip or jumper springs must have a heel.

5.5 Baseplates, plates for additional mechanisms and bridges.

Baseplates, plates for additional mechanisms (modules) and bridges must have:

- Polished chamfers.
- Straight-grained sides.
- Circular-graining or finishes that eliminate all machining traces.
- Smoothed down bridge supports.
- Polished bevels in holes and recesses.
- Polished sinks for jewel holes.

The tops of bridges must be finished with Geneva stripes or any other decoration that eliminates machining marks.

5.6 Jewelling

All movements must be provided on the train and escapement with jewel bearings having polished holes. On the bridge side the jewels must be semi-brilliant with polished sinks. An endstone in the baseplate for the centre-wheel is not required.

Movements with shock-absorbing devices are permitted.

For the rest of the movement and additional plates any jewel of good quality or other bearing is permitted.

5.7 Wheel train

The requirements for the wheels of the going-train are as follows:

- They must be chamfered above and below.
- In wheels 0.15 [mm] thick or less, a single chamfer is allowed.
- They must have polished sinks.
- For wheels less than 0.15 [mm] thick, a single sink is allowed.
- The shape and position of the sink are at the discretion of the applicant provided the sink is polished.
- The crossing, hub and rim of the wheels must be chamfered.
- The functional parts of the pivot-shanks and pivots, including their faces must be burnished. The other parts must be finished so as to eliminate all machining traces.
- The pinion faces must be finished so as to remove all machining traces, without rounding off their edges and/or flattening out burrs. Polishing, grinding or any other finishing operations are acceptable provided they do not contravene the foregoing requirements.
- The pinion leaves must be polished without modifying the functional part of their tips.

The requirements for the wheels and gears that are not in the going train are as follows:

- They must be finished so as to remove all machining traces.
- They must be polished if the material used allows it.
- Wheels with crossings must be finished in the same way as the going-train wheels.
- The ratchet-wheel and the crown-wheel must be decorated so as to remove all machining traces.
- The ratchet-wheel and the crown-wheel must have chamfered and polished teeth.

5.8 The escapement

For movements with a total diameter exceeding 18 [mm]:

- The thickness of the escape-wheel must not exceed 0.16 [mm]. The locking-faces of its teeth must be polished.

For movements with a total diameter of less than 18 [mm]:

- The thickness of the escape-wheel must not exceed 0.13 [mm]. The locking-faces of its teeth must be polished.

The angle described by the lever is to be limited by fixed banking-walls to the exclusion of pins or studs.

5.9 The stud and adjustment index

The balance-spring may be pinned up with a grooved plate having a rounded collar and cap. A mobile stud holder is acceptable so long as it can be locked in position.

Split or fitted indexes are allowed with a holding system except in extra-thin calibres where the holding system is not required.

Balance-wheels adjusted by variable inertia are acceptable.

5.10 Adjustment system

Adjustment: fitting, starting and adjusting the sprung balance.

Balance-spring fitting (pinning up to the stud and collet and counting the spring) may be undertaken outside the Canton of Geneva.

The balance-spring must not be glued in position; it may however be welded.

6. Casing-up components criteria

The parts connecting the movement with the case and dial must be finished according to the criteria governing the parts of the movement.

The casing-up components are as follows:

- Clamps and braces.
- Dog screws.
- Screws for the extensions and levers of the pushpieces.
- Casing-up rings.
- Pivoting levers.
- Extensions of the pushpieces.

In general, the parts must be finished as follows:

- Fine turning without burrs.
- Fine milling, without burrs.
- Trimmed chamfers.

In particular:

- The clamps and braces must be finished by sanding, smoothing down or in a tumbling drum (tribofinish).
- The screws for clamps, braces, levers and pushpiece extensions must be finished as follows:
 - Domed screw-heads must be polished.
 - Flat screw-heads must be mirror-polished with bevelled rims.
 - Nipping traces are not permitted in any material.
- Casing-up rings must be finished properly in line with the sample watch submitted.
- The pushpiece levers and extensions must be finished properly in line with the sample watch submitted.

All components must be true to the reference kit submitted.

7. Hallmarking the movement

Every completed movement must have the visible mark (only on the movement) of the “Poinçon de Genève” on one of its components (baseplate, bridges, etc.).

Wherever possible, the mark must be placed on the component bearing the serial number.

This marking operation is performed under the responsibility of the applicant and is done exclusively at TIMELAB in the “Poinçon de Genève” department.

The marking step may be done either on a movement blank or a completed movement. TIMELAB is responsible for providing and maintaining the marking machine.

On a movement, the hallmark is affixed to the baseplate and/or one of the bridges. The location may vary depending on the calibre.

On an additional mechanism, the “Poinçon de Genève” may be placed on the baseplate and/or one of the bridges.

Each movement serial number is noted and recorded in a database.

8. Certification of the "watch head" (cased-up watch)

100% of the watches are inspected.

The certification of the "watch head" is carried out according to the characteristics and criteria defined by the "Poinçon de Genève" (see Chapter 9. Criteria for the "watch head". This is done by the personnel of the applicant. At the request of the applicant, this certification operation may under certain conditions be performed in the "Poinçon de Genève" department.

The inspection procedure and documentation related to the certification of the "watch head" are defined by the "Poinçon de Genève" (see Chapter 9. Criteria for the "watch head")

The applicant shall record all test results performed over a period of 10 years and is required to submit the test data each year to TIMELAB for inclusion in the Hallmark archives.

The applicant must be able at all times to provide all measurement and inspection records to the TIMELAB personnel working in the "Hallmark of Geneva" department.

The "Poinçon de Genève" regularly updates the test results register.

The "Poinçon de Genève" does not impose a specific make or model of equipment to be used for the inspections, but it does set the minimum specifications the equipment must meet.

TIMELAB reserves the right to make inspections at any time on the "watch head"s in its laboratory.

The characteristics inspected are:

- Water resistance.
- Accuracy.
- Functional test.
- Power reserve.

9. Criteria for the “watch head” (cased-up watch)

All the watches must be certified.

The criteria for the cased-up watch are laid out below according to its various features:

Features	Acceptance criteria
Water resistance ¹	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Pressure of 3 bars – Negative pressure of 0.5 bars
Accuracy	≤ 1 minute after 7 days
Fonctions ²	Tested over one cycle
Power reserve	≥ the value announced

¹ The maker’s figure is verified

² The functions are verified as a whole

9.1 Water resistance

- The hermetic value is tested in the atmosphere.
- A water-resistant watch must comply with the accepted figures.
- If the watch is not water resistant, this must be specified in the certificate.

9.2 Accuracy

- The accuracy is tested over seven consecutive days.
- Manually wound and selfwinding watches are tested on a machine simulating the movements of the wearer.
- The watches move through a cycle of one revolution a minute for 14 hours and are then stopped for 10 hours in any position.
- At the end of 7 days the position of the minutes hand is compared with its position at the start of the test.

Procedure

- The states of the watch at the start (0) and the end (7) of the test are compared visually.
- The states are compared with a reference time.
- The state of the watch at 7 must not exceed one minute.
- The advance of the date is checked at 7.

Remark :

- All the watches must be fully wound and, if the watch allows, the date must be set to February 26 of a leap-year.
- Manually wound watches must be fully wound every 24 hours.
- Selfwinding watches must not be wound manually throughout the test.
- The chronograph must run during the first 24 hours of the test.

9.3 Functional test

Checking the functions:

- All the functions of the watch are tested over one cycle.

9.4 Power reserve

The power reserve is checked with the watch dial up and the result must equal or exceed the claim made by the maker.

For chronographs, the applicant must state whether the power reserve is to be considered with the chronograph running or stopped.

10. Monitoring plan

Personnel of the “Poinçon de Genève” department regularly visit applicants and subcontractors according to a monitoring plan.

The “Poinçon de Genève” personnel must have access to all production facilities and equipment of the applicants as well as the inspection data.

The applicant must designate a “Poinçon de Genève” contact person and alternate, who, based on their duties and technical knowledge, will interface with the personnel of TIMELAB working in the “Poinçon de Genève” department, during inspections.

11. Obtaining the label and printed certificate

A watch that has passed all the inspections is eligible for the “Poinçon de Genève” label and a printed certificate.

A “Poinçon de Genève” watch cannot be sold without its certificate.

The pre-numbered certificate is printed by the “Poinçon de Genève” department. The applicant may under certain conditions ask to perform this operation in its own facilities. However, this operation remains under the exclusive control of TIMELAB.

Each certificate has a unique number, which shall include:

- The serial number of the movement.
- The serial number of the watch case.

As an additional service, it is possible to obtain:

- A “Poinçon de Genève” seal.

12. Duplicate of the watch certificate

If the certificate is lost, TIMELAB can provide a duplicate at the request of the applicant. The "duplicate" indication will not appear on the certificate. Any re-printing of a certificate will be recorded by the "Poinçon de Genève."

13. Conditions for using the "Hallmark of Geneva" logo

TIMELAB, the "Poinçon de Genève" department, makes its logo available to applicants. It can be used in articles relating to the "Hallmark of Geneva" in newspapers, news magazines, trade press and the Internet. Applicants must respect the graphic identity of the "Poinçon de Genève."

Any other use by anyone other than the applicants is subject to authorisation by TIMELAB.

14. Disputes

In the event of a dispute or challenge concerning the criteria of the "Poinçon de Genève," the applicant shall bring the matter before the Technical Commission.

For any other dispute, the TIMELAB Foundation Council will issue a ruling.

The competent jurisdiction is in Geneva.

15. Sanctions

Inspection errors and failure to meet quality standards shall result in sanctions.

16. Entry into force

The new certification shall be applicable as of June 1st 2012. Applicants have until June 1st 2013 to ensure their compliance with the new certification.

17. Information

For information related to the "Poinçon de Genève" or these technical regulations, please contact:

TIMELAB

Foundation of the Geneva Laboratory of Horology and Microengineering
"Poinçon de Genève" department

Chemin de la Gravière 2

CH – 1227 Les Acacias

Tel. +41 (0)22 308 58 80 / Fax +41 (0)22 308 58 81

E-mail – pg@timelab.ch

www.poincondeneve.ch

18. Glossary

- **Assembly:** assembling all the constituent components on a movement and an additional module.
- **Additional module plate or platform:** additional plate that supports a removable mechanism.
- **Adjustment:** mounting, starting and adjusting the regulating organ in the movement.
- **Casing-up:** fitting the dial and hands, inserting and securing the movement in the watch case.
- **Movement:** all the components that make up the heart of the watch.
- **Watch:** portable device used to indicate the time that works in all positions. The watch consists of a "watch head" or cased-up watch, usually associated with a wristband.
- **Watch case:** case used to protect the movement of the watch against dust, moisture and impact.
- **"Watch head" (cased-up watch):** this consists of a watch case with a cased-up movement.