



Intelligence Bulletin

TARGETING FRAUD IN THE PRECIOUS METALS REFINING INDUSTRY

Overview

The Serious Financial Crime Taskforce (Taskforce) is aware of artificial arrangements in the gold bullion and precious metals refining industry following intelligence and other activities conducted by Taskforce member agencies.

Description

We are seeing sophisticated arrangements that attempt to obscure transactions of recycled 'investment form' precious metals.

We believe there are groups or networks of industry participants, including refiners, bullion dealers, gold kiosks, dealers and buyers within established supply chains involved in gold recycling (or carousel type) arrangements, seeking to exploit the GST rules in relation to precious metals.

These artificial arrangements are established to obtain a benefit from the tax system of which there is no entitlement and are tax crimes.

Taskforce action

The Taskforce views schemes that exploit GST rules using artificial arrangements to be fraud. The Taskforce targets deliberate and organised evasion of taxation obligations and is currently reviewing referrals related to these schemes.

Data matching and analytics mean that perpetrators of carousel type arrangements will be identified and dealt with using the full force of the law.

What should you do?

If you think you or someone else might be involved in such arrangements, unwittingly or otherwise, you can report information by:

- Completing the **Report a Commonwealth crime to the AFP form**
- Contacting the ATO to report tax evasion online by completing an **online tax evasion report**, or by phoning 1800 060 062.

Additional information about the Taskforce and its enforcement efforts may be found on the **Taskforce website**.