

Exportation of Cultural Goods, Archaeological Objects, Documents and Pictures

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Enquiries concerning this instruction:

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1. Introduction

[Council Regulation 116/2009](#) provides for the control on the export of cultural goods. The Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media is the competent authority with responsibility for the implementation of the regulation. The aim of the regulation is to ensure that the export of cultural goods is subject to the presentation of an export licence.

Cultural goods in general refer to:

- Archaeological objects from excavations and archaeological sites over 100 years;
- Sculptures, books etc. more than 100 years old;
- Pictures and paintings.

2. Legislation

[Council Regulation 116/2009](#)

[Commission Implementing Regulation 1081/2012](#)

Customs Act 2015

National Cultural Institutions Act 1997

3. Prohibition/Restriction

a) Third Country Exports

The export to third countries of certain cultural goods, archaeological objects, documents and pictures is restricted, except under licence under the National Cultural Institutions Act 1997. Details of these goods can be found in [Annex 1 to the Regulation 116/2009](#)

The Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media is the competent authority for the issue of a licence to export cultural goods/objects to destinations outside the EU.

b) Within the EU

Cultural goods subject to restrictions under the National Cultural Institutions Act 1997 require a licence from the following bodies:-

National Museum of Ireland: archaeological objects,

National Library of Ireland: documents, manuscripts, paintings or drawings.

The following material is either exempt from or not required to be published under the Freedom of Information Act 2014.

[...]

6. Enquiries Concerning This Manual

Any enquiries relating to this manual should be directed to:

Prohibitions and Restrictions Unit

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