



Commonwealth Fact Sheet



PROTECTION OF MOVABLE CULTURAL HERITAGE ACT 1986

If your project involves exporting Australian cultural property, such as artworks, historical, archaeological, numismatic, philatelic, science or technology objects, you need to consider whether the objects are culturally significant. The Act restricts the export of such objects and strict penalties apply for non-compliance.

1. What approvals do I need?

The National Cultural Heritage Control List categorises objects into two categories:

- Class A: cannot be exported
- Class B: require export permits (General, Permanent, or Temporary)

More information on these classes is available from the Office for the Arts [website](#).

Certificates of exemption are required to import and re-export both Class A and Class B objects.

2. Who provides approvals?

The Office for the Arts within the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications regulates the movement of culturally significant objects under the [Protection of Movable Cultural Heritage Act 1986](#) and supporting [Regulations](#).

3. How do I get Commonwealth approval?

Applications for export permits and certificates of exemption are made with the Office for the Arts. Applications are referred to expert examiners and the

National Cultural Heritage Committee for consideration.

The Minister for Communications, Urban Infrastructure, Cities and the Arts, or their delegate, provides final approval upon recommendation by the National Cultural Heritage Committee.

Export permit application form is available [online](#).

4. More information

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For more information, visit the Office for the Arts [website](#) or contact:

Phone: 1800 819 461

Email: movable.heritage@arts.gov.au

Major Projects Facilitation Agency

If you would like assistance to identify the regulatory obligations for your project, please visit our [Online Tool](#) or contact us:

Email: mpfa@industry.gov.au