

## How to export artworks from Hungary

[cultural goods subject to export licensing and the process of final or temporary licensing based on Hungarian / EU rules]

In one way or another, all EU Member States apply rules for the export of artworks (or, using a broader term, cultural goods). In Hungary, export licensing regulations have been in place for over a century. Since the 1990's, one central cultural authority has been responsible for this: **final or temporary export licences, based on Hungarian or EU legislation, are currently issued by the Inspectorate of Cultural Goods at the Prime Minister's Office.** Cultural goods belonging to Hungary's National Treasures – i.e., either owned by public collections or classified as 'irreplaceable and of outstanding significance' ('protected', or, in Hungarian, 'VÉDETT')– are only allowed to leave Hungary with an obligation to return, on the basis of a temporary export licence. **Cultural goods** that do not belong to this category but **the age and market value of which exceed the legal thresholds, need a (final) export licence** to leave the country, even if the destination is another EU Member State.

### Legal thresholds for cultural goods subject to export licensing requirement

1.	<b>Objects found in the soil or under water</b> and not classified as archeological finds (the export of archeological finds – i.e., objects older than 1711, found in the soil or under water in Hungary – is not allowed)	age	<b>at least 50 years</b>
		market value	<b>none</b>
2.	<b>Objects originating from artistic, historical or religious monuments</b> and forming an integral part of them	age	<b>at least 50 years</b>
		market value	<b>none</b>
3.	<b>Paintings</b> , except those included in categories 4 and 5 or owned by the artist, executed by hand in any medium and on any material	age	<b>at least 50 years</b>
		market value	<b>at least HUF 1,000,000</b>
4.	<b>Watercolours, gouache or pastel paintings</b> , except those owned by the artist, executed by hand on any material	age	<b>at least 50 years</b>
		market value	<b>at least HUF 300,000</b>
5.	<b>Drawings and mosaics</b> , except those included in categories 1, 2 or 4 or owned by the artist, executed by hand on any material	age	<b>at least 50 years</b>
		market value	<b>at least HUF 300,000</b>
6.	Original <b>prints and multiples</b> and their respective plates, as well as original posters, except those owned by the artist	age	<b>at least 50 years</b>
		market value	<b>at least HUF 300,000</b>
7.	Original <b>sculptures</b> , except those included in category 1 or owned by the artist, as well as their copies produced by	age	<b>at least 50 years</b>

	the same process as the original	market value	<b>at least HUF 500,000</b>
8.	<b>Photographs, films</b> and their negatives, except those owned by the artist	age	<b>at least 50 years</b>
		market value	<b>at least HUF 300,000</b>
9.	Incunabula and <b>manuscripts</b> , including books with hand-written notices, hand-made maps and musical scores (singly or in collections), except those owned by the artist	age	<b>at least 50 years</b>
		market value	<b>none</b>
10.	<b>Books</b> (singly or in collections), except those included in category 9	age	<b>at least 100 years</b>
		market value	<b>at least HUF 300,000</b>
11.	<b>Printed maps</b>	age	<b>at least 100 years</b>
		market value	<b>at least HUF 300,000</b>
12.	<b>Archives</b> , and any elements thereof, of any kind or any mediumr	age	<b>at least 50 years</b>
		market value	<b>none</b>
13.	(a) <b>Collections</b> and specimens from natural historical (zoological, botanical, paleontological, mineralogical, anatomical) collections (b) Collections of historical, ethnographic or numismatic interest	age	<b>none</b>
		market value	<b>at least HUF 500,000</b>
14.	<b>Means of transport</b>	age	<b>at least 50 years</b>
		market value	<b>at least HUF 500,000</b>
15.	<b>Other antique items</b> not included in categories 1-14, especially pieces of furniture; articles of wood; tapestries and carpets; wallpapers; gold, silver, or glass objects; pottery; coins and medals; clocks, watches and their parts; arms and armour; musical instruments; toys; as well as optical, photographic or cinematographic equipment	age	<b>at least 50 years</b>
		market value	<b>at least HUF 300,000</b>

When you hand in an application for export licence, you don't need to know whether an EU or a national licence is necessary. There is **one single application form** for all cultural goods.

In case a licence would, on the basis of the age or market value of the object you wish to export, not be necessary, you can still apply for a certificate (e.g., if no receipt is available and you want to avoid potential misunderstandings). In this case, the same application form can be used.

The fee for export licensing – HUF 7,200 per object or set of related objects – is payable upon filing the application. **Objects need to be examined and documented by the Inspectorate** on its official premises, or – in case of large objects that are difficult to transport – on the objects' location.

Issuing an export licence is declined only for objects that are registered in the Inspectorate's database as classified (belonging to Hungary's National Treasures), or stolen or missing. In very exceptional cases, objects can be declared classified as a result of the examination for export licensing. This also leads to a refusal of export licence. (According to statistics, this happens with less than 0,1% of applications).

After filing an application – usually sooner than the **60-day official deadline** – you receive, for each object or set of related objects you wish to export, a '**Certificate for Cultural Goods**' that can be used as an export licence. This certifies that the given object is not registered in the Inspectorate's database as classified (part of Hungary's National Treasures), or stolen or missing. Since a Certificate is valid for a longer period of time (usually 10 years), and does not contain the name of the owner but only the object's description, it can be kept together with the object by subsequent owners in order to prove the object's legal provenance.

In case the export of an object falls under EU legislation (i.e., the destination is a third country, and the object's age and market value exceed the higher thresholds set in EU legislation), the export licence is issued using the relevant EU form. EU licences issued in Hungary are valid in all Member States.

In case the regulations for the export of cultural goods are violated, fines and penal sanctions can be applied. Objects without valid export licences can be seized by customs authorities, with the owners facing official procedures.

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