

Export of cultural goods from Poland is based on the Polish Act on the Protection of Monuments and the Guardianship of Monuments of 23 July, 2003 (Journal of Laws No. 162, item 1568).

Export of monuments takes place based on:

- 1) single licence for the permanent export of monument;
- 2) single licence for the temporary export of monument;
- 3) specific open licence for the temporary export of monument;
- 4) general open licence for the temporary export of monument.

The single licence for the permanent export of monument is issued by the Minister in Charge of Culture and National Heritage whereas licence for the temporary export of monument is issued by the Voivodship Inspector of Monuments. In the case of library materials dated before 1 January, 1949 licences are issued by the Director of the National Library.

Export licences are not required in the case of:

- 1) monuments that are not more than 55 years old;
- 2) monuments being sites of technology that are not more than 25 years old;
- 3) monuments imported from other country that are afterwards exported again to the same country of origin (for example monuments imported to Poland to be restored or renovated, to be exhibited or in order to furnish consular posts);
- 4) works of living artists;
- 5) library materials dated after 31 December, 1948;
- 6) other objects with monuments attributes that do not have status of the monument.

In all above mentioned cases a certificate stating that objects do not require export licence must be obtained. The certificates are issued by the Voivodship Inspector of Monuments.

The obligation to obtain a license concern both exportation of cultural objects from Poland to EU and non-EU countries.

Under the above mentioned legal Act on the Protection of Monuments and the Guardianship of Monuments exportation of cultural goods without a relevant licence is a crime.

Detailed information can be obtained from Ministry of Culture and National Heritage at <http://www.mk.gov.pl> or Ośrodek Ochrony Zbiorów Publicznych at <http://www.icons.pl> .