



Export of Protected Objects

On 1 November 2006, the export of New Zealand's significant cultural heritage will be regulated by the Protected Objects Act. Under the Act, export permission is required from the Ministry for Culture and Heritage

If you are an exporter, the main changes between the Antiquities Act and the Protected Objects Act will be :-

The 9 Categories of Protected Objects

Schedule Four of the Protected Objects Act 1975 lists 9 categories of protected New Zealand objects. They are:

- Archaeological, ethnographic, and historical objects of non-New Zealand origin, relating to New Zealand
- Art objects including fine, decorative, and popular art
- Documentary heritage objects
- Taonga Tūturu
- Natural science objects
- New Zealand Archaeological objects
- Numismatic and philatelic objects
- Science, technology, industry, economy, and transport objects
- Social history objects

To be a protected New Zealand object, it will also have to be of importance to New Zealand for aesthetic, archaeological, architectural, artistic, cultural, historical, literary, scientific, social, spiritual, technological, or traditional reasons.

Export Criteria

When the Ministry receives an export application it first considers if the object is a protected New Zealand object and if so, whether it can be exported. The criteria to assess export is set out in section 7 of the Act and considers the physical authenticity of the object, its history and its significance to New Zealand or part of New Zealand.

Return of Illegally Exported Objects

The Protected Objects Act will increase international protection for New Zealand heritage objects that are stolen or illegally exported from New Zealand. In 2007, New Zealand will sign the following international conventions:

- *UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property*
- *UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects.*

These new provisions will allow New Zealand to recover protected objects that have been illegally exported from the country after the signing of the Conventions. They will also allow fellow signatory countries to recover their protected objects which have been illegally exported to New Zealand.

Fund to acquire significant objects

Funding may be available from the Lottery Environment & Heritage Committee to purchase works of art or artefacts. Funding is only available where the object is of proven national significance and purchase is required to ensure the object remains in or returns to New Zealand.

Please contact 0800 824 824 or visit www.cdgo.govt.nz for further information.

- export permission will be required for objects over 50 years old
- 9 categories of Protected New Zealand Objects will describe precisely the types of objects subject to export regulation
- updated criteria will be used to assess the significance of objects in the 9 categories
- formally engaged expert examiners will give the Ministry advice on export decisions

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- Call Jo Rees on (04) 499 4229; or
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