

27th November 2009

Dear Applicant,

CHANGE IN THRESHOLD VALUES AS EXPRESSED IN STERLING REGARDING EU CATEGORIES FOR THE EXPORT OF CULTURAL GOODS

As from 1 January 2002, the thresholds for Community Licences were expressed in Euros. The thresholds for other national currencies were originally set by reference to the exchange rate for the Euro as at 31 December 2001.

To take account of possible fluctuations in the currency markets, the Commission established a mechanism allowing the re-calculation of National currencies against the Euro. The calculation of this 'countervalue' is based on the average daily value of those currencies, expressed in euro, during the 24 months ending on the last day of August preceding the revision which took effect on 31 December. On 1 January 2007, the former Head of the Export Licensing Unit, David Uffindell, wrote to applicants setting out revised thresholds in sterling applying from 1 January 2007.

Those thresholds no longer reflect the value in pounds sterling of the Euro thresholds set out in Council Regulation (EC) No 116/2009 (codified version of Council Regulation 3911/92) and Council Directive 93/7/EEC. Revised thresholds have been calculated based on the average daily value of sterling, expressed in Euros, during the 24 months ending on the last day of August 2009. These will take effect from 31 December 2009.

Please also note that Council Regulation (EC) No 116/2009 set out a revised category numbering system. From 31 December 2009 the category numbering system will also change. This revised numbering system is also set out in Annex A.

I would be grateful if you could disseminate this information throughout your organisation as appropriate.

Yours sincerely

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ANNEX A – EU categories for the export of cultural goods

Category of Cultural Object	Current Threshold value as at 1 January 2007	New Threshold value as from 31 December 2009
1. Archaeological objects more than 100 years old which are the products of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excavations and finds on land or water • Archaeological sites • Archaeological collections 	£Zero	£Zero
2. Elements forming an integral part of artistic, historical or religious monuments which have been dismembered, of an age exceeding 100 years	£Zero	£Zero
3. Pictures and paintings, other than those included in category 4 or 5, executed entirely by hand in any medium and on any material ¹	£103,000	£121,590
4. Watercolours, gouaches and pastels executed entirely by hand on any material ¹	£20,600	£24,320
5. Mosaics in any material executed entirely by hand, other than those falling in categories 1 or 2, and drawings in any medium executed by hand on any material ¹	£10,200	£12,160
6. Original engravings, prints, serigraphs and lithographs with their respective plates and original posters ¹	£10,200	£12,160
7. Original sculptures or statuary and copies produced by the same process as the original ⁽¹⁾ , other than those in category 1	£34,300	£40,530
8. Photographs, films and negatives thereof ¹	£10,200	£12,160
9. Incunabula and manuscripts, including maps and musical scores, singly or in collections ¹	£Zero	£Zero
10. Books more than 100 years old, singly or in collections	£34,300	£40,530
11. Printed maps more than 200 years old	£10,200	£12,160
12. Archives, and any elements thereof, of any kind or medium which are more than 50 years old	£Zero	£Zero
13. (a) Collections ² and specimens from zoological, botanical, mineralogical or anatomical collections; (b) Collections ² of historical, palaeontological, ethnographic or numismatic interest	£34,300	£40,530
14. Means of transport more than 75 years old	£34,300	£40,530
15. Any other antique items not included in categories 1 to 14 more than 50 years old ³	£34,300	£40,530

¹ Which are more than 50 years old and do not belong to their originators

² As defined by the Court of Justice in its judgement in Case 252/84, as follows: 'Collectors' pieces within the meaning of heading No 97.05 of the Commons Customs Tariff are articles which possess the requisite characteristics for inclusion in a collection, that is to say, articles which are relatively rare, are not normally used for their original purpose, are the subject of special transactions outside the normal trade in similar utility articles and are of high value.

³ Please note that Archaeological objects between 50-99 years old, Elements forming an integral part of artistic, historical or religious monuments which have been dismembered between 50-99 years old, Books between 50-99 years old, Printed Maps between 50-199 years old and Means of Transport between 50-74 years old do not require an individual EC licence for export to a non-EU destination. However, these objects may require an individual UK licence for export to a non-EU destination.