



Export Licensing for Cultural Goods following the end of the Transition Period: FAQs

SEPARATE FAQs WILL BE ISSUED COVERING EXPORTS FROM NORTHERN IRELAND AFTER THE END OF THE TRANSITION PERIOD

EU / UK Licences

1. Will the Export licensing Unit (ELU) at the Arts Council (ACE) still be issuing EU export licences for export from Great Britain after the end of the transition period?

Following the end of the Transition Period on 31 December 2020, the ELU will no longer issue EU export licences for cultural goods under EU Regulation 116/2009.

2. I have an EU licence that I haven't used yet – can I:

(a) still use it after 31st December 2020?

If you have an unused EU licence which was issued prior to 31 December 2020 and it has not expired you can choose to export your goods under it direct to third countries or you can instead export them under the Open General Export Licence (see para. 1(l) of the OGEL).

(b) use it if my export is to a third country via an EU Member State?

You can export the goods from Great Britain to an EU MS under either the OGEL or the EU licence issued by the ELU as per (a) above. If the goods are entered into free circulation in that EU MS then you will need an EU licence issued from that MS. If the goods are not entered into free circulation in that EU MS then you will not need an EU licence from it to export them to the rest of the world.

3. I need to export cultural goods out of the EU but don't yet have a confirmed shipment date – should I apply for an EU licence or a UK licence?

If you apply on any date up to and including 31st December 2020 you will need to apply on the EU Form. If the ELU has issued the EU licence and it is still valid on the shipment date see answers in 1 above. If the ELU has not issued the EU licence you will need to send in a UK licence application on or after 1st January 2021. Please note that the categories of goods which require an individual export licence and their value thresholds differ under the UK rules and it may be that no individual export licence is required. For example: if you want to export a still-life painting that is worth £150,000 after 31st December 2020 then you will not need an individual licence and you will be able to export it under the OGEL as the UK threshold for paintings is £180,000.

Temporary licences

4. I have goods out of the EU on a temporary EU export licence. Is it still valid or do I need to reapply?

Temporary EU export licences will remain valid for their duration.

5. Will it be possible to get an extension to my temporary EU licence if needed?

Yes, we will be able to vary the terms of your licence by extending it, but only once.

Open Individual Export Licences (OIELs)

6. I have an Open Individual Export Licence. Can I still use it after 31 December 2020?

Yes, Open Individual Export Licences are issued under UK law and will be valid for exports to any destination except an embargoed destination.

Specific Open Licences

7. Will you still be issuing EU Specific Open Licences for temporary export of motor vehicles and musical instruments?

No, we have already stopped issuing these. If you are temporarily exporting your motor vehicle or musical instrument between now and 31 December 2020 you should apply for an individual temporary licence.

8. What about after 31 December 2020?

Temporary exports of motor vehicles and musical instruments which were previously covered by a Specific Open Licence will be covered by the UK Open General Export Licence for export to any destination, so you won't need to apply for an individual licence.

9. I already have an EU Specific Open Licence for my motor vehicle/musical instrument. Can I still use it after 31 December 2020?

You won't need to use it because the UK Open General Export Licence will cover exports which were previously covered by your Specific Open Licence.

Arrangements at the UK border

10. Will I still need to have my export licence stamped at the UK border following the end of the transition period?

The government is putting in place an electronic inland pre-clearance procedure. Further details of this will be provided as soon as they are available.

If, however, you choose to export your goods under a valid EU licence issued by the ELU (see 1a above), this might need to be stamped. In these circumstances you may therefore decide to export them under the OGEL instead.

11. What about goods being exported by post?

The inland pre-clearance procedure won't apply to goods being exported by post. If you're sending goods by post after the end of the transition period, Border Force will need to stamp and return a copy of the licence to ELU. To cater for this, we've changed the UK export licence form to include two sheets: one sheet for the holder and one for Customs/BF to return to ELU. You'll need to use this new form if you are applying to export goods by post. Both sheets of the licence must be attached in an envelope marked 'Export Licence' to the outside of the package, or, if a batch, to one package.

12. What if I'm exporting goods in my luggage or vehicle?

The inland pre-clearance procedure won't apply to goods being exported as Merchandise in Baggage (MIB). If you're sending goods as MIB after the end of the transition period, Border Force will need to stamp and return a copy of the licence to ELU. To cater for this, we've changed the UK export licence form to include two sheets: one sheet for the holder and one for Customs/BF to return to ELU. You'll need to use this new form if you are exporting goods as MIB. Both sheets of the licence must travel with the goods and should be produced to Customs Authorities when requested.