



Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

General Permits

General Permits assist principal collecting institutions to temporarily export cultural heritage objects from their collections.



What is a General Permit?

Principal collecting institutions (i.e. public galleries, museums, libraries, and archives that are established under a law of the Commonwealth, a state or territory) may apply for a General Permit under the [Protection of Movable Cultural Heritage Act 1986](#) to assist in the temporary export of Class B Australian Protected Objects (APOs) that have been accessioned into their collection.

What are APOs?

The National Cultural Heritage List Control (the Control List) in Schedule 1 to the [Protection of Movable Cultural Heritage Regulations 2018](#) prescribes categories of objects that constitute the movable cultural heritage of Australia and are subject to export control. These objects are APOs. If an object is included in a category of Class B, APOs an Export Permit is required. Export permits may not be granted for objects that are included in a category of Class AAPOs.

General Permit Conditions

General Permit holders can manage the export process internally, without having to apply for individual Export Permits for each Class B APO they export on loan for the purposes of research or public exhibition.

General Permit holders are required to meet a few conditions, including:

- > A copy of the General Permit must accompany the object at all times.
- > An object may be exported on loan for up to two years. Should an extension of the export term be required, an Application to Vary the term must be submitted at least one month before it expires.
- > Permit holders must maintain a register of all objects temporarily exported or returned using their General Permit, and provide a report to the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts at the end of each financial year.

Find out more

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