Information sheet on existing import and export regulations

This information sheet is intended to inform the customers of Leu Numismatik AG about existing import and export regulations of contracting states. The relevant legally binding provisions of federal legislation can be found at www.fedlex.admin.ch/de/home. Further information on the CPTA/CPTO can be found on the homepage of the Federal Office of Culture (BAK) at www.bak.admin.ch (under the heading Transfer of cultural property) or www.bazg.admin.ch (Federal Office for Customs and Border Security BAZG).

1. Legal basis

Switzerland is a member of the Convention of November 14, 1970 on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property ("UNESCO Convention of 1970", SR 0.444.1) and the Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage of November 2, 2001 ("UNESCO Convention of 2001", SR 0.444.2). A list of the contracting states can be found at the end of each convention (scope of application).

The UNESCO Convention of 1970 and the UNESCO Convention of 2001 were transposed into Swiss national law by means of the Federal Act on the International Transfer of Cultural Property (KGTG, SR 444.1) and the associated Ordinance (KGTV, SR 444.11). The KGTG and KGTV came into force on June 1, 2005.

2. Cultural property

Cultural property is items of property of significance for archeology, prehistory, history, literature, art or science for religious or secular reasons, which belong to one of the categories under Art. 1 of the 1970 UNESCO Convention or under Art. 1 para. 1(b) of the 2001 UNESCO Convention.

Antique coins can in principle also be cultural property within the meaning of the KGTG. The definition of cultural property in the KGTG is based on the definition of the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, which explicitly lists coins that are more than 100 years old as a category of cultural property in Art. 1(e).

A checklist for determining whether an object is to be classified as cultural property can be found on the homepage of the Federal Office of Culture under "FAQ - Frequently asked questions on the application of the KGTG":

https://www.bak.admin.ch/bak/de/home/kulturerbe/kulturguetertransfer.html.

3. Permit requirement

(i) Import (incl. temporary usage and storage) and transit

Anyone importing cultural property that is the subject of a bilateral agreement into Switzerland or transiting it through Switzerland must prove to the customs authorities that the export provisions of the foreign contracting state have been fulfilled. If the foreign contracting state requires a permit for the export (so-called export permit), this must be submitted to the customs authorities (Art. 24 para. 3 KGTV). If no such export permit is available, the import into Switzerland is considered illegal.

Leu Numismatik AG · Stadthausstrasse 143 · 8400 Winterthur · Switzerland
Phone +41 52 214 11 10 · info@leunumismatik.com · www.leunumismatik.com

Switzerland has currently (status as of 15 June 2026) concluded bilateral agreements with the following countries:

Bolivia, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Egypt, Greece, Italy, Mexico, Peru, Turkey

A list of bilateral agreements can be found on the homepage of the Federal Office of Culture under "FAQ - Frequently asked questions on the application of the KGTG":

https://www.bak.admin.ch/bak/de/home/kulturerbe/kulturguetertransfer.html

(ii) Export

Certain cultural property owned by the Confederation is entered in the Federal Register:

(https://www.bak.admin.ch/bak/de/home/kulturerbe/kulturguetertransfer/bundesverzeichnis.html).

The definitive export of this cultural property from Switzerland is prohibited. Temporary export requires a permit from the Federal Office of Culture, which must be submitted to the customs authorities.

When importing and transferring cultural property from Switzerland to the EU, the provisions of Regulation (EU) 2019/880 on the introduction and import of cultural property ("EU Import Regulation") must also be observed. The text of the regulation is available at the following link:

https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/ALL/?uri=CELEX%3A32019R0880

The EU import regulation has a tiered regulatory system with (i) import ban, (ii) import authorization and (iii) import permit, depending on the part of the Annex in which they are classified.

Coins and engraved seals that are over 200 years old are listed in Part C of the Annex to the EU Regulation under lit. e. If their value exceeds EUR 18,000 or more per item (customs value), they are subject to a declaration by the importer within the meaning of Art. 5 EU Regulation.

The EU Commission has developed an electronic system for import authorization and declaration procedures. The use of this system - known as the ICG system (Import of Cultural Goods) - has been mandatory since June 28, 2025, for:

(i) submission of import license applications;

(ii) transmission of declarations by the importer;

(iii) exchange and storage of information between national authorities.

Further information can be found in the "Factsheet EU Import Regulation 2019_880_E_20.08.2025", available on the BAK website: https://www.bak.admin.ch/bak/en/home/cultural-heritage/transfer-of-cultural-property/import--transit-and-export-of-cultural-property.html

4. Customs declaration

Anyone importing, transiting or exporting cultural property must state the following cumulatively in the customs declaration (Art. 4a KGTG in conjunction with Art. 25 KGTV; emphasis added):

(i) **object type of the cultural property;**

(ii) as precise information as possible on the **place of manufacture** or, if it is the result of archaeological or paleontological excavations or discoveries, on the place where the cultural property was found;

(iii) **dating of the cultural property;**

(iv) **mass of the cultural property.**

In the case of collective consignments, the information must be provided for each individual item of cultural property in the collective consignment.

Anyone importing cultural property must state in the customs declaration whether or not the export of the cultural property from a contracting state is subject to a permit under the legislation of that state. If so, this must be submitted to the customs authorities.

Anyone exporting cultural property must indicate in the customs declaration by selecting the appropriate key whether the object is entered in the federal register or a cantonal register (911), is listed in the annexes to a bilateral agreement (912) or is another item of cultural property (913).

The storage of cultural property in a bonded warehouse (duty-free warehouse or open bonded warehouse OZL) is also considered an import within the meaning of the KGTG (Art. 19 para. 3 KGTG) and is carried out with a (customs) declaration for storage. In addition, the warehouse keeper must keep an inventory record for all stored cultural property (Art. 56 and 66 Customs Act, ZG, SR 631.0; Art. 182 et seq. Customs Ordinance, ZV, SR 631.01; Art. 47 and 48 ZV-BAZG, SR 631.013).