

Convelio Guide: EU Imports for Cultural Goods

As of June 28th, 2025, the EU requires official documentation for certain cultural goods coming from outside the EU. Importers must provide either a licence or an importer statement before customs clearance. This affects dealers, collectors, museums, and shippers.

Why the regulation?

Regulation (EU) 2019/880 aims to prevent the import of cultural goods that were illegally exported from their country of origin.

The regulation has three parts:

Part A: General prohibition (illicit goods not allowed at all)

Part B: Import Licence (for goods 250+ years old)

Part C: Importer Statement (for goods 200+ years old and valued over EUR 18,000)

*Parts B and C **apply only to eligible HS codes** and specific object types — not all items over 200 years old qualify. If you're unsure whether your items meet the criteria, please contact Convelio, and we'll verify this for you.

Part A - What is banned outright

Goods illegally exported from their country of origin cannot be imported into the EU, regardless of age or value. This is a general prohibition under Part A of the regulation.

Part B - Import licence required

Applies to cultural goods **over 250 years old** from outside the EU, including archaeological objects and historical monuments. The importer or representative must apply through the Import of Cultural Goods (ICG) portal.

Part C - Importer statement required

Applies to cultural goods **over 200 years old and valued over EUR 18,000**. Only the importer can submit this via the Import of Cultural Goods (ICG) portal.

Quick checklist

- Check age and value of the item
- Confirm if Part B or C applies
- Ensure importer has an EORI number
- Submit required documentation early
- Reach out to Convelio for any guidance

Regardless of the shipping method, this must be completed before the order is shipped via DHL, FedEx, or UPS.

Quick links

- [EUR-LEX - Access EU Laws](#)
- [EU Customs](#)
- [Convelio's Customs Page](#)
- [Convelio's blog on EU Imports](#)

Convelio support

Our EU Customs team reviews all inbound orders. If your item qualifies under Parts B or C, we will notify you early and assist with the required steps. For contemporary or modern artworks, no changes apply.



Have a shipment coming up?

[**Get started**](#)