

On 1 January 2021 the United Kingdom withdrew from the European Single Market and Customs Union. New procedures are being introduced on the import and export of goods, which will affect the circulation of artworks and valuables between these two regions. This document outlines the new measures adopted so far.

Please note official guidelines are in the process of being defined by government authorities and art shippers. For further information and ad-hoc advice kindly contact [enquiries@stonehagefleming.com](mailto:enquiries@stonehagefleming.com) with the subject line: 'art management enquiry'.

### IMPORT CHARGES

Items transported between the United Kingdom and the European Union are no longer classified as in 'free circulation'. If artworks are moving across the Channel for private use in a residence, import VAT will be due based on the CIF value of the artwork (cost + insurance + freight).

#### Import VAT Rates for Artworks – SFAM selected list

E.U.	
Austria	5.4 - 13%
Belgium	6%
France	5.5%
Ireland	13.5%
Italy	10%
Luxembourg	8%
Netherlands	9%
Portugal	6 - 23%
Spain	10%
Sweden	12%

NON E.U.	
United Kingdom	5%
Switzerland	7.7%

\* Additional Import Duties or Tariffs may apply on certain collectables or if items are imported for commercial purposes.

### CUSTOMS ENTRIES

Customs controls have tightened. Art shippers are obliged to raise a Customs Entry for any movement between the United Kingdom and the European Union.



### RETURN GOODS

Artworks that have moved between the United Kingdom and the European Union within the last 3 years can be classified as 'Return Goods'. If the relevant proof of origin exists, and the items have not changed ownership, they may return free of import charges.

### UNITED KINGDOM

#### EXPORT & IMPORT PROCEDURE

Any company exporting or importing from the United Kingdom must have a valid UK Economic Operator Registration and Identification Number (EORI). Companies with an European Union EORI number must also apply for a UK EORI number. The application is free of charge and allows for businesses to be named on Customs procedures.

Private individuals do not need to be EORI registered if they import as Private residents (GB PR).

#### EXPORT LICENSES

Customs will request an export license to transport outside of the United Kingdom cultural goods that reach or exceed specific age and value threshold. The purpose of this procedure is to give the state an opportunity to retain cultural artefacts of national importance.

The time to process an export license application varies and may affect shipping schedules.

#### BONDED WAREHOUSES

The bonded warehousing procedure in the United Kingdom has not changed. This means that artworks can enter the country without paying import taxes, as long as they remain in a bonded warehouse storage.

If there is a change of ownership import VAT will be due.

### EUROPEAN UNION

The European Union continues to operate a 'free circulation' zone. Items imported in a member country will not incur further import charges when transported within the zone. Each member country adopts its own regulations and import charges (Sample Import VAT Table P.1).

*There are numerous factors to take into consideration when transporting artworks between the United Kingdom and the European Union. Starting with customs procedures for trusts, companies and individuals which vary in each country, and the requirements that enable the free circulation of specific cultural objects, based on age, origin, and reason for transport.*

*Stonehage Fleming Art Management works with trusted art shippers to produce ad-hoc strategies which ensure the due diligence you need to make informed decisions. Our team is at your disposal for any enquiries.*

### CONTACT US

If you think we may be able to help you and your family, please contact us for a discussion.

e: [enquiries@stonehagefleming.com](mailto:enquiries@stonehagefleming.com)