

Export of Canadian Meteorites

Reporting of a meteorite found in Canada is not mandatory. Meteorites found in Canada can be sold in Canada.

The **export** of meteorites found in Canada is subject to the Federal *Cultural Property Export and Import Act*. The law of ownership and control of meteorites in Canada is briefly described in an article by D.G. Schmitt in the journal *Meteoritics & Planetary Science*, volume 37 (Supplement), B5-B 11 (2002), and is excerpted here:

Under the *Cultural Property Export and Import Act* (S.C. 1985, c.52), which came into force 1977 September 6, a Canadian find cannot be exported without a permit from the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency (CCRA), and application for a permit must be made by a Canadian resident. Temporary Export permits are granted forthwith; loan periods may not exceed 5 years and the initial period is 90 days. In practice, some destructive testing may be allowed, as determined on a case by case basis. In general, if any destructive testing is to occur outside Canada a Permanent Export permit is required. A permit officer from the CCRA would refer the matter to an "expert examiner" under Section 11 of the act. The expert examiner determines whether the find is of "outstanding significance" for science or of "national importance", and if so, recommends denial of the Permanent Export permit. Denial of a permit may be appealed to the Canadian Cultural Property Export Review Board, which may either issue the permit, or impose a 2 to 6 month delay of permanent export. During this delay a Canadian university, government institution, museum or other cultural institution may attempt to purchase it for a "fair" price (as determined by the Board). If purchase to retain the meteorite(s) through this control process does not occur, permanent export is allowed. Canadian Federal Government statistics indicate that during the 5 years preceding 2001 May 23, there had been seven applications for Permanent Export permits (of which two had been refused and were then under the 6 months delay period created by that board) and fifteen applications for temporary export had been issued. More than one specimen may be the subject of one permit.

In summary, to export any Canadian meteorite requires an Export Permit.

For more information, please see:

A Guide to Exporting Cultural Property from Canada

<http://www.pch.gc.ca/pgm/bcm-mcp/frm/guide-eng.cfm>

Canadian Cultural Property Export Control List

<http://www.pch.gc.ca/pgm/bcm-mcp/pol/list-eng.cfm>