

## **Application to consider worked items of Rhino horn for pre-sale approval**

**Horn is carved into a finished article, significantly altered from its natural raw state**  
(for jewellery, adornment, art, utility, or musical instrument), such as a carved figure, libation cup, dagger handle, gun stock, etc.)

Tick Box (*attach full written description*)

### **Information Required:**

**Photographs** of the item taken from various angles sufficient to give a comprehensive view of all sides, interior, base, etc.

Tick box and attach photographs separately

### **Brief description of the item:**

### **Measurements:**

• dimensions (height, length, circumference, etc) in cm

• **if item consists entirely of rhino horn:**  
weight in grams of entire item (including any attachments such as a base)

• **if item consists of several materials:**

○ estimate of area/percentage of item consisting of rhino horn; and

○ weight in grams of entire item

**Estimated value in £ sterling**

**Date of acquisition by current owner:**

**And, if different:**

**Date of manufacture/production:**

*(please be as precise as possible (and see note (c) below for antiques)*

**in either case, supported by:**

Tick box and attach full written details separately

**a) historic documentation** - provenance to include, for instance, a dated article, publication or letter with contemporary photograph(s) and/or description of the item, dates item was sold at previous auctions, copies of relevant past auction catalogue entries, etc; **or**

**b) a signed declaration by the current owner** - providing the date of when he/she was first aware of the item and all that they can recall as to when before 3rd March 1947 it was acquired and by whom (i.e. them personally, a family member or friend) including any background information about the acquisition (***N.B. a statement that the item was acquired prior to or in 1947 is not sufficient***); **or**

**where a) or b) cannot be provided please specify why and provide:**

**c) expert testimony or opinion** - specialist opinion on why the specimen dates from a certain period, provided by a reputable fine art specialist, auction-house specialist, antiques dealer or museum (***N.B. this may be provided by the same person/organisation as that making the pre-sale approval application if they also meet the "reputable specialist" definition***). For a taxidermied head, the testimony must be from a taxidermy or trophy specialist or dealer independent from the applicant.

**Name and contact details of the owner of the specimen**

Name:

Address:

Telephone:  Email:

**Role of person seeking pre-sale approval** (e.g. owner, auctioneer, agent)

**Name and date of sale/auction** if known or, if not, any other information available as to date/place of probable sale

**Name and contact details of person seeking pre-sale approval:**

Name:

Address:

Telephone:  Email:

**Notes**

Article 62(3) of EU Regulation No. 865/2006 provides an exemption from the need for an EC Article 10 certificate for worked specimens that were acquired (in their finished state) more than 50 years previously as defined in Article 2(w) of Regulation (EC) No. 338/97. Article 2(w) states that a worked specimen means “specimens that were significantly altered from their natural raw state for jewellery, adornment, art, utility, or musical instruments, more than 50 years before the entry into force of this Regulation and that have been, to the satisfaction of the management authority of the Member State concerned, acquired in such conditions.”

Since July 2010 AHVLA has taken a stricter approach to the interpretation of the EC Regulations relating to the sale of worked items made from or containing rhino horn. This approach, which has been endorsed by the European Commission and other EU Member States, requires vendors to submit full details of such items to this Agency before advertising or offering them for sale so that we, as the UK CITES Management Authority, may be satisfied that they meet the definition of pre-1947 “worked” as set out in the Regulations (Article 2(w)).

Vendors should note that European Union guidance issued in February 2011 on what should be considered “worked” in respect of rhino horn states that “the fact that a rhino horn is simply mounted on a plaque, shield or other type of base without any other alteration of its natural state should not be sufficient for considering the product as a “worked specimen” under Article 2(w)”. Additionally, the conditions in Article 2(w) which require any alteration to have been carried out for “jewellery, adornment, art, utility, or musical instruments” should not be considered to have been met where “the artistic nature of any such alteration (such as carving, engraving, insertion or attachment of artistic or utility objects, etc) is not obvious”.

Pre-sale approval will therefore not be given for mounted but otherwise unaltered rhino horn, or for rhino horn where the artistic nature of any alteration is not obvious.

This application form should be completed and printed out (or saved as a Word document if it is to be sent via e-mail) then submitted, with supporting photographs and other documents to:

Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA)  
Specialist Service Centre – Bristol  
Wildlife Licensing and Registration Service  
Zone 1/17, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol BS1 6EB  
E-mail: [wildlife.licensing@ahvla.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:wildlife.licensing@ahvla.gsi.gov.uk)

**There is no charge for this assessment and AHVLA will process applications within 5 working days of receipt of all the necessary information.**

The Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs working across Great Britain on behalf of Defra, the Scottish Government and Welsh Government