

SCIENCE MUSEUM GROUP

Due Diligence Policy

The National Museum of Science and Industry's collections are world class. Our vision is to be the most admired museum in the world and thus be a source of pride to the public, our sponsors and our staff. This mission underpins our commitment to developing the collections and museum programmes to the highest ethical standards in compliance with all national and international standards for acquiring and borrowing objects for its collections and exhibitions.

The National Museum of Science and Industry will, therefore, not acquire or borrow objects without confirmation from the donor or lender that they are legally able to transfer or lend the object, or where the object is not judged to have a secure history.

This policy will also apply to existing long term loans in undergoing review and renewal.

The National Museum of Science and Industry will undertake due diligence checks guided by the following national and international standards:

- Statement of principles issued by the National Museum Directors Conference on spoliation of works of art during the Holocaust and World War 2 period (1998)
- Combating Illicit Trade: Due Diligence Guidelines for Museums, Libraries and Archives on collecting and borrowing Cultural Material (DCMS, October 2005)
- UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Cultural Property, 1970
- ICOM Code of Ethics
- Museums Association Code of Ethics
- Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
- ICOM Red List
- Spectrum: UK Museums Documentation Standard for Museums

Consultation with lenders and owners will be relevant, and all information obtained about the provenance of an object will be documented and preserved. By asking the relevant questions and undertaking appropriate levels of research the National Museum of Science and Industry will be able to demonstrate its application of high standards in its research into its acquisitions and loans.

The National Museum of Science and Industry also recognizes that there may be circumstances where objects are not always accompanied by detailed histories, and in these circumstances, it will take into account the information gathered through research by its staff, and apply best judgement.

The National Museum of Science and Industry's loan agreement for loans in requests the lender to declare their legal title and confirm their lawful right to lend the object, and that they, as lender, are not aware of any outstanding third party claims on the objects. Any loan

agreement issued by lenders themselves will be signed by the National Museum of Science & Industry only if they conform to the national and international standards above.

Contravention of the accepted national and international standards will prohibit the National Museum of Science and Industry in proceeding with any acquisition or loan.