

**Hellenic Republic**  
**Ministry of Culture**  
**General Directorate of Antiquities**  
**& Cultural Heritage**

Athens, March 5, 2004  
**Protocol:**

YPPO/GDAPK/ARCH/A2/F30/22268/778

**Directorate of Prehistoric**  
**& Classical Antiquities**  
**Section of Greek and Foreign**  
**Research Institutions, Organisations**  
**and International Matters**

**Directorate of Restoration**  
**of Ancient and**  
**Modern Monuments**  
**Section for Applied Research**

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**TO:** Institutes listed as receivers

**COPIED TO:**

1. All Ephorates of Prehistoric & Classical Antiquities
2. All Ephorates of Byzantine Antiquities
3. All pertinent peripheral services of the General Directorate of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage

**Subject:** Granting of permission for analysis of archaeological material

In connection with permission to take samples and make analyses of archaeological material, the Directorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities and the Directorate of the Conservation of Ancient and Modern Monuments, while taking into consideration the most effective management of the relevant requests in terms of respect for the ancient material and the furthering of research and continued study, while bearing in mind the law N.3028/02 "For the protection of Antiquities and the Cultural Heritage in general (*ΦΕΚ 153/Α/28.6.2002*), inform you of the following:

## SUBMISSION OF REQUESTS

\* Requests to take samples and to make analyses of material are submitted to the relevant Ephorates of Antiquity with copies to the Section of Greek and Foreign Academic Institutions of the Directorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities, and to the Section of Applied Research of the Directorate of Conservation of Ancient and Modern Monuments, which is responsible for giving the relevant permission.

\* If the material to be studied or analysed concerns more than one Ephorate of Antiquities, the applicants are obliged to submit their requests simultaneously to the Ephorates concerned so that the matter can be handled in its entirety in case of extensive programmes.

\* If the material comes from research directed by the Ministry of Culture research department, the requests are to be submitted by the appropriate representative. If the request is made by researchers carrying out postgraduate or doctoral research, the request must be signed also by the professors overseeing the work.

## BEFORE SUBMITTING THE RELEVANT REQUEST, THOSE CONCERNED SHOULD KNOW THE FOLLOWING:

\* No sample may be taken that removes part of a complete ancient object, in accordance with Article 26 of Law N 3028/02.

\* Archives or collections may not be made from pieces of the samples by foundations and representatives other than the Archaeological Service without specific approval by the Directorate of the Ministry of Culture responsible.

\* No request for the application of a destructive method will be considered if there is a non-destructive method for accomplishing the same purpose of research. The method to be chosen is that which will need the smallest possible sample.

\* The use of a destructive method is permissible only on fragments that cannot undergo conservation or cannot be joined (for example, sherds left from sorting, products of corrosion such as rust, black incrustation, organic remains).

\* Specifically for structural material, such as 1) stone, unfired brick, fired brick, 2) plaster, slips, wall paintings, wood impressions, 3) pieces of building material from quarries, the following is noted:

Since all possible methods for studying the above are destructive, permission will be granted only for fragments of building material that are ready to break off. This means that permission will not be granted to remove any pieces since that may cause further damage to the monument.

As for wood impressions, since very few have remained, no sampling is permitted.

In the case of painted wall plaster (wall paintings), no sampling is permitted. Likewise no samples may be taken from monuments that have had conservation.

\* Specifically in respect to the sampling of incrustation on wall paintings and icons, the smallest possible samples shall be removed, except in the case of important objects which may not be sampled at all.

\* In cases where permission for the sampling of some monument or object has already been granted in the past, permission for new sampling will not be granted unless adequate evidence is presented that new research is needed. That is to say that permission will be granted if the aim of the new research is to acquire different information about the object.

## THE FOLLOWING MUST ACCOMPANY THE REQUEST

*The requests for permission must be accompanied by the following:*

- \* Written approval of the excavator or whoever is responsible for the research in cases where a find from an excavation or from any other form of archaeological exploration is to be sampled.
- \* The requests must supply the following information a) the wider framework of the request and the ultimate reason for analysing the material, whether for its conservation or whether for further research on the finds and their connections, and b) the research establishment to which the sample is to be taken and analysed, the name of the laboratory and the name of the person in charge.
- \* For requests concerning analyses in laboratories outside Greece, reasons must be given for the necessity of doing the research outside Greece.

*Specifically for the sampling, the following is required:*

- \* Detailed list of the objects intended for sampling or for laboratory analysis, stating whether they are complete or fragmentary objects, and whether they are organic remains. The list must be accompanied by photographs of each object and there must be a statement as to its origin, from an excavation or elsewhere.
- \* Description of the method to be used for sampling, stating also the precise part of the object from which the sample is to be taken.
- \* Number, measurements and respective amount to be sampled, as well as the form of the sample. If the request is for a large number of samples (over 10), the reason why such a large number is needed must be given. For palaeobotanical material, organic remains, rust and other cases of formless material, in addition to the requested amount, the total available amount must be stated as well in order to assure that the material is not all used up, thus precluding future analyses.

*Necessary specifically for the handling of the material and for the analyses:*

- \* Detailed description of the method(s) of analysis to be used for the sample or the object, and a statement on the expected partial or total destruction expected.

General Director of Antiquities &  
Cultural Heritage  
Lazaros Kolonas