

There are three levels of protection, each one having their established legal measures:

Spanish Historic Heritage Properties

The Spanish Historic Heritage is made up of all the real and movable properties of artistic, historic, palaeontological, archaeological, ethnographic, scientific or technical interest. This is the lowest degree of protection for a property.

Properties in the General Inventory of Movable Properties

These have a higher level of protection. This Inventory is made up of movable properties with a notable historic archaeological, scientific, artistic, technical or cultural value.

Properties of Cultural Interest

This is the highest degree of protection for those real and movable properties declared of cultural interest by the Heritage Act 16/1985, or individually by means of a Royal Decree.

In the first case (properties declared of cultural interest by the Heritage Act 16/1985) there is a general record of Properties of Cultural Heritage made up of those real properties given over to archives, libraries and state museums, as well as the movable properties of the Spanish Historic Heritage which are located inside these buildings. Also caves, shelters and traditional raised granaries or similar ancient constructions typical from Asturias and Galicia are included.

Secondly, it is possible for real and movable properties to be individually declared of cultural interest by royal decree. Before reaching this level of protection, a competent organization needs to start administrative proceedings with a favourable report from one of the following consultative institutions: Spanish Universities, the High Council of Scientific Research, Real Academies, the Body of Description, Assessment and Exportation of Spanish Historic Heritage Properties, any of the government high bodies or, as far as regional governments are concerned, institutions recognized by them.

Special protection of Heritage

Some specific categories are defined which have their own protection measures: Archaeological Heritage, Ethnographic Heritage, Inventory of Movable Properties of the Catholic Church, Documentary Heritage, Bibliographical Heritage.

Case study: the cathedral of Seville

As there is no specific state regulations about fire protection in historic buildings, each building is a different case. In the cathedral of Seville, for instance, the fire brigade made some recommendations about how to protect the building. The architect of the cathedral then

of Lightning conductor