

THE OPERATION OF THE EXPERT TEAM AT FIP EXHIBITIONS

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The Expert Team's Role

- **To check exhibits for any forged or otherwise dubious items**
- **To verify the existence of authenticated certificates**
- **To recommend appropriate actions in cases where forgeries, fakes, repaired or doubtful items are identified**

Composition of the Expert Team

- **Usually three or four members with a designated Team Leader**
- **Members preferably with a range of specialised knowledge in different areas**
- **Selected by Exhibition Management in consultation with FIP Consultant, subject to ratification by FIP Board**

Requirements of the Expert Team

- **Expert Team operates independently of the Jury**
- **Provided with a separate room or enclosed compartment within the Jury Room**
- **Necessary equipment**

Equipment

- **Computer**
- **Scanner**
- **Colour Printer**
- **Thumb Drive to transfer records to FIP Secretariat**
- **English-speaking assistant proficient in the operation of the computer and scanner.**

Preparatory Work

Review of previously identified items in exhibits at the forthcoming exhibition

- **The Exhibition Organiser supplies to the FIP Secretariat a complete list of all accepted exhibits, at least two months prior to the exhibition.**
- **From FIP records, items in those exhibits that required action are identified.**
- **The paperwork (together with scans) of those items are forwarded to the Expert Team Leader, together with e-mail addresses of the relevant National Commissioners.**

Preparatory Work

- **The Team Leader e-mails the National Commissioners attaching the relevant paperwork for their exhibitors, and asking them to contact those exhibitors to determine whether:**
 - **A certificate has been obtained for an item where it was requested (a scan to be forwarded to the Team Leader); if no certificate, that the item will be removed from the exhibit**
 - **Any item asked not to be exhibited again has been removed from the exhibit.**

Preparatory Work

- The information received back from the exhibitors via the National Commissioners is transferred to a review form.

FIP WORLD STAMP EXHIBITION

BRASILIA 2017: Review of Exhibit Queried at Previous Exhibition

Country of exhibitor:

Previous Ref No.

BR 17 Exhibit No Frame No

Observations/Comments:

- Certificate provided (BR17) - to photo copy for file
- Certificate not provided (BR 17)
- Item not exhibited (BR17)
- Did not improve description (BR17)
- Exhibit absent (BR17)
- No Action (BR17) as per previous decision
- See below:

Recommendation:

- No action = NA (BR17)
- Do not exhibit again = DNE (BR17)
- New Certificate required (BR17)
- Deduct 5 point (BR17)
- see below:

Expert Group Team Leader

Date

Signature _____

First Jury Meeting

- **The Team Leader is invited to address the Jury regarding the requirements of the Expert Team.**
- **Items for consideration by the Expert Team may be taken from all classes including YOUTH GROUP C (19-21 years old) exhibits.**
- **Jury Teams are reminded of the last time for Evaluation Forms to be submitted to the Expert Team; this is generally at the end of the second day of judging.**

Work at the Exhibition

- 1. Checking of items questioned at previous exhibitions.**
 - Ensuring that items stated to have been removed from exhibits are absent.**
 - Identifying and checking items in Exhibits where National Commissioners have failed to provide information. (Commissioners should have given full co-operation in advance).**

Work at the Exhibition

- 2. Checking all exhibits in the Championship Class for any questionable items.**
- 3. Expert Teams members will then make examinations of exhibits at random, but most likely concentrating on their areas of expertise.**
- 4. As many items as possible are identified, although there is an upper limit as to the number of items that can be processed in the Jury time available.**

Evaluation Form

For the Expert Team members and Jury to fill in

AUSTRALIA 2013

Request to the Expert Group

REGISTRATION FORM

(A) Important Notes (please read before filling):

- 1 All columns and boxes should be fully and accurately completed.
- 2 The Registration Form is meant to register one philatelic item only.
- 3 If there are more than one item in an exhibit sheet that are seeking opinion, please use a second Registration Form for the second item, etc
- 4 A set of stamps on an exhibit sheet that are seeking the same opinion may be grouped under one Registration Form.

(B) Registration Information

From Team #	Team Leader	Exhibit Class	Exhibit #
Name of Exhibitor	Country of Exhibitor	Frame #	Sheet #
Title of Exhibit			
Nature of Opinion(s) Sought:			

(C) Expert Group's Action

Was the item taken out of the frame? Yes No Photocopied Photographed/scanned

Was the commissioner present? Yes No

Opinion of Group Forgery Not as described Stamp(s) is missing Cancellation is forged
 Genuine Cleaned/tempered Stamp(s) has been added Cancellation is redrawn
 Repaired Stamp does not belong Cancellation has been improved

Remarks & Recommendations:

No action required (NA) Downgraded one level (DO)
 Has to be certified (CR) Downgraded two levels (DT)
 Not to be shown again (DNE) Exhibit disqualified (ED)
 No action required but to improve in description (NAI)

Others:

Date _____ Signature (Expert Group Team Leader): _____

(D) Acknowledge the receipt of 2 sets of this Registration Forms duly signed by the Expert Group Team Leader, complete with the illustrations. (One set is to forward to the national federation and the second set for the exhibitor concerned.)

Sign _____ :
(National Commissioner)
Date _____ :

Evaluation Form

- **A form must be completed for each item, even if these are similar items on the same exhibit page.**
- **The form must be completed fully to enable unique identification within the exhibit of the item in question.**
- **The form should indicate the reason for the item being questioned.**

Examination of Questioned Items

- **All Evaluation Forms received by the Expert Teams are examined, and a list of the Countries from which the relevant exhibits come is compiled.**
- **An early morning time is set for the Expert Team to visit the Commissioner's Room and announce those Commissioners who are required for dismounting of sheets.**

Examination of Questioned Items

- **The Exhibition Committee has organised (preferably two) teams for the unlocking of the frames.**
- **At the frames the National Commissioner supervises the removal of sheets for his exhibitor(s), each sheet then being placed with its accompanying Evaluation form.**
- **A sheet is placed in the frame in position of The removed sheet indicating reason for its absence.**

**THIS SHEET HAS
BEEN TEMPORARILY
REMOVED BY THE
ORGANISING
COMMITTEE**

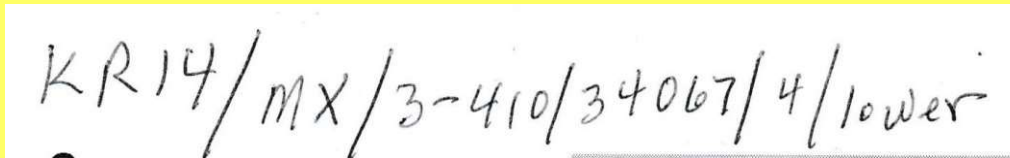
Examination of Questioned Items

In the Expert Team Room:

- **Each removed sheet is scanned and three colour copies are printed with the questioned item indicated.**
- **Two additional copies of the evaluation form are photocopied.**
- **The Evaluation forms and colour copies are collated.**

Examination of Questioned Items

- Each questioned item is given a unique identification code.



KR14/MX/3-410/34067/4/lower

- Exhibition: KR14 = Philakorea 2014
- Subject of Exhibit: MX = Mexico
- Exhibit Number: 3-410
- Frame Number: 34067
- Sheet Number: 4
- Position on sheet (if necessary): lower

Examination of Questioned Items

- **The Expert Team meets as a group and considers each questioned item in turn, and determines a recommendation.**

This recommendation is generally one of three types

Examination of Questioned Items

- **No Action Required - the item is found to be in good order.**
- **Item Not to be Shown Again – in the case of very dubious items which are unlikely to receive a certificate.**
- **Certificate Required – if the item is to be shown again.**
- **Descriptions of items may need to be improved or clarified.**

Return of Removed Sheets

- **A time is set for return of removed sheets to the National Commissioners - preferably late in the afternoon of the same day as their removal.**
- **With teams for the unlocking of the frames, the Commissioners replace the sheets in the frames.**
- **The presence of the Expert Team members is not required.**

Distribution of Paperwork

- **At the same time as return of sheets, the relevant paperwork is also returned to the National Commissioners.**
- **The three sets of paperwork for each removed item are distributed as follows:**
 - 1. To FIP Secretariat for FIP Records.**
 - 2 and 3. To the relevant National Commissioners - one for their National Federation, and one for return to the exhibitor.**

Expert Team Report

- **The Expert Team Leader prepares a report of the work of the Expert Team. It contains details of:**
 - 1. The number of items examined.**
 - 2. Details of the recommended actions to be taken regarding these items.**
 - 3. Any recommendations for the consideration of the Jury.**

Expert Team Report

- **The Expert Team Report is read to the Jury during its final session, and is later published in the Palmares document.**
- **It may contain recommendations to the jury regarding penalties to an exhibitor.**
- **Such penalties are unusual, and typically involve an exhibitor showing items that he has previously been asked to remove. The usual penalty is 5 points, representing one medal level.**

Conclusion

- **At the completion of Jury proceedings:**
 - **A complete set of paperwork is handed to the FIP Secretariat for their records.**
 - **A thumb drive holdings scans of all the questioned items, suitably identified, is also handed to the FIP Secretariat.**

www.fipfakesforgeries.org/fip/