

Prohibitions and Restrictions concerning Endangered Species and Wildlife

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Enquiries concerning this instruction:

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1. Introduction

CITES is the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. The purpose of this Convention is to protect endangered species of fauna and flora, and this is carried out by the implementation of controls on international trade in specimens of these species.

The competent authority in Ireland with responsibility for CITES is the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Revenue's role relates to possible intervention and control at points of importation and exportation.

2. Legislation

[CITES Convention](#)

[Regulation \(EC\) No 338/97](#) on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein; and its [amendments](#)

[Commission Regulation \(EC\) No 865/2006](#) laying down detailed rules concerning the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97 on the protection of species of wild flora and fauna by regulating trade therein (also known as the implementing Regulation).

[Wildlife Act, 1976](#) as amended

[Customs Act 2015](#)

3. Licences, Permits and Certificates

CITES regulation and control of international trade in various endangered species is based on a system of certificates (EC Trade Certificates – also known as Article 10's), import notifications and import, export, and re-export permits. In this regard, the competent authority issue permits for the import, export, or re-export of the species in question or certificates for the movement of Annex A specimens within the European Union. These documents must be presented to customs before consignments can be imported, exported, or re-exported.

The NPWS is the competent authority in Ireland with responsibility for the issuing of CITES licences, permits, and certificates.

The CITES Import/Export/Re-Export Permit consists of three coloured sheets. The top copy (original) is buff with a yellow carbon copy for the holder and the third green carbon sheet is the copy for customs.

A sample permit can be found in the [ANNEX I](#) to this manual.

The EC Trade certificate (Article 10) is a yellow document that should accompany all Annex A CITES listed plants, animals and/or their parts and derivatives for trade or movement within the European Union.

4. Action by Customs

Where a CITES licence, permit or certificate is presented to Customs, officers should:

- ensure that the licence/permit/certificate presented is valid and that it relates to the specific species being imported / exported / re-exported
- check that the licence/permit/certificate is within date (each typically has a six-month validity)
- endorse the licence/permit/certificate with the official station stamp
- where the licence/permit/certificate has not been exhausted, return it to the importer/exporter
- where the licence/permit/certificate has been exhausted, retain the green copy, and return it to the Irish CITES Management Authority.

If a customs officer suspects that goods are being imported or exported in contravention of the CITES Convention, the consignment should be detained, and staff should contact the national CITES Liaison Officer (see section 8 for contact information).

5. Designated Points of Entry and Exit

Under the Wildlife Act, 1976 and Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000 species covered under the CITES Convention can only be imported from or exported to third countries through the designated ports or airports listed in [ANNEX II](#)

6. Risk Information Form

The Risk Information Form (RIF), which is part of Customs Risk Management System (CRMS2), should be used by staff to inform other EU Customs authorities of any irregularities which have come to light in respect of the import or export of goods in contravention of the CITES Convention.

For further information staff should contact:

Customs Risk Management Unit

Email: customsriskunitgroup@revenue.ie

Tel: 01-6744330

7. Additional Information

CITES website - <https://www.npws.ie/legislation/cites>

CITES species database - <https://www.npws.ie/legislation/cites>

Irish CITES Management Authority mailbox – CITES@npws.gov.ie

8. Contact Information

CITES Liaison Officer
Prohibitions and Restrictions Unit
Customs Division
Email: rcpr@revenue.ie

CITES Management Authority – Ireland
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage,
Wildlife Enforcement and Nature Protection,
National Parks and Wildlife Service,
90 North King Street, Dublin 7. D07 N7CV
Email: CITES@npws.gov.ie
Phone: 01-8883262

ANNEX I

Sample permit/certificate

EUROPEAN UNION			
ORIGINAL	1. Exporter/Re-exporter	PERMIT/CERTIFICATE <input type="checkbox"/> IMPORT <input type="checkbox"/> EXPORT <input type="checkbox"/> RE-EXPORT <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:	No
	3. Importer	 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora	
	6. Authorized location for live specimens of Annex A species	4. Country of (re)-export	5. Country of import
	7. Issuing Management Authority		
8. Description of specimens (incl. marks, sex/date of birth for live animals)	9. Net mass (kg)	10. Quantity	
	11. CITES Appendix	12. EU Annex	13. Source
	14. Purpose		
	15. Country of origin		
	16. Permit No	17. Date of issue	
	18. Country of last re-export		
	19. Certificate No	20. Date of issue	
21. Scientific name of species			
22. Common name of species			
23. Special conditions			
This permit/certificate is only valid if live animals are transported in compliance with the CITES Guidelines for the Transport and Preparation for Shipment of Live Wild Animals or, in the case of air transport, the Live Animals Regulations published by the International Air Transport Association (IATA)			
24. The (re)-export documentation from the country of (re)-export	25. The <input type="checkbox"/> importation <input type="checkbox"/> exportation <input type="checkbox"/> re-exportation of the goods described above is hereby permitted.		
<input type="checkbox"/> has been surrendered to the issuing authority <input type="checkbox"/> has to be surrendered to the border customs office of introduction <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 30px; width: 100%; margin-top: 5px;"></div>	Signature and official stamp: Name of issuing official: Place and date of issue:		
26. Bill of Lading / Air Waybill Number:			
27. For customs use only	Signature and official stamp:		
	Customs document		
	Type:		
	Number:		
	Date:		
	Quantity / net mass (kg) actually imported or (re)-exported	Number of animals dead on arrival	

ANNEX II

Designated Customs Offices for CITES

A list of designated Border Control Posts authorised to carry out import controls on CITES Species may be found at the following Link; [BCP Designation Ireland](#)