

Prohibitions and Restrictions concerning Endangered Species and Wildlife

Document last reviewed November 2019

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 Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. 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. 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 issues 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 then be presented to customs before consignments can be imported, exported or re-exported.

The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) is the competent authority in Ireland with responsibility for the issuing of CITES 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.

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.

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

4. Action by Customs

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

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

If a customs officer suspects that goods are being exported or imported in contravention of CITES, 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 (CRMS) 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 - <http://cites.org/>

CITES species database - <http://www.cites.org/eng/resources/species.html>

Irish CITES Management Authority mailbox – cites@chg.gov.ie

8. Contact Information

CITES Liaison Officer
Joe Hendrick
Prohibitions and Restrictions Unit
Customs Division
Email: rcpr@revenue.ie
Phone 01-6744342

CITES Management Authority – Ireland
Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht,
Biodiversity and EU Programmes,
National Parks and Wildlife Service,
90 North King Street, Dublin 7. D07 N7CV
Email: CITES@chg.gov.ie
Phone 01-8883074

ANNEX I

Sample permit/certificate

EUROPEAN UNION																																																					
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ANNEX II

Designated Customs Offices for CITES

Live Animals	Live Plants	Timber	Parts and Derivatives
Dublin Airport (Registered Equidae and ungulates ONLY) Shannon Airport (Registered Equidae and ONLY) NOTE: Other live animals must firstly be checked at another Member State prior to their introduction.	Dublin Airport Dublin Port	Cork Port Dublin Port Drogheda Port Dundalk Port Foynes Port Greenore Port Limerick Port Wicklow Port	Cork Airport Dublin Airport Shannon Airport Cork Port Dublin Port