

Changes to regulations for international trade in chambered nautilus

Effective January 2, 2017, all species in the family Nautilidae were included in Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). This means that all shipments of live or dead chambered nautilus and all parts, products, and derivatives imported into or exported from a country on or after January 2, 2017, must be accompanied by the appropriate valid CITES document.

What is CITES?

CITES is a treaty that regulates international trade in certain species of plants and animals. CITES Appendix II includes species that, although currently not threatened with extinction, may become so without regulatory controls. CITES regulates international trade through a system of permits designed to ensure that trade is legal and is conducted in a sustainable manner. This global treaty aims to ensure that international trade in plants and animals does not threaten their survival in the wild. For more information about CITES, please refer to the [CITES homepage \(cites.org\)](http://cites.org).

Which species are included in the CITES Appendix-II listing?

The CITES Appendix-II listing regulates international trade in all live or dead animals and all parts, products, and derivatives of the family Nautilidae. The currently recognized species are:

Allonautilus perforatus
Allonautilus scrobiculatus
Nautilus belauensis
Nautilus macromphalus
Nautilus pompilius
Nautilus repertus
Nautilus stenomphalus

Because the entire [family of chambered nautilus](#) is included under CITES, any new species that may be described in this family in the future will also be included in CITES Appendix II. For more information about the CITES listing of these species, visit our [Chambered nautilus species page \(www.fws.gov/international/animals/nautilus.html\)](#).

What does the CITES listing mean for commercial imports of chambered nautilus into the United States?

Effective January 2, 2017, all commercial imports of live or dead chambered nautilus and all parts, products, and derivatives entering the United States must be accompanied by a valid CITES document issued by the Management Authority of the country where the shipment originated. See more information on [pre-Convention items](#) and [contacting other CITES Authorities](#) below.

The CITES document requirements are in addition to already required inspection and clearance at U.S. ports. See the [existing requirements for wildlife shipments](#) below.

What does the CITES listing mean for commercial re-exports of chambered nautilus from the United States?

Re-export means to send, ship, or carry out of a country any animal or animal product that was previously imported into that country. For re-exports from the United States, the exporter will need to obtain a CITES document issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Division of Management Authority and follow clearance and inspection procedures at the U.S. port.

The required CITES documentation depends on when the animal was harvested.

For commercial re-exports of live or dead chambered nautilus and all parts, products, and derivatives that were harvested **on or after** January 2, 2017, the shipment must be accompanied by a CITES re-export permit.

To apply for a CITES re-export certificate:

- The exporter must complete U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service application [Form 3-200-73 \(www.fws.gov/forms/3-200-73.pdf\)](#); and
- With the application, provide a copy of the CITES document that was presented at the time of importation into the United States, as well as documentation showing the “chain of custody” (e.g., invoices between all parties involved in the domestic sale of the item).

Allow at least 60 days for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service review of most permit applications.

Re-export certificates may also be issued from certain offices of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Office of Law Enforcement. Contact [your nearest designated port](#) to determine whether they are able to issue re-export permits ([www.fws.gov/le/designated-ports.html](#)).

For commercial re-exports of live or dead chambered nautilus and all parts, products, and derivatives that were harvested **before** January 2, 2017, the shipment must be accompanied by a pre-Convention Certificate. See more information on [pre-Convention items](#) below.

Exporters should also check with the importing country to determine any additional requirements. See more information on [contacting other CITES Authorities](#) below.

The CITES document requirements are in addition to the already required inspection and clearance processes at the U.S. port. See the [existing requirements for wildlife shipments](#) below.

What are the existing inspection and clearance requirements that apply to chambered nautilus shipments entering or leaving the United States?

The following inspection and clearance requirements continue to apply for commercial wildlife shipments, including chambered nautilus, entering or exiting the United States:

The U.S. importer/exporter must have a valid Import/Export (I/E) License issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Office of Law Enforcement. This license must be issued prior to carrying out the activity ([I/E application forms](#); [www.fws.gov/le/pdf/3-200-3.pdf](#)).

All wildlife shipments entering or leaving the United States must be:

- imported or exported through a designated U.S. port for wildlife. See the [list of designated ports \(www.fws.gov/le/designated-ports.html\)](#);
- accompanied by a Declaration for Importation or Exportation of Fish and Wildlife ([Form 3-177; www.fws.gov/le/declaration-form-3-177.html](#)), along with a copy of the I/E

- License and all required documentation, including a valid CITES permit; and
- inspected and cleared by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

For live animals, the transport conditions must comply with the [CITES Guidelines for Transport of Live Animals](https://www.cites.org/eng/resources/transport/index.php) ([cites.org/eng/resources/transport/index.php](https://www.cites.org/eng/resources/transport/index.php)) or, in the case of air transport, with the International Air Transport Association (IATA) live animal regulations (contact airline for information).

It is important to ensure that the shipment is inspected and CITES documents are validated.

Note that upon inspection you will surrender the original CITES document, the original wildlife declaration form, and a copy of the I/E license to go with each declaration form.

It is good practice to make copies of all documentation for your records.

What about “pre-Convention” items?

An item is considered “pre-Convention” when the animal was removed from the wild or born or bred in captivity before the date the provisions of the Convention first applied to the species.

In the case of chambered nautilus, the pre-Convention date is January 2, 2017.

Thus, any live or dead chambered nautilus and all parts, products, and derivatives of chambered nautilus that were removed from the wild prior to January 2, 2017, would be considered “pre-Convention.”

Additionally, items (including manufactured products) that were made after January 2, 2017, but were made from an animal that was removed from the wild or born or bred in a controlled environment before January 2, 2017, would be considered “pre-Convention.”

International shipments of pre-Convention items also require CITES documentation for imports and re-exports as follows.

To apply for a pre-Convention Certificate:

- The exporter must complete U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service application [Form 3-200-23](https://www.fws.gov/forms/3-200-23) (www.fws.gov/forms/3-200-23.pdf); and
- With the application, provide proof that the animal was removed from the wild or born or bred in captivity before January 2, 2017, and was legally imported, along with documentation showing the “chain of custody.”

Allow at least 60 days for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service review of most permit applications.

Note that the pre-Convention status *does not apply* to offspring or cell lines of any wildlife born or bred or removed from the wild after January 2, 2017, and such international shipments require CITES documentation for imports and re-exports as described above.

What information will assist the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in evaluating whether your items qualify as pre-Convention?

If you have chambered nautilus items that were already in your possession in the United States prior to January 2, 2017, that you wish to export commercially, you will need to provide documentation that the animal was removed from the wild or born or bred in a controlled

environment before January 2, 2017, and that the item was legally imported into the United States.

A thorough description of the item and detailed documentation will assist the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to evaluate whether your items qualify as pre-Convention.

We recommend that you keep an inventory of each item in your stock, including the species and country of origin.

- To assist us in understanding how much chambered nautilus is included in the item, include as much detail on quantities, weights and measures as possible. For example:
 - 1kg each of worked *Nautilus pompilius* shell in 30 letter openers imported from [country x]
 - 2 whole shells of *Nautilus macromphalus* from [country y]
 - 10 2-inch pendants made from 5 *Nautilus* shells imported from [country z]
- Take photos of the items to include with any future CITES permit application.
- Do not provide your stockpile information to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service except as it pertains to a specific CITES permit request.

Maintain records pertaining to the acquisition of the imported item.

- These records may include dated receipts, bills of lading, transportation documents, or other source documents.
- Maintain information that demonstrates which U.S. port the items entered and when.
- Demonstrate the “chain of custody” showing how you came to be in possession of the item (e.g., invoices showing the sale chain of the item).

Who do I contact for more information?

Questions regarding CITES document requirements for commercial imports or exports that are not addressed in this document may be emailed to [the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-Division of Management Authority \(managementauthority@fws.gov\)](mailto:managementauthority@fws.gov).

For questions regarding the required import inspection and clearance processes for wildlife, including user fees, contact a wildlife inspector at the [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service port](http://www.fws.gov/le/designated-ports.html) closest to you (www.fws.gov/le/designated-ports.html).

Contact information for offices that issue CITES documents in other countries is available on the [CITES homepage \(cites.org\)](http://cites.org). Under the “Discover CITES” tab, select “National CITES Authorities.” Scroll down the list of countries to locate the Management Authority of the country from which the shipment originated.

QUICK REFERENCE PORT DOCUMENTATION CHECKLIST FOR

Commercial International Trade in Chambered Nautiluses

The following documentation is needed at U.S. ports for commercial shipments of chambered nautiluses and all parts, products or derivatives:

For commercial imports:

To bring a shipment into the United States from a foreign country, you will need:

- a validated CITES export document from the originating country;
- a current import/export license issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Office of Law Enforcement;
- to declare the import to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Office of Law Enforcement;
- to enter through a designated port for inspection and clearance; and
- to comply with applicable regulations for live transport.

Ensure that the shipment is inspected and cleared by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the U.S. port of entry.

Make copies of all documentation for your records.

For commercial re-exports:

To take a shipment out of the United States, you will need:

- a validated CITES document issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-Division of Management Authority;
- a current import/export license issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Office of Law Enforcement;
- to check with the importing country to determine if they have any additional requirements;
- to declare the export to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Office of Law Enforcement;
- to exit through a designated port for inspection and clearance; and
- to comply with applicable regulations for live transport.

Ensure that the shipment is inspected and that the CITES documents are validated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service upon export.

Make copies of all documentation for your records.