

CITES Document Requirements Guidance for U.S. Importers and Exporters

This factsheet provides a general overview of CITES document requirements and links the reader to more detailed information in our CITES regulations. See Federal Register [79 FR 30399](#) for the new 50 CFR Part 23 (CITES) regulations.

- You must have a valid [CITES document](#), including a [CITES exemption document](#), to engage in [international trade](#) in any CITES [specimen](#) except as provided below.
- You do not need a CITES document if your specimen qualifies as [exempt from CITES](#). You may be required to demonstrate that your specimen qualifies as exempt.
- CITES documents must contain certain [standardized information](#). This requirement applies to all CITES documents issued by a Party or a non-Party except phytosanitary certificates issued for artificially propagated plants or a customs declaration label used for movement between registered scientific institutions.
- There are specific requirements for the [CITES form](#) itself whether the document is issued by a Party or a non-Party.
- The CITES document must contain either a [purpose code](#) or a written description of the purpose.
- [Additional](#) information is required for specific types of CITES documents such as pre-Convention certificates, annexes, or certificates of origin.
- The CITES document must indicate a [code](#) for the source of the specimen.
- In addition to the standardized information identified above, non-Party documents must contain certain [certifications](#) on the face of the document.
- A separate original or a true copy of a CITES document must be issued before an import, introduction from the sea, export, or re-export occurs and the document must accompany each shipment. No copy, including fax or electronic, may be used in place of an original except for [in-transit shipments](#) or [other limited circumstances](#).
- We will accept a CITES document as valid for import, introduction from the sea, export, or re-export only if the document meets all the information requirements (see [§ 23.23 through § 23.25](#)) and certain [conditions](#).
- We may request verification of a CITES document from a foreign management authority before deciding whether to accept it for various reasons including [certain circumstances](#).

§ 23.5 **CITES document or CITES exemption document** means any certificate, permit, or other document issued by a Management Authority of a Party or a competent authority of a non-Party whose name and address is on file with the Secretariat to authorize the international movement of CITES specimens.

§ 23.5 **Specimen** means any wildlife or plant, whether live or dead. This term includes any readily recognizable part, product, or derivative unless otherwise annotated in the Appendices.

§ 23.5 **International trade** means the import, introduction from the sea, export, or re-export across jurisdictional or international boundaries for any purpose whether commercial or noncommercial.

§ 23.20 (d) **CITES exemption documents**. The following table lists the CITES exemption document that you must obtain before conducting a proposed activity with an exempt specimen (other than specimens exempted under § 23.92). If one of the exemptions does not apply to the specimen, you must obtain a CITES document as provided in paragraph (e) of this section.

The first column in the following table alphabetically lists the type of specimen or activity that may qualify for a CITES exemption document. The last column indicates the section of this part that contains information on the application procedures, provisions, criteria, and conditions specific to each CITES exemption document, as follows:

Type of specimen or activity	Appendix	CITES exemption document	Section
(1) Artificially propagated plant (see paragraph (d)(4) of this section for an Appendix-I plant propagated for commercial purposes)	I, II, or III	CITES document with source code "A" ¹	23.40
(2) Artificially propagated plant from a country that has provided copies of the certificates, stamps, and seals to the Secretariat	II or III	Phytosanitary certificate with CITES statement ₁	23.23(f)
(3) Bred-in-captivity wildlife (see paragraph (d)(5) of this section for Appendix-I wildlife bred in captivity for commercial purposes)	I, II, or III	CITES document with source code "C" ¹	23.41
(4) Commercially propagated Appendix-I plant	I	CITES document with source code "D" ¹	23.47
(5) Commercially bred Appendix-I wildlife from a breeding operation registered with the CITES Secretariat	I	CITES document with source code "D" ¹	23.46
(6) Export of certain marine specimens protected	II	CITES document indicating that the	23.36(e)

under a pre-existing treaty, convention, or international agreement for that species		specimen was taken in accordance with provisions of the applicable treaty, convention, or international agreement	23.39(e)
(7) Hybrid plants	I, II, or III	CITES document unless the specimen qualifies as an exempt plant hybrid	23.42
(8) Hybrid wildlife	I, II, or III	CITES document unless the specimen qualifies as an exempt wildlife hybrid	23.43
(9) In-transit shipment (see paragraph (d)(14) of this section for sample collections covered by an ATA carnet)	I, II, or III	CITES document designating importer and country of final destination	23.22
(10) Introduction from the sea under a pre-existing treaty, convention, or international agreement for that species	II	Document required by applicable treaty, convention, or international agreement, if appropriate	23.39(d)
(11) Noncommercial loan, donation, or exchange of specimens between scientific institutions registered with the CITES Secretariat	I, II, or III	A label indicating CITES and the registration codes of both institutions and, in the United States, a CITES certificate of scientific exchange that registers the institution ³	23.48
(12) Personally owned live wildlife for multiple cross-border movements	I, II, or III	CITES certificate of ownership ²	23.44
(13) Pre-Convention specimen	I, II, or III	CITES document indicating pre-Convention status ¹	23.45
(14) Sample collection covered by an ATA carnet	I, II, or III	CITES document indicating sample collection ²	23.50
(15) Traveling exhibition	I, II, or III	CITES document indicating specimens qualify as pre-Convention, bred in captivity, or artificially propagated ²	23.49

¹Issued by the Management Authority in the exporting or re-exporting country.

²Issued by the Management Authority in the owner's country of usual residence.

³Registration codes assigned by the Management Authorities in both exporting and importing countries.

§ 23.92 Are any wildlife or plants, and their parts, products, or derivatives, exempt?

(a) All living or dead wildlife and plants in Appendix I, II, and III and all their readily recognizable parts, products, and derivatives must meet the requirements of CITES and this part, except as indicated in paragraph (b) of this section.

(b) The following are exempt from the requirements of CITES and do not need CITES documents. You may be required to demonstrate that your specimen qualifies as exempt under this section. For specimens that are exempt from CITES requirements, you must still follow the clearance requirements for wildlife in part 14 of this subchapter and for plants in part 24 of this subchapter and 7 CFR parts 319, 352, and 355.

(1) Appendix-III wildlife and Appendix-II or -III plants.

(i) Where an annotation designates what is excluded from CITES requirements, any part, product, or derivative that is specifically excluded.

(ii) Where an annotation designates what is covered by the Treaty, all parts, products, or derivatives that are not designated.

(2) Plant hybrids.

(i) Seeds and pollen (including pollinia), cut flowers, and flaked seedlings or tissue cultures of hybrids that qualify as artificially propagated (see § 23.64) and that were produced from one or more Appendix-I species or taxa that are not annotated to specifically include hybrids in the CITES list.

(ii) Specimens of an Appendix-II or -III plant taxon with an annotation that specifically excludes hybrids.

(3) Flaked seedlings of Appendix-I orchids. Flaked seedlings of an Appendix-I orchid species that qualify as artificially propagated (see § 23.64).

(4) Marine specimens listed in Appendix II that are protected under another treaty, convention, or international agreement which was in force on July 1, 1975 as provided in § 23.39(d).

(5) Coral sand and coral fragments as defined in § 23.5.

(6) Personal and household effects as provided in § 23.15.

(7) Urine, feces, and synthetically derived DNA as provided in § 23.16.

(8) Certain wildlife hybrids as provided in § 23.43.

§ 23.22 What are the requirements for in-transit shipments?

(a) Purpose. Article VII(1) of the Treaty allows for a shipment to transit an intermediary country that is a Party before reaching its final destination without the need for the intermediary Party to issue CITES documents. To control any illegal trade, Parties are to inspect, to the extent possible under their national legislation, specimens in transit through their territory to verify the presence of valid documentation. See § 23.50 for in-transit shipment of sample collections covered by an ATA carnet.

(b) Document requirements. An in-transit shipment does not require a CITES document from an intermediary country, but must be accompanied by all of the following documents:

(1) Unless the specimen qualifies for an exemption under § 23.92, a valid original CITES document, or a copy of the valid original CITES document, that designates the name of the importer in the country of final destination and is issued by the Management Authority of the exporting or re-exporting country. A copy of a CITES document is subject to verification.

(2) For shipment of an Appendix-I specimen, a copy of a valid import permit that designates the name of the importer in the country of final destination, unless the CITES document in paragraph (b)(1) of this section is a CITES exemption document (see § 23.20(d)).

(3) Transportation and routing documents that show the shipment has been consigned to the same importer and country of final destination as designated on the CITES document.

§ 23.23 What information is required on U.S. and foreign CITES documents?

(a) Purpose. Article VI of the Treaty provides standard information that must be on a permit and certificate issued under Articles III, IV, and V. To identify a false or invalid document, any CITES document, including a CITES exemption document issued under Article VII, must contain standardized information to allow a Party to verify that the specimen being shipped is the one listed on the document and that the trade is consistent with the provisions of the Treaty.

(b) **CITES form.** A CITES document issued by a Party must be on a form printed in one or more of the three working languages of CITES (English, Spanish, or French). A CITES document from a non-Party may be in the form of a permit or certificate, letter, or any other form that clearly indicates the nature of the document and includes the information in paragraphs (c) through (e) of this section and the additional information in § 23.25.

(c) **Required information.** Except for a phytosanitary certificate used as a CITES certificate for artificially propagated plants in paragraph (f) of this section, or a customs declaration label used to identify specimens being moved between registered scientific institutions (§ 23.48(e)(5)), a CITES document issued by a Party or non-Party must contain the information set out in this paragraph (listed alphabetically). Specific types of CITES documents must also contain the additional information identified in paragraph (e) of this section. A CITES document is valid only when it contains the following information:

Required information	Description
(1) Appendix	The CITES Appendix in which the species, subspecies, or population is listed (see § 23.21 when a Party has taken a reservation on a listing).
(2) Applicant's signature	The applicant's signature if the CITES document includes a place for it.
(3) Bill of lading, air waybill, or flight number	As applicable for export or re-export: (i) by ocean or air cargo, the bill of lading or air waybill number or (ii) in accompanying baggage, the flight number, as recorded on the CITES document by the inspecting official at the port, if known at the time of validation or certification.
(4) Dates	Date of issue and date of expiration ("valid until" date on the standardized CITES form), which is midnight of the date on the CITES document. See § 23.54 for the length of validity for different types of CITES documents.

(5) Description of the specimen	A complete description of the specimen, including whether live or the type of goods. The sex and age of a live specimen should be recorded, if possible. Such information must be in English, Spanish, or French on a CITES document from a Party. If a code is used to indicate the type of specimen, it must agree with the Guidelines for preparation and submission of CITES annual reports available from the CITES website or us (see § 23.7).
(6) Document number	A unique control number. We use a unique 12-character number. The first two characters are the last two digits of the year of issuance, the next two are the two-letter ISO country code, followed by a six-digit serial number, and two digits or letters used for national informational purposes.
(7) Humane transport of live wildlife	If the CITES document authorizes the export or re-export of live wildlife, a statement that the document is valid only if the transport conditions comply with the CITES Guidelines for Transport (available from the CITES website, see § 23.7), or, in the case of air transport of wildlife, with the International Air Transport Association Live Animals Regulations. The shipment must comply with the requirements of the Live Animals Regulations (LAR), 33rd edition, October 1, 2006, by the International Air Transport Association (IATA), Reference Number: 9105-33, ISBN 92-9195-818-2. The incorporation by reference of the IATA LAR was approved by the Director of the Office of the Federal Register in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR part 51. Copies may be obtained from IATA, 800 Place Victoria, P.O. Box 113, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H4Z 1M1, by calling 1-800-716-6326, or ordering through the Internet at http://www.iata.org . Copies may be inspected at the U.S. Management Authority, Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 N. Fairfax Dr., Arlington, VA 22203 or at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). For information on the availability of this material at NARA, call 202-741-6030, or go to: http://www.archives.gov/federal_register/code_of_federal_regulations/ibr_locations.html .
(8) Identification of the specimen	Any unique identification number or mark (such as a tag, band, ring, microchip, label, or serial number), including any mark required under these regulations or a CITES listing annotation. For a microchip, the microchip code, trademark of the transponder manufacturer and, where possible, the location of the microchip in the specimen. If a microchip is used, we may, if necessary, ask the importer, exporter, or re-exporter to have equipment on hand to read the microchip at the time of import, export, or re-export.
(9) Management Authority	The complete name and address of the issuing Management Authority as included in the CITES directory, which is available from the CITES website or us (see § 23.7).
(10) Name and address	The complete name and address, including country, of the exporter and importer.
(11) Purpose of transaction	The purpose of the transaction identified either through a written description of the purpose of the transaction or by using one of the codes given in paragraph (d) of this section. The code is determined by

	<p>the issuing Management Authority through information submitted with an application. This is not required for a certificate of origin.</p>
(12) Quantity	<p>The quantity of specimens authorized in the shipment and, if appropriate, the unit of measurement using the metric system:</p> <p>(i) The unit of measurement should be appropriate to the type of specimen and agree with the Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports available from the CITES website or us (see § 23.7). General descriptions such as "one case" or "one batch" are not acceptable.</p> <p>(ii) Weight should be in kilograms. If weight is used, net weight (weight of the specimen alone) must be stated, not gross weight that includes the weight of the container or packaging.</p> <p>(iii) Volume should be in cubic meters for logs and sawn wood and either square meters or cubic meters for veneer and plywood.</p> <p>(iv) For re-export, if the type of good has not changed since being imported, the same unit of measurement as on the export permit must be used, except to change to units that are to be used in the CITES annual report.</p>
(13) Scientific name	<p>The scientific name of the species, including the subspecies when needed to determine the level of protection of the specimen under CITES, using standard nomenclature as it appears in the CITES Appendices or the references adopted by the CoP. A list of current references is available from the CITES website or us (see § 23.7). A CITES document may contain higher-taxon names in lieu of the species name only under one of the following circumstances:</p> <p>(i) The CoP has agreed that the use of a higher-taxon name is acceptable for use on CITES documents.</p> <p>(A) If the genus cannot be readily determined for coral rock, the scientific name to be used is the order Scleractinia.</p> <p>(B) Live and dead coral must be identified to the level of species except where the CoP has agreed that identification to genus is acceptable. A current list of coral taxa identifiable to genus is available from the CITES website or us (see § 23.7).</p> <p>(C) Re-export of worked skins or pieces of Tupinambis species that were imported before August 1, 2000, may indicate Tupinambis spp.</p> <p>(ii) The issuing Party can show the use of a higher-taxon name is well justified and has communicated the justification to the Secretariat.</p> <p>(iii) The item is a pre-Convention manufactured product containing a specimen that cannot be identified to the species level.</p>
(14) Seal or stamp	<p>The embossed seal or ink stamp of the issuing Management Authority.</p>

(15) Security stamp	If a Party uses a security stamp, the stamp must be canceled by an authorized signature and a stamp or seal, preferably embossed. The number of the stamp must also be recorded on the CITES document.
(16) Signature	An original handwritten signature of a person authorized to sign CITES documents for the issuing Management Authority. The signature must be on file with the Secretariat.
(17) Signature name	The name of the person who signed the CITES document.
(18) Source	The source of the specimen. For re-export, unless there is information to indicate otherwise, the source code on the CITES document used for import of the specimen must be used. See § 23.24 for a list of codes.
(19) Treaty name	Either the full name or acronym of the Treaty, or the CITES logo.
(20) Type of CITES document	The type of CITES document (import, export, re-export, or other): (i) If marked "other," the CITES document must indicate the type of document, such as certificate for artificially propagated plants, certificate for wildlife bred in captivity, certificate of origin, certificate of ownership, introduction-from-the-sea certificate, pre-Convention certificate, sample collection covered by an ATA carnet, scientific exchange certificate, or traveling-exhibition certificate. (ii) If multiple types are authorized on one CITES document, the type that applies to each specimen must be clearly indicated.
(21) Validation or certification	The actual quantity of specimens exported or re-exported: (i) Using the same units of measurement as those on the CITES document. (ii) Validated or certified by the stamp or seal and signature of the inspecting authority at the time of export or re-export.

(d) **Purpose of transaction.** If the purpose is not identified by a written description, the CITES document must contain one of the following codes:

Code	Purpose of transaction
B	Breeding in captivity or artificial propagation
E	Education
G	Botanical garden
H	Hunting trophy

L	Law enforcement/judicial/forensic
M	Medical research (including biomedical research)
N	Reintroduction or introduction into the wild
P	Personal
Q	Circus and traveling exhibition
S	Scientific
T	Commercial
Z	Zoo

(e) **Additional required information.** The following describes the additional information that is required for specific types of documents (listed alphabetically):

Type of document	Additional required information
(1) Annex (such as an attached inventory, conditions, or continuation pages of a CITES document)	The page number, document number, and date of issue on each page of an annex that is attached as an integral part of a CITES document. An authorized signature and ink stamp or seal, preferably embossed, of the Management Authority issuing the CITES document must also be included on each page of the annex. The CITES document must indicate an attached annex and the total number of pages.
(2) Certificate of origin (see § 23.38)	A statement that the specimen originated in the country that issued the certificate.
(3) Copy when used in place of the original CITES document	(i) Information required in paragraph (e)(7) of this section when the document authorizes export or re-export. (ii) A statement by the Management Authority on the face of the document authorizing the use of a copy when the document authorizes import.
(4) Export permit for a registered commercial breeding operation or nursery for Appendix-I specimens (see § 23.46)	The registration number of the operation or nursery assigned by the Secretariat, and if the exporter is not the registered operation or nursery, the name of the registered operation or nursery.
(5) Export permit with a quota	Number of specimens, such as 500/1,000, that were: (i) Exported thus far in the current calendar year, including those covered by the current permit

	(such as 500), and (ii) Included in the current annual quota (such as 1,000).
(6) Import permit (Appendix-I specimen) (see § 23.35)	A certification that the specimen will not be used for primarily commercial purposes and, for a live specimen, that the recipient has suitable facilities and expertise to house and care for it.
(7) Replacement CITES document (see § 23.52)	When a CITES document replaces an already issued CITES document that was lost, damaged, stolen, or accidentally destroyed: (i) If a newly issued CITES document, indication it is a “replacement,” the number and date of issuance of the CITES document that was replaced, and reason for replacement. (ii) If a copy of the original CITES document, indication it is a “replacement” and a “true copy of the original,” a new original signature of a person authorized to sign CITES documents for the issuing Management Authority, the date signed, and reason for replacement.
(8) Partially completed documents (see § 23.51)	(i) A list of the blocks that must be completed by the permit holder. (ii) If the list includes scientific names, an inventory of approved species must be included on the face of the CITES document or in an attached annex. (iii) A signature of the permit holder, which acts as a certification that the information entered is true and accurate.
(9) Pre-Convention document (see § 23.45)	(i) An indication on the face of the CITES document that the specimen is pre-Convention. (ii) A date that shows the specimen was acquired before the date the Convention first applied to it.
(10) Re-export certificate (see § 23.37)	(i) The country of origin, the export permit number, and the date of issue. (ii) If previously re-exported, the country of last re-export, the re-export certificate number, and the date of issue. (iii) If all or part of this information is not known, a justification must be given.
(11) Retrospective CITES document (see § 23.53)	A clear statement that the CITES document is issued retrospectively and the reason for issuance.
(12) Sample collection covered by an ATA carnet (see § 23.50)	(i) A statement that the document covers a sample collection and is invalid unless accompanied by a valid ATA carnet. (ii) The number of the accompanying ATA carnet recorded by the Management Authority, customs, or other responsible CITES inspecting official.

(f) Phytosanitary certificate. A Party may use a phytosanitary certificate as a CITES document under the following conditions:

- (1) The Party has provided copies of the certificate, stamps, and seals to the Secretariat.
- (2) The certificate is used only when all the following conditions are met:
 - (i) The plants are being exported, not re-exported.

(ii) The plants are Appendix-II species, or are hybrids of one or more Appendix-I species or taxa that are not annotated to include hybrids.

(iii) The plants were artificially propagated in the exporting country.

(3) The certificate contains the following information:

(i) The scientific name of the species, including the subspecies when needed to determine the level of protection of the specimen under CITES, using standard nomenclature as it appears in the CITES Appendices or the references adopted by the CoP.

(ii) The type (such as live plant or bulb) and quantity of the specimens authorized in the shipment.

(iii) A stamp, seal, or other specific indication stating that the specimen is artificially propagated (see § 23.64).

§ 23.24 What code is used to show the source of the specimen?

The Management Authority must indicate on the CITES document the source of the specimen using one of the following codes, except the code “O” for pre-Convention, which should be used in conjunction with another code:

Source of specimen	Code
(a) Artificially propagated plant (see § 23.40): (1) An Appendix-II or -III artificially propagated specimen. (2) An Appendix-I plant specimen artificially propagated for noncommercial purposes or certain Appendix-I hybrids (see § 23.42) propagated for commercial purposes.	A
(b) Bred-in-captivity wildlife (see § 23.41): (1) An Appendix-II or -III specimen bred in captivity. (See paragraph (d)(1) of this section for wildlife that does not qualify as bred in captivity.) (2) An Appendix-I specimen bred for noncommercial purposes. (See paragraph (c)(1) of this section for an Appendix-I specimen bred for commercial purposes.)	C
(c) Bred in captivity or artificially propagated for commercial purposes (see §§ 23.46 and 23.47): (1) An Appendix-I wildlife specimen bred in captivity for commercial purposes at an operation registered with the Secretariat. (2) An Appendix-I plant specimen artificially propagated for commercial purposes at a nursery that is registered with the Secretariat or a commercial propagating operation that meets the requirements of § 23.47.	D
(d) Captive-bred wildlife (§ 23.36): (1) An Appendix-II or -III wildlife species that is captive-bred. (2) An Appendix-I wildlife species that is one of the following: (i) Captive-bred. (ii) Bred for commercial purposes, but the commercial breeding operation is not registered with the Secretariat.	F

(iii) Bred for noncommercial purposes, but the facility does not meet the definition in § 23.5 because it is not involved in a cooperative conservation program.	
(e) Confiscated or seized specimen (see § 23.78).	I
(f) Pre-Convention specimen (see § 23.45) (code to be used in conjunction with another code).	O
(g) Rached wildlife (wildlife that originated from a ranching operation).	R
(h) Source unknown (must be justified on the face of the CITES document).	U
(i) Specimen taken from the wild: (1) For wildlife, this includes a specimen born in captivity from an egg collected from the wild or from wildlife that mated or exchanged genetic material in the wild. (2) For a plant, it includes a specimen propagated from a propagule collected from a wild plant, except as provided in § 23.64.	W

§ 23.25 What additional information is required on a non-Party CITES document?

(a) Purpose. Under Article X of the Treaty, a Party may accept a CITES document issued by a competent authority of a non-Party only if the document substantially conforms to the requirements of the Treaty.

(b) Additional certifications. In addition to the information in § 23.23(c) through (e), a CITES document issued by a non-Party must contain the following certifications on the face of the document:

Activity by a non-Party	Certification
(1) Export	(i) For Appendix-I and -II specimens, the Scientific Authority has advised that the export will not be detrimental to the survival of the species. (ii) The Management Authority is satisfied that the specimen was legally acquired.
(2) Import	For Appendix-I specimens, the import will be for purposes that are not detrimental to the survival of the species.

§ 23.26 When is a U.S. or foreign CITES document valid?

(a) Purpose. Article VIII of the Treaty provides that Parties take appropriate measures to enforce the Convention to prevent illegal trafficking in wildlife and plants.

(b) **Original CITES documents.** A separate original or a true copy of a CITES document must be issued before the import, introduction from the sea, export, or re-export occurs, and the document must accompany each shipment. No copy may be used in place of an original except as provided in § 23.23(e)(3) or when a shipment is in transit (see § 23.22). Fax or electronic copies are not acceptable.

(c) **Acceptance of CITES documents.** We will accept a CITES document as valid for import, introduction from the sea, export, or re-export only if the document meets the requirements of this section, §§ 23.23 through 23.25, and the following conditions:

Key phrase	Conditions for an acceptable CITES document
(1) Altered or modified CITES document	The CITES document has not been altered (including by rubbing or scratching out), added to, or modified in any way unless the change is validated on the document by the stamp and authorized signature of the issuing Management Authority, or if the document was issued as a partially completed document, the Management Authority lists on the face of the document which blocks must be completed by the permit holder.
(2) Annual reports	The Party issuing the CITES document has submitted annual reports and is not subject to any action under Article VIII paragraph 7(a) that would not allow trade in CITES species.
(3) CITES document	U.S. and foreign CITES documents must meet the general provisions and criteria in subparts C and E.
(4) Conditions	All conditions on the CITES document are met.
(5) Convention implementation	The Party issuing the CITES document is not subject to any action under Article VIII or Article XIII paragraph 3 that would not allow trade in the species.
(6) Extension of validity	The validity of a CITES document may not be extended except as provided in § 23.73 for certain timber species.
(7) Fraudulent CITES document or CITES document containing false information	The CITES document is authentic and does not contain erroneous or misleading information.
(8) Humane transport	Live wildlife or plants were transported in compliance with the CITES Guidelines for Transport or, in the case of air transport of wildlife, the International Air Transport Association Live Animals Regulations. (See 23.23(c)(7).)
(9) Legal acquisition	The Party or non-Party issuing the CITES document has made the required legal acquisition

	finding.
(10) Management Authority and Scientific Authority	The CITES document was issued by a Party or non-Party that has designated a Management Authority and Scientific Authority and has provided information on these authorities to the Secretariat.
(11) Name of importer and exporter	A CITES document is specific to the name on the face of the document and may not be transferred or assigned to another person.
(12) Non-detriment	The Party or non-Party issuing the CITES document has made the required non-detriment finding.
(13) Phytosanitary certificate	A phytosanitary certificate may be used to export artificially propagated plants only if the issuing Party has provided copies of the certificates, stamps, and seals to the Secretariat.
(14) Quota	For species with a quota on file with the Secretariat, the quantity exported from a country does not exceed the quota.
(15) Registered commercial breeding operation for Appendix-I wildlife	(i) The operation is included in the Secretariat's register. (ii) Each specimen is specifically marked, and the mark is described on the CITES document.
(16) Registered commercial nursery for Appendix-I plants	The operation is included in the Secretariat's register.
(17) Retrospective CITES documents	A CITES document was not issued retrospectively except as provided in § 23.53.
(18) Shipment contents	The contents of the shipment match the description of specimens provided on the CITES document, including the units and species. A shipment cannot contain more or different specimens or species than certified or validated on the CITES document at the time of export or re-export; the quantity of specimens validated or certified may be less, but not more, than the quantity stated at the time of issuance.
(19) Wild-collected specimen	A wild-collected specimen (indicated on the CITES document with a source code of "W") is not coming from a country that is outside the range of the species, unless we have information indicating that the species has been established in the wild in that country through accidental introduction or other means.

(d) **Verification of a CITES document.** We may request verification of a CITES document from the Secretariat or a foreign Management Authority before deciding whether to accept it under some circumstances, including, but not limited to, the following:

- (1) We receive reliable information that indicates the need for CITES document verification.

- (2) We have reasonable grounds to believe that a CITES document is not valid or authentic because the species is being traded in a manner detrimental to the survival of the species or in violation of foreign wildlife or plant laws, or any applicable Management or Scientific Authority finding has not been made.
- (3) The re-export certificate refers to an export permit that does not exist or is not valid.
- (4) We have reasonable grounds to believe that the document is fraudulent, contains false information, or has unauthorized changes.
- (5) We have reasonable grounds to believe that the specimen identified as bred in captivity or artificially propagated is a wild specimen, was produced from illegally acquired parental stock, or otherwise does not qualify for these exemptions.
- (6) The import of a specimen designated as bred in captivity or artificially propagated is from a non-Party. For an Appendix-I specimen, we must consult with the Secretariat.
- (7) For a retrospectively issued CITES document, both the importing and exporting or re-exporting countries' Management Authorities have not agreed to the issuance of the document.
- (8) For a replacement CITES document, we need clarification of the reason the document was issued.