



NOTICE TO THE WILDLIFE IMPORT/EXPORT COMMUNITY



November 21, 2016

Subject: Reminder-CITES Appendix III Listing for Common Snapping Turtle, Florida Soft Shell, Smooth and Spiny Softshell Turtles

Background: On May 24, 2016, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service published a final rule in the [Federal Register](#) (Vol. 81, No. 100, pages 32664-32678) announcing the inclusion of the common snapping turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*), Florida softshell turtle (*Apalone ferox*), smooth softshell turtle (*Apalone mutica*), and spiny softshell turtle (*Apalone spinifera*) on Appendix III of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). We wish to remind the import/export community that the listing is effective November 21, 2016.

Action: Effective November 21, 2016, all exports and re-exports from the United States must be accompanied by valid U.S. CITES Appendix III documents. Effective November 21, 2016, all imports into the United States of these 4 species including live and dead whole specimens, and all readily recognizable parts, products, and derivatives must be accompanied by valid foreign CITES Appendix III documents. Importers and exporters should take into account the effective date to ensure that shipments are imported or exported with the appropriate documents.

These new documents requirements do not apply to parts or products for personal use that qualify as accompanying personal baggage or household goods. For information on CITES Appendix III documents see our April 8, 2008 public bulletin on [Permit or Certificate Requirements for Species in CITES Appendix III](#). For further information on how to obtain CITES Appendix-III documents for these turtles, please see the Service's Office of International Affairs website at: <https://www.fws.gov/international/permits/>.

Contact:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Office of Law Enforcement
703-358-1949; 703-358-2271 (fax)
lawenforcement@fws.gov (e-mail)