

NOTICE TO THE WILDLIFE IMPORT/EXPORT COMMUNITY

Date: April 16, 2018

Subject: Validation of CITES documents for products containing both CITES listed plants species and wildlife species

Background: In 2016, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) entered into an agreement to allow FWS Wildlife Inspectors to validate shipments containing both CITES protected plants and CITES or nonCITES wildlife. This agreement led to some confusion as to which agency provides inspection, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) permit validation, and clearance for shipments of products imported and exported that contain both CITES listed plant species and wildlife species, both CITES and non-CITES.

To address these issues, the FWS and APHIS have collaborated to streamline the import and export requirements for both agencies. This agreement is effective immediately and until further notice.

Action: FWS Wildlife Inspectors will validate CITES documents and inspect and clear imports and exports of products as follows:

For Import –

Inspect and clear shipments of products containing both CITES listed non-living plant species and any wildlife species that may be either CITES or non-CITES listed species. Only declare wildlife on the 3-177.

For Export –

If shipment contains CITES plant and non-CITES wildlife materials, permit must be validated by either USDA/APHIS or USFWS, all wildlife must be declared to USFWS, and the shipment exported at a USFWS approved port for wildlife. Only declare wildlife on the 3-177.

If shipment contains both CITES plant and CITES wildlife materials, permit must be validated by USFWS, all wildlife must be declared to USFWS, and the shipment must export through a USFWS approved port for wildlife.

This guidance only applies to shipments that contain both CITES listed plants and CITES or non-CITES listed wildlife. If a shipment contains only plant material, permit must be validated by USDA/APHIS and exported through a USDA/APHIS CITES approved port for plants.

This guidance is specific to shipments declared to FWS either in eDecs or via paper, additional guidance will be provided on future ACE filings.

Contact:

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