



NOTICE TO THE WILDLIFE IMPORT/EXPORT COMMUNITY



June 4, 2019

Subject: Mink Eyelashes – What You Need to Know

Background: Online purchases of mink eyelashes are trending now and are popular with independent stylists, salons, and wholesalers. These eyelashes are made not only with mink, but also other wildlife species including fox, rabbit and sable. There are a few things to know about mink or other wildlife used in eyelashes before undertaking this commercial activity.

- The mink or other wildlife species used to make the eyelashes typically originate from a foreign country, and thus are considered imports.
- Imports of mink or other wildlife used in eyelashes are considered wildlife (even if the animals are farmed, captive bred, or ranched) and are regulated by the [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#) (Service).
- Importing mink or other wildlife used in eyelashes used in a business venture is considered a [commercial](#) activity and requires an Import/Export License from the Service prior to the first shipment arriving in the U.S.
- [Import/Export Licenses](#) cost \$100 and are valid for one year from the date of issuance. Licenses can be applied for [online](#).
- Each shipment of mink or other wildlife eyelashes, commercial or noncommercial, imported is required to enter the U.S. through a Service designated [port](#), unless otherwise authorized by the Service.
- Shipments of mink or other wildlife imported to be used in a business venture must be [declared](#) to the Service and all accompanying documentation including any necessary permits must be submitted.
- Each commercial shipment of mink or other wildlife imported requires the importer to pay user fees; \$93 per shipment minimum.
- If you have any questions, you can contact the closest Wildlife Inspection [Office](#).

Action:

Importers bringing in shipments of mink or other wildlife used in eyelashes into the U.S. without a valid Import/Export License and/or not declared are subject to enforcement action by the Service, including seizure of goods and possible monetary penalties.

Contact:

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