



# NOTICE TO THE WILDLIFE IMPORT/EXPORT COMMUNITY



June 2, 2022

## Subject: Supplements

**Background:** The use of medicinals dates back thousands of years ago. Supplements containing herbs and wildlife parts are still used today. Businesses are manufacturing these items and selling them worldwide. There are a few things to know about shipping and receiving these products.

- Supplements being shipped to and from foreign countries are considered imports and exports, whether commercial or non-commercial.
- Supplements containing ingredients listed under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora ([CITES](#)) require a permit to be imported, exported, or re-exported.
  - Examples of CITES listed plants used in supplements include; Aloe spp., Cactaceae spp., Desert-broomrape (*Cistanche deserticola*), Hoodia spp, Pygeum or African cherry (*Prunus africana*), Woolly fern (*Cibotium barometz*)
- The imports and exports of CITES listed plants and plant products are regulated by U.S. Department of Agriculture ([USDA](#)).
- Supplements containing wildlife parts or derivatives must be declared to [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#) whether it contains protected or a non-protected species.
- Businesses exporting or re-exporting commercial shipments containing wildlife from the United States require a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [Import/Export License](#).
- Undeclared shipments and/or shipments containing CITES Species without CITES permits found in violation of U.S. or international laws and regulations may be subject to law enforcement actions, including seizures and possible monetary penalties. Seized shipments are subject to administration forfeiture proceedings.
- If you have any questions pertaining to wildlife items, you can contact your closest [Wildlife Inspection Office](#).
- If you have any questions pertaining to CITES permits, please contact the [U.S. CITES Management Authority](#).

**Action:** Importers or exporters shipping supplements that are not declared and/or are missing CITES permits are subject to enforcement action by the Service and/or foreign authorities, including seizures 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](mailto:lawenforcement@fws.gov) (e-mail)