



NOTICE TO THE WILDLIFE IMPORT/EXPORT COMMUNITY



May 7, 2008

Subject: Validation of CITES Documents

Background: On August 23, 2007, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) published a [final rule](#) updating regulations that implement the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) in the United States (50 CFR Part 23). These regulations went into effect on September 24, 2007. In our public bulletin of September 18, 2007, we highlighted some of the changes for the trade.

One of those changes was that the appropriate inspection authority must validate all CITES documents at the time of export or re-export. At that time, we informed the trade that the Service would no longer accept CITES documents for imports of CITES species that have not been validated. As part of the implementation of the new requirements, these changes were also announced in CITES Notification to the Parties No. 2007/027.

Action: We wish to remind the trade that CITES documents for imports of CITES species must be validated with the actual quantity of specimens exported or re-exported using the same units of measure as those on the CITES document. This quantity must be validated or certified by the stamp or seal and signature of the inspecting authority at the time of export or re-export. Importers should communicate with their foreign exporters and ensure that CITES documents are validated prior to export. Any shipments of CITES species imported with unvalidated CITES documents are subject to seizure.

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