

The CITES Bulletin

Bulletin No. 25: Spring 2007

<http://www.ukcites.gov.uk>

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The CITES Bulletin is, as the name suggests, aimed at CITES permit applicants, trade representative groups and other interested parties. However, as the Wildlife Licensing and Registration Service (WLRS) is also responsible for the registration of certain species of birds under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Bulletins may also carry occasional articles relevant to our customers in this area.

TRANSFER TO ANIMAL HEALTH

On 1 April 2007 the whole of the Wildlife Registration and Licensing Service transferred to Animal Health, an Executive Agency of Defra. You may have already noticed the new letter headings and email addresses in our correspondence with you.



The transfer means that we now co-exist within the same organisation as the people who licence the movement of animals involved in long-distance transport, and inspect imported livestock, poultry and other animals to protect Great Britain from the import of disease.

Our intention remains that you will notice no difference in the service we provide to you.

WARNING TO IMPORTERS OF BIG LEAF MAHOGANY (*SWIETENIA MACROPHYLLA*) And RAMIN (*GONYSTYLUS SPP*)

Big Leaf Mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*) from Brazil, Peru and other range states

On 26 September 2006, the Positive opinion allowing Imports of logs, saw wood, veneer sheets and plywood from Peru was changed to a No opinion and import application for this species/country combination need to be referred to the Scientific Review Group with possible delays in processing times.

On 18 December 2006, the Negative opinion suspending imports for the same species and products from Brazil was changed to a No opinion. This has meant that all import applications from Brazil also need to be referred to the SRG.

To facilitate the process, it would be helpful if applicants could supply with their applications full details of the concession which was approved by the CITES Authorities. Licensing officers may also request this information directly from their counterparts in Brazil and Peru. Import applications should continue to be accompanied by a valid export permit which includes any current quota details.

Applications from other range states may also be required to be referred to the SRG on a case by case basis.

Ramin (*Gonystylus spp.*) from Malaysia

On 27 March 2007, the SRG formed a Negative opinion on imports of Ramin (*Gonystylus spp.*) from Malaysia (Sarawak, Peninsular Malaysia and Sabah). This means that applications to import specimens of this species from Malaysia will be refused under Article 4.2(a) of Regulations 338/97.

SRG opinions remain valid unless or until circumstances related to the trade or conservation status of the species change significantly. Further information on the SRG meetings is available from the Licensing Team or by visiting the European Commission's website at the locations detailed below:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/cites/shortsummary>

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/cites/agenda>

THE FOURTEENTH CITES CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

The 14th CITES Conference of the Parties will take place between 3 and 15 June this year, in the Hague, Netherlands. The UK delegation will consist of officials from the UK CITES Management Authority (based within Defra) and various other departmental experts, the Wildlife Licensing Registration Service (now part of the recently formed Animal Health agency), the UK Scientific Authorities, Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. In addition a number of UK and International based NGOs representing traders and conservationists will also be attending. The UK will be one of 171 Parties that will be attending the conference.

The UK have put forward 3 proposals, namely:

- Enforcement and Compliance (<http://www.cites.org/eng/cop/14/doc/E14-26.pdf>)
- Illegal internet trade (<http://www.cites.org/eng/cop/14/doc/E14-28.pdf>)
- CITES and Livelihoods (<http://www.cites.org/eng/cop/14/doc/E14-14.pdf>)

These proposals were developed in consultation with colleagues within Defra, the UK Scientific Authorities and representatives from trade organisations and conservation NGOs. In addition, we have also sought their views on all the CITES proposals and working documents in order that we formulate the UK view which has then fed into the EU common position.

The conference will take place in 2 committees, with Committee I dealing with all species listing proposals that seek to amend the Appendices plus a selection of working documents relating to the management of certain species (elephants, cetaceans, sharks, export quotas for leopards and black rhinos etc). There are 37 listing proposals covering a wide range of species, including the elephant, leopard, 3 species of gazelle, the Beaded Lizard, the Porbeagle, and Spiny Dogfish, Pink/Red Coral, Brazilwood, Cedar species and 2 species of Yew tree. Committee II will deal with all other aspects of the agenda, which drive CITES forward so that it reflects and is relevant to the Parties facing a wide variety of challenges. These proposals tend

to look at how the Convention is implemented and enforced and can either target a particular species, or aimed at a much higher level, e.g. the strategic vision of CITES.

DEFRA RESEARCH INTO PLANT ALTERNATIVES TO ANIMAL PRODUCTS USED IN TRADITIONAL MEDICINES

In 2001 Defra commissioned Middlesex University and the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew to undertake research to identify plant substitutes for 4 CITES listed mammals pre-eminently used in Traditional Medicines (tigers, black bears, black rhino and white rhino). The research was joint funded with the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW). This research was undertaken in response to a recognised need for more research into possible herbal substitutes (Conf Resolution 10.9 (Rev COP 12)). With the popularity of traditional medicines increasing, a continued demand for traditional medicines poses an ongoing and significant threat to the survival of certain endangered species.

We are in the process of finalising the report in preparation for it being published in May. As well as a small number of hard copies, it will be available on the Defra website. Given that the UK was instrumental in CITES in gaining a Resolution calling for more research into substitutes for endangered species in traditional medicines we hope to be able to distribute the report to all CITES parties at the forthcoming CITES conference of the Parties.

Now that the study on “Plant Substances as alternatives for animal products in traditional medicines”, has formally reported we hope the research outcomes will engender the interest that will allow Defra to commission a follow up study to carry forward this report by conducting efficacy trials of the plant substances identified in this report.

REVIEW OF BIRD REGISTRATION: RESULTS OF CONSULTATION

The public consultation on the species listed on Schedule 4 and bird registration procedures closed on 16 February. Many thanks to the 130 people and organisations who responded. Officials from the three administrations will meet after the May elections to discuss the relative merits of each of the options, and it is hoped that secondary legislation to amend the current registration requirements will be in place within the next 12 months.

A summary of the responses is published on the Defra website at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/birdreg-schedule4/summary-responses.pdf>

This summary analyses the pattern of support from different sectors of our customer base, and lists the arguments put forward in support and in opposition to the five options presented for comment.

Full copies of the responses are publicly available through the Defra Information Resource Centre (tel 020 7238 6575 or email defra.library@defra.gsi.gov.uk). Responses from Scottish consultees are in addition available through the Scottish Executive library (tel 0131 244 4556 or email library@scotland.gsi.gov.uk).

CITES CHARGING

As readers will know there has been no increases to fees for CITES permits since 1997. Although a full public consultation was undertaken in 2004, where we received over 900 responses from individual and organisations, charges have not been increased. Ministers at that time decided that new charges should nominally increase to between £10 and £25, and this was communicated to traders in January 2006, indicating that the price increases would take effect from 1 October 2006. The increases were not introduced due to ongoing discussions with HM Treasury, who have raised concerns that the revised charges amounted to a heavy subsidy by the tax payer, and were not in line with a government policy on full cost recovery.

Defra continues to review this issue, and Ministers have indicated that they want full cost recovery for all areas of CITES licensing. Once the questions, issues and proposals have been identified a full public consultation may take place, and stakeholder groups will be notified of this process. At this stage, however, a timescale for the review and any resultant consultation has yet to be agreed. Defra is currently considering the options, with Animal Health, that can be put out to focus groups for discussion prior to a full public consultation.

PORTS OF ENTRY- A NEW CONSULTATION

Article 12 of the council regulation requires Member States to designate customs offices for the carrying out the checks and formalities for the introduction into and export from the community. These custom offices will have adequate welfare facilities for live Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) specimens. In amending the current list for Article 12 designated custom offices the Governments objectives are to;

- continue to provide adequate controls of the trade of critically endangered wildlife
- ensure sufficient welfare facilities for critically endangered species, entering and leaving the UK
- make import and export conditions required for CITES species more transparent
- assist in preventing disease from entering or leaving the UK through CITES species
- ensure full compliance with EU Regulations and the effective implementation of trade controls.

The changes to the legislation will serve to marry the legislation governing the import and export of CITES specimens and derivatives from or to third countries (outside of the EU), with existing legislation in these areas¹.

A full consultation was completed in September 2000, but progress was not made due to other work priorities. A further consultation exercise will commence in May proposing 3 options.

The procedures for Border Inspection Posts (BIPs) are **NOT** under consultation as these are dealt with under other EU and domestic legislation.

The Options

Option 1: Do nothing.

Under this option nothing would change. Exports of all specimens could continue through non designated ports. Entry to the UK from third countries would remain controlled by relevant animals and plant legislation. This is not a viable option as we need to comply with Article 12 of the EU legislation and ensure that adequate controls are in place for the trade in all CITES specimens. In addition the facilities provided by non-BIPs for entry and exit from the UK do not meet the conditions required for live specimens.

Option 2: Designate Heathrow Airport as the only suitable point of import and export for live CITES-listed animals as well as designating all relevant Border Inspection Posts as points of import and export for all other specimens of species controlled under the CITES Regulations.

This option would make the UK fully compliant with EU legislation and would ensure all goods were subject to checking procedures through a fully equipped BIP. However, this has the potential to severely restrict trade in live animals which could negatively impact upon small

¹Products of Animal Origin (Import and Export) Regulations 1996
Animals and Animal Products (Import and Export)(Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997
Animals and Animal Products (Import and Export) Regulation 1998
Products of Animal Origin (Import and Export)(Amendment) (England) Regulations 2001
Animals and Animal Products (Import and Export) Regulations 2004
Animals and Animal Products (Import and Export)(England) Regulations 2005
Rabies (Importation of Dogs, Cats and other Mammals) Order (Northern Ireland) 1977

businesses. The distances required for specimens to be transported around the UK may also have implications for animal welfare. Exporters will also be required to use a specific exit point when exporting specimens to a third country.

This option will mainly affect importers and exporters of live specimens. For those importing or exporting dead specimens or derivatives from third countries there is unlikely to be significant change due to the large number of BIP's available.

Option 3: Restrict imports and exports for live CITES-listed animal species to those all ports designated as Border Inspection Posts for live animals, and to designate all relevant Border Inspection Posts as points of import and export for all other specimens and derivatives of species controlled under the CITES Regulations.

This option would make the UK fully compliant with EU legislation as required by Article 12 for import and export of all CITES listed specimens both dead and alive. For importers of live specimens this option is unlikely to represent a significant change, as the majority of importers have already been using the designated BIPs for live specimens. It is possible that those exporting live CITES specimens to third countries will be affected by the designation of specific points of exit. We are particularly keen to hear of the potential for exporters of live specimens on the impact to their businesses and costs.

Import and export of all dead specimens or derivatives will be through a designated BIP. Whilst this may be more restrictive than the current arrangements, its impact is mitigated by the large number of points of import and export available.

Late last year the Department consulted with over 80 randomly chosen organisations (both large and small) to evaluate the cost implications of each option. These results will be fed into the consultation process and will be open to comment and amendment through this process. Needless to say nothing is set in stone. Through the consultation process we will be actively asking traders in CITES specimens to challenge our assumption and ensure the process is open and honest.

Option 3 is our preferred option and if adopted is unlikely (we suspect) to impact on traders significantly.

COALITION AGAINST WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING (CAWT)

CAWT was launched by US Assistant Secretary Claudia McMurray on 22 September 2005 and in February 2006 the UK joined CAWT. A first high level group meeting of CAWT members took place in Nairobi in February 2007 where the Coalition was officially launched. The meeting was chaired by Claudia McMurray. CAWT aims to focus public and political attention and resources on ending the illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products by;

- **Improving Wildlife Law Enforcement** by expanding enforcement training and information sharing and strengthening regional cooperative networks
- **Reducing consumer demand for illegally traded wildlife** by raising awareness of the impacts of illegal wildlife trade on biodiversity and the environment, livelihoods, and human health; its links to organized crime; and the availability of sustainable alternatives
- **Catalyze high-level political will to fight wildlife trafficking** by broadening support at the highest political levels for actions to combat the illegal trade in wildlife

CAWT aims to complement and reinforce existing national, regional and international efforts, including the work of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. For more information about CAWT please see their website at; <http://www.cawtglobal.org/cawt/public/>.

CHARTERMARK RE-ACCREDITATION

We are proud to announce that we have once again been re-accredited with the Charter Mark Standard for Customer Service Excellence. We were inspected in January this year, and the assessor was impressed with the range of services we offer to our customers, our willingness

to respond to customer requests for improving the service, and the consistent high performance record of our staff in meeting our service standards.

In a letter from Tony Blair PM, we were told that this is not a Standard that is easily achieved and the award was a tribute to our organisation. The letter continued; “your achievement clearly demonstrates that customers’ needs and aspirations genuinely form the basis for the design and delivery of the services you provide.”

ENQUIRIES ON CITES ISSUES

We are justifiably proud of our record on customer service, especially as case officers are dealing with an increasing volume of applications, as the table shows. It is especially commendable that our service standard has been achieved with a reduced number of staff, and the use of temporary cover for staff on long term sick absence.

	2003-4		2004-5		2005-6		2006-7	
	Documents issued	Applications	Documents issued	Applications	Documents issued	Applications	Documents issued	Applications
CITES A10	17020	4602	22310	5955	21803	5346	27087	7577
CITES I/E	22967	4725	24169	4871	25423	5235	17320	7427
BIRD REG	5670	4690	4987	4026	4935	4378	4652	4605

Our Customer Charter sets out our service standards, which state that we will process:

CITES applications

- 90% of completed applications within 15 working days
- the remainder within 30 working days

Bird registrations

- 90% of fully completed applications within 7 working days
- the remainder within 15 working days

We will of course do our best to turn round applications more quickly if there is a genuine emergency, but you are asked to bear these standards in mind when you make your applications and leave plenty of time. In addition, you should remember that the 15 working days only begin once we have a *fully completed* application – in other words, when we have all the information we require to process it. The more information you supply about the specimen, the more quickly your application can be processed.

Case officers are here to answer your calls regarding the detail and progress of your application, although please be aware that high volumes of calls can slow down processing times for everyone. To keep applications moving, enquiries of a more general nature, concerning issues such as the Appendix or Annex listing of a species, or the cost of making an application, should be made to our general enquiry numbers 0117 372 8691/ 8168/ 8692. Less urgent enquiries can be emailed to cites.ukma@defra.gsi.gov.uk (emails to this mailbox are monitored on a daily basis).

TRAFFIC/IUCN STUDY ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE EC WILDLIFE TRADE REGULATIONS

Some of our customers have been asked to participate in a study undertaken by TRAFFIC and IUCN on behalf of the European Commission. The Commission is required periodically to review legislation to ensure that it fulfils its purpose, and to consult with interested parties, organisations and individual stakeholders.

One component of this study was to determine the impact of the regulations on ‘economic operators’, primarily commercial traders and breeders. The results will help determine the right

regulatory balance, where trade is regulated sufficiently to ensure its sustainability, but not so over-regulated and burdensome that it creates disincentives to trade or, indeed, disincentives to trade legally.

The study is now closed, and the responses are being considered. We will publish details of where to find the report in a future edition of this Bulletin.

NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES

Please note that our email addresses have changed since the transfer to Animal Health. If you have a particular contact name, their email address will be firstname.surname@animalhealth.gsi.gov.uk. If you have any general enquiries regarding CITES Licensing and Bird Registration, please sent emails to wildlife.licensing@animalhealth.gsi.gov.uk. If you have any general enquiries regarding wildlife enforcement, please sent emails to wildlife.enforce@animalhealth.gsi.gov.uk.

MAKING APPLICATIONS

For the purposes of speeding up CITES applications, it would be very useful if you could include a contact telephone phone number and if you have one, an e-mail address on the application forms. These will speed up any requests for additional information.

E-MAIL DISTRIBUTION OF THE CITES BULLETIN

If you would like to receive the CITES Bulletin by e-mail please let us know and we will add your details to the list.

UK CITES WEBSITE

We are currently carrying out a review of the website www.ukcites.gov.uk. If you have any comments or ideas for information which you would like to see included please contact Lucy Ballard on lucy.ballard@animalhealth.gsi.gov.uk.

2006 CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SURVEY

Thank you to all those who responded to the 2006 Customer Satisfaction Survey. The results have been analysed, and the report can be found on our website <http://www.ukcites.gov.uk/license/2006CSSReport>.

Designed and edited by Lucy Ballard

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