

§ 23.27

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**§ 23.27 What CITES documents do I present at the port?**

(a) *Purpose.* Article VIII of the Treaty provides that Parties establish an inspection process that takes place at a port of exit and entry. Inspecting officials must verify that valid CITES documents accompany shipments and take enforcement action when shipments do not comply with the Convention.

(b) *U.S. port requirements.* In the United States, you must follow the clearance requirements for wildlife in part 14 of this subchapter and for plants in part 24 of this subchapter and 7 CFR parts 319, 352, and 355, and the specific requirement in paragraphs (c) and (d) of this section.

(c) *General validation or certification process.* Officials in each country inspect the shipment and validate or certify the CITES document. The table in this paragraph (c) provides information on:

(1) The types of original CITES documents you must present to be validated or certified by the inspecting official to export or re-export from a country.

(2) When you need to surrender a copy of the original CITES document to the inspecting official at the time of export or re-export.

(3) When you need to surrender the original CITES document to the inspecting official at the time of import or introduction from the sea.

Type of CITES document	Present original for export or re-export validation or certification	Surrender copy upon export or re-export	Surrender original upon import or introduction from the sea
Bred-in-captivity certificate	Required	Required	Required
Certificate for artificially propagated plants	Required	Required	Required
Certificate of origin	Required	Required	Required
Certificate of ownership	Required	Required	Not required; submit copy
Export permit	Required	Required	Required
Import permit	Not required	Required	Required
Introduction-from-the-sea certificate	Not applicable	Not applicable	Required
Multiple-use document	Required <sup>1</sup>	Required	Not required; submit copy
Phytosanitary certificate	Required	Required	Not required; submit copy
Pre-Convention document	Required	Required	Required
Re-export certificate	Required	Required	Required
Registered Appendix-I commercial breeding operation, export permit	Required	Required	Required
Registered Appendix-I nursery, export permit	Required	Required	Required
Replacement document where a shipment has been made and is in a foreign country	Not required	Not required	Required
Replacement document where a shipment has not left the United States	Required	Required	Required
Retrospective document	Not required	Not required	Required
Sample collection covered by an ATA carnet, CITES document	Required	Required	Not required; submit copy
Traveling-exhibition certificate	Required	Required	Not required; submit copy

<sup>1</sup> Original must be available for inspection, but permit conditions will indicate whether an original or copy is to be validated.

(d) *Customs declaration labels.* The customs declaration label used to identify specimens being moved between registered scientific institutions (§ 23.48) must be affixed to the shipping container. The label does not require export or re-export validation or certification at the port.

### Subpart C—Application Procedures, Criteria, and Conditions

#### § 23.32 How do I apply for a U.S. CITES document?

(a) To apply for a U.S. CITES document, you must complete a standard application form and submit it to the appropriate office shown on the top of the form.

(b) To determine the type of CITES document needed for your shipment, go to §§ 23.18 through 23.20 for further guidance.

(c) If a species is also regulated under another part of this subchapter (such as endangered or threatened species, see § 23.3), the requirements of all parts must be met. You may submit a single application that contains all the information needed to meet the requirements of CITES and other applicable parts.

(d) You must also follow the general permit procedures in part 13 of this subchapter.

(e) You should review the criteria in all applicable regulations in this subchapter that apply to the type of permit you are seeking before completing the application form.

(f) We will review your application to assess whether it contains the information needed to make the required findings.

(1) Based on available information, we will decide if any of the exemptions apply and what type of CITES document you need.

(2) If we need additional information, we will contact you. If you do not provide the information within 45 calendar days, we will abandon your application. If your application is abandoned and you wish to apply for a permit at a later time, you must submit a new application.

#### § 23.33 How is the decision made to issue or deny a request for a U.S. CITES document?

(a) Upon receiving a complete application, we will decide whether to issue a CITES document by considering:

(1) The general criteria in § 13.21(b) of this subchapter and, if the species is protected under a separate law or treaty, criteria in any other applicable parts.

(2) The CITES issuance criteria provided in this subpart (see subpart D of this part for factors we consider in making certain findings).

(b) As needed, the U.S. Management Authority, including FWS Law Enforcement, will forward a copy of the application to the U.S. Scientific Authority; State, tribal, or other Federal government agencies; or other applicable experts. We may also query the Secretariat and foreign Management and Scientific Authorities for information to use in making the required findings.

(c) You must provide sufficient information to satisfy us that all criteria specific to the proposed activity are met before we can issue a CITES document.

(d) We will base our decision on whether to issue or deny the application on the best available information.

#### § 23.34 What kinds of records may I use to show the origin of a specimen when I apply for a U.S. CITES document?

(a) When you apply for a U.S. CITES document, you will be asked to provide information on the origin of the specimen that will be covered by the CITES document.

(1) You need to provide sufficient information for us to determine if the issuance criteria in this part are met (see the sections in this subpart for each type of CITES document).

(2) We require less detailed information when the import, introduction from the sea, export, or re-export poses a low risk to a species in the wild and more detailed information when the proposed activity poses greater risk to a species in the wild (see Subpart D of this part for factors we consider in making certain findings).