



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2012/029

Geneva, 21 March 2012

CONCERNING:

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Tags for skins of crocodilians and furbearers

1. The following information is provided at the request of the CITES Management Authority of the United States of America.
2. The United States wishes to inform Parties that it has become aware that the CITES tags on some American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*) skins marked in accordance with Resolution Conf. 11.12 (Rev. CoP15), *Universal tagging system for the identification of crocodilian skins*, may have a malfunctioning locking device.
3. As a stricter domestic measure, the United States also requires the use of its CITES tags on fur skin specimens of bobcat (*Lynx rufus*), brown bear (*Ursus arctos*), Canada lynx (*Lynx canadensis*), grey wolf (*Canis lupus*), and river otter (*Lontra canadensis*) exported from the United States. Some tags on fur skins may also have a malfunctioning locking device.
4. The United States has documented a failure rate significantly higher than normal for these fur skin and American alligator tags. It is making extensive efforts to identify and replace tags having a malfunctioning locking device.
5. Any malfunctioning tags identified prior to export will be replaced with new tags. The United States has temporarily authorized the use of replacement tags, numbered US CITES LA MIS 00600001 through US CITES LA MIS 00660000 for Louisiana alligator skins, and authorized the use of replacement tags marked US CITES FWS REPL and a seven-digit serial number for all other specimens initially tagged with a malfunctioning locking device.
6. The United States believes that some defective tags may have escaped its detection and that some malfunctioning locking devices may fail during shipment.
7. In the event that any importing country discovers tags with malfunctioning locking devices, the Management Authority of the United States requests that it be notified at the following email address: managementauthority@fws.gov. The United States can verify the legal acquisition of specimens with defective tags if provided with the tag number and permit number for the shipment.
8. Any Party that has questions about this issue or requires further information should contact the CITES Management Authority of the United States at managementauthority@fws.gov.