

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Twenty-sixth meeting of the Plants Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 5 – 9 June 2023

Thirty-second meeting of the Animals Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 19 – 23 June 2023

Regulation of trade

TRANSPORT OF LIVE SPECIMENS

1. This document has been submitted by the United States of America.*

Background

2. At its 19th meeting (CoP19; Panama City, 2022), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 19.158 and 19.159 as follows:

Directed to Animals Committee and Plants Committee, in consultation with the Standing Committee, the Secretariat, and the International Air Transport Association (IATA)

19.158 *The Animals and Plants Committees, in consultation with the Standing Committee, Secretariat, and International Air Transport Association (IATA), shall hold a workshop to share best practices related to live animal and plant transport. The Animals and Plants Committees shall invite Parties with expertise in this area to present on their management of live animals and plants in trade and steps to support other Parties in meeting CITES requirements for live animal and plant transport consistent with Resolution Conf. 10.21 (Rev. CoP19) on Transport of live specimens.*

Directed to the Secretariat, in consultation with the Standing Committee

19.159 *The Secretariat shall, in consultation with the Standing Committee, work with IATA to make relevant sections of the IATA Live Animal Regulations and IATA Perishable Cargo Regulations available to authorized representatives of Management Authorities and enforcement authorities as electronic or hard copies, depending on the needs of the Party and consider making them accessible to other relevant exporters, transporters and importers, free of charge.*

Next steps on Decision 19.158

3. To assist in advancing the work for Decision 19.158 and the multiple consultations directed within it, the United States recently met with the Secretariat and the Chairs of the Animals Committee and Standing Committee. They suggested, as next steps, that the appointed leads for this topic from both the Animals

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Committee and Plants Committee collaborate with the Secretariat and interested Parties to develop terms of reference for consideration at the next meeting of the Standing Committee and that the workshop be in a virtual format to increase participation. The recommendations below reflect these next steps, which the Animals Committee is invited to consider.

4. CITES documents are valid only if the transport conditions comply with the *IATA Live Animals Regulations* (LAR) for animals or the *IATA Perishable Cargo Regulations* (PCR) for plants, or – in the case of non-air transport of species that may require transport conditions in addition to or different from the LAR or PCR – the *CITES Guidelines for the non-air transport of wild animals and plants*. Although the transport regulations for plants is relatively minimal compared to that for animals, it is essential to increase capacity for abiding by the regulations for both. The goal of the workshop directed in Decision 19.158 is to increase compliance with the existing CITES regulations on the transport of live specimens, so it is envisaged that the workshop will cover both animals and plants – with a greater focus on animals, for which the regulations are more detailed.
5. We provide additional considerations and recommendations below, in case they are useful as a starting point for the development of the Terms of Reference. However, the content and topics of the workshop will be most successful if they are informed by feedback and ideas from other Parties, to ensure that the session meets Parties' needs in helping reduce barriers in applying the transport regulations.

Potential considerations

6. Regarding possible goals and topics of this workshop, we suggest that the primary aim is to increase Parties' use of the *IATA Live Animal Regulations* and *IATA Perishable Cargo Regulations* by sharing and clarifying best practices for live specimen transport. The workshop could support this through presentations and discussion among workshop participants and the instructors (experts with experience in the inspection, packing, and containment of live wildlife), ideally with time for Q&A and troubleshooting for each topic. The idea is to provide support to Parties by both delivering background material for each section and inviting participants (via small groups, as needed) to "workshop" or discuss the challenges they face in applying the regulations. Through greater understanding of how to use the regulations, relevant personnel involved in shipping live CITES-listed animals and plants will be better able to assure the following, under each proposed area of focus for the workshop:
 - a) Using the IATA regulations: Live wildlife is transported according to the current methods listed in the IATA regulations, that appropriate materials and dimensions are used for container construction, and that density and ventilation guidelines are followed – according to the LAR guidelines for animals and the PCR guidelines for plants.
 - b) Using the CITES Guidelines for the non-air transport of wild animals and plants: Live specimens and species for which there is specialized guidance (beyond the LAR and PCR) are transported according to requirements in the *CITES Guidelines*.
 - c) Reducing stress for live specimens: Live wildlife is transported safely, in as stress-free an environment as possible to reduce the potential for stress-induced illness.
 - d) Inspections and enforcement: Live wildlife is inspected and handled using best practices to protect the animals and inspection, enforcement, and ancillary transport personnel.
 - e) Handling sick or dead specimens: Live wildlife can receive immediate triage in the case of injured or sick animals, due to either unexpected issues, in the case of otherwise legal transports following the LAR standards, or incorrect packing methods, in the case of illegal transports (e.g., smuggled wildlife). Personnel will learn about signs of disease and proper disposal of dead animals as well.
 - f) Temporary holding of wildlife: Appropriate facilities, methods, and protocol are in place for safely securing temporary holding of wildlife.

Additional topics may include appropriate use of personal protective equipment (PPE), as well as other suggestions that may be offered.

7. We believe that tentatively setting the workshop for January 2024 will allow for sufficient consultations (as required in Decision 19.158) and will maximize participation and ensure that the LAR and PCR are easily accessible to participants by the time of the workshop (per Decision 19.159). We anticipate that the workshop goals could be accomplished in a half-day meeting (4-5 hours, with appropriate breaks), with simultaneous

interpretation in English, French, and Spanish, and that the cost of the workshop would be approximately \$10,000 USD.

8. To convene experts from multiple Parties who have experience in proper transport of CITES specimens, we suggest that the Secretariat could issue a Notification to the Parties to request responses from experts interested in co-instructing the virtual workshop and to solicit further input into the workshop content or topics.

Recommendations

9. The Animals and Plants Committees are invited to proceed with the development of the workshop by requesting that the leads on this issue, identified in both the Animals Committee and Plants Committee, collaborate with the Secretariat by:
 - a) developing the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the virtual workshop and provide the ToR for consideration by the Standing Committee; and
 - b) sending a Notification to the Parties to welcome feedback about workshop content and to request expressions of interest from Parties and relevant experts in serving as workshop instructors.