

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



Joint sessions of the 26th meeting of the Animals Committee and
20th meeting of the Plants Committee
Dublin (Ireland), 22-24 March 2012

TRANSPORT OF LIVE SPECIMENS (DECISION 15.59)
REPORT OF THE JOINT WORKING GROUP

1. This document has been prepared by the co-chairs of the joint Transport Working Group^{*} (i.e. Austria's observers to the Animals and Plants Committees), in consultation with the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees and the Secretariat.

Background

2. At its 15th meeting (CoP15, Doha, 2010), the Conference of the Parties replaced Decisions 14.58 and 14.59 with Decisions 15.59 and 15.60 on the transport of live specimens, which address new guidelines for non-air transport and cooperation with transport-related organizations.

Decision 15.59 states that:

The Animals and Plants Committees, in consultation with the Secretariat, should:

- a) *proceed with replacing the CITES Guidelines for transport and preparation for shipment of wild animals and plants (1981) with new guidelines for non-air-transport of live animals and plants for consideration at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP16);*
- b) *consult and liaise with relevant transport experts and other stakeholders, inter alia, to gather information related to non-air-transport;*
- c) *review and propose revisions to Resolution Conf. 10.21 (Rev. CoP14) and Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP15) for consideration at CoP16; and*
- d) *report on the implementation of this decision at CoP16.*

Decision 15.60 states that:

The Secretariat shall:

- a) *explore ways to establish enhanced cooperation between CITES and various organizations that deal with transport (OIE/World Animal Health Organization, International Maritime Organization, etc.) through, inter alia, a Memorandum of Understanding, or the creation of a liaison group; and*
- b) *incorporate the transport-related guidance found in paragraphs 77-89 of document AC24 Doc. 15.2 into the CITES National Legislation Project.*

^{*} *The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat or the United Nations Environment Programme concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.*

3. A joint Transport Working Group was established at the 19th meeting of the Plants Committee (Geneva, April 2011) and the 25th meeting of the Animals Committee (Geneva, July 2011). The Austrian observer to the Plants Committee and the Austrian observer to the Animals Committee were elected as co-chairs.
4. The co-chairs have consulted diverse stakeholders and experts on the development of new guidelines for non-air transport of live specimens of CITES-listed species to replace the existing CITES *Guidelines for transport and preparation for shipment of wild animals and plants* (1981). With the financial support of Austria, one of the co-chairs was able to participate in several meetings of the International Air Transport Association Live Animals and Perishables Board (IATA LAPB) and the Animal Transportation Association (ATA), as well as workshops and roundtables on the non-air transport of wildlife organized by the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA), the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA), the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC), and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.
5. Valuable expert advice and documents relating to the non-air transport of CITES-listed species have been provided to the co-chairs by CITES Parties, the European Commission, the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA), the Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums (AMMPA), the San Diego Zoological Society, the Phoenix Zoo, Disney's Animal Kingdom, and the International Elephant Foundation. One of the co-chairs was also able to hold discussions with representatives of the Circus Federation (Fédération Mondiale du Cirque), the Animal Exhibitors Alliance and individuals with international expertise.
6. Consultations carried out by one of the co-chairs, in relation to plants, concentrated on determining whether there was a need for specific non-air transport guidelines for living plants.

Findings

7. In relation to live specimens of CITES-listed animal species, the joint Transport Working Group has found that container requirements in the IATA Live Animal Regulations (IATA/LAR) can, in most cases, be used for non-air transport as well. Some taxa require particular modifications of the IATA container requirements or transport procedures, in order to be properly transported by non-air modes of transport. These taxa, including various bird and mammal species, have been identified by the Working Group, and the Group has found that particular modifications for these taxa need to be elaborated and compiled into an addendum to the IATA/LAR. Work on a draft addendum is underway and the co-chairs will provide the results of this work to members of the Group in advance of the present meeting. A meeting of the Group, to review and revise the draft addendum, is envisaged to take place in the margins of the present meeting.
8. In relation to live specimens of CITES-listed plant species, the IATA Perishable Cargo Regulations (PCR) seem to cover all transport requirements for living plants, regardless of the mode of transport.

Other relevant matters

IATA's Live Animals and Perishables Board

9. The 27th meeting of the IATA LAPB (LAPB27), was held in Montreal during October 2011. The Secretariat liaised with the LAPB Secretariat in advance of the meeting and the meeting was attended by one of the co-chairs of the Transport Working Group. An official of the CITES Management Authority of the United States participated in the meeting by email. The minutes of LAPB27 have not yet been published. Nevertheless, decisions particularly relevant to CITES included the adoption of a CITES disclaimer which tentatively states as follows:

The information contained in the CITES column of the classification table is for general information purposes only. The information is obtained from the website of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and while IATA endeavours to keep the information up to date and correct, the CITES Appendices may be subject to changes in between two editions of the Live Animal Regulations. IATA recommends to refer to the CITES website for the latest updates on species listed in Appendices I, II or III of the Convention (<http://www.cites.org/eng/app/index.shtml>).

Cooperation with WAZA

10. On 20 December 2011, the CITES Secretariat and WAZA concluded a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which recognizes WAZA's expertise in the field of transport of live animals and provides for information exchange between the two organizations in relation to such transport. The conclusion of this MoU contributes to the implementation of Decision 15.60 of the Conference of the Parties.

Recommendations

11. It is recommended that the Animals and Plants Committees:

- a) Reach agreement on a proposed addendum to the IATA/LAR which contains guidance on the non-air transport of live specimens of identified taxa, for consideration by the appropriate IATA body and the Conference of the Parties to CITES at its 16th meeting (CoP16).
- b) Reach agreement on any proposed revisions to Resolution Conf. 10.21 (Rev. CoP14) (*Transport of live specimens*) and Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP15) (*Permits and certificates*) and any draft decisions that should be considered at CoP16, as well as the content of a related working document to be submitted at CoP16;
- c) Request the co-chairs and the Secretariat to liaise with the IATA Secretariat on the possibility of having the addendum on non-air transport adopted by the appropriate IATA body, incorporated into print and digital versions of the IATA/LAR, and regularly reviewed and revised by the LAPB; and
- d) Request the Secretariat, when communicating with the IATA Secretariat pursuant to Resolution Conf. 10.21 (Rev. CoP14), to explore the best way in which the two Secretariats might communicate in the future and might facilitate use of the most recent version of the IATA/LAR (including any future addendum on non-air transport) and the IATA/PCR by CITES Parties.