

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



Joint sessions of the 29th meeting of the Animals Committee and  
23rd meeting of the Plants Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 22 July 2017

Interpretation and implementation matters

Trade controls and traceability

TRANSPORT OF LIVE SPECIMENS

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.

Background

2. Resolution Conf. 10.21 (Rev. CoP16) on *Transport of live specimens* contains the recommendations of the Conference of the Parties on the implementation of the obligations in the Convention's Articles III, IV and V related to trade in live specimens. In paragraph 2, the Resolution recommends *inter alia* that:
  - a) *suitable measures be taken by the Parties to promote the full and effective use by Management Authorities of the IATA Live Animals Regulations (for animals), the IATA Perishable Cargo Regulations (for plants) and the CITES guidelines for the non-air transport of live wild animals and plants for the preparation and transport of live specimens and that they be brought to the attention of exporters, importers, transport companies, carriers, freight forwarders, inspection authorities and international organizations and conferences competent to regulate conditions of carriage by air, land and sea or inland waterways;*

Review, revision and approval of transport guidelines

3. Resolution Conf. 10.21 (Rev. CoP16) provides that the Standing Committee and the Secretariat, in consultation with the Animals and Plants Committees and International Air Transport Association (IATA), regularly review, revise and approve amendments to the *CITES guidelines for the non-air transport of live wild animals and plants*;
4. The *CITES Guidelines for the non-air transport of live animals and plants* are based on the *IATA Live Animals Regulations* (LAR) and the *IATA Perishable Cargo Regulations* (PCR). They are available from the CITES website<sup>1</sup>, and have been included in the LAR as Annex G of the Regulations.
5. In paragraph 3 of Resolution Conf. 10.21 (Rev. CoP16), the Conference of the Parties directs the Standing Committee and the Animals and Plants Committees, in consultation with the Secretariat:
  - a) *to participate in meetings of the Live Animals and Perishables Board of IATA in order to amplify or update the IATA Live Animals Regulations and the IATA Perishable Cargo Regulations and the CITES guidelines for the non-air transport of live wild animals and plants;*

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<sup>1</sup> See <https://cites.org/eng/resources/transport/index.php>

- b) to examine new or additional references for transport of live specimens for incorporation into the present Resolution, if appropriate;
  - c) to examine developments related to the transport of live plant specimens for incorporation into the present Resolution, if appropriate; and
  - d) to examine, when appropriate, any high mortality shipments of live specimens and make recommendations to relevant Parties, exporters, importers and transport companies on how to avoid this in the future;
6. In relation to paragraph 3 a), the IATA *Live Animals Regulations* and the IATA *Perishable Cargo Regulations* are regularly reviewed by the IATA Live Animals and Perishables Board, which meets twice a year. The Secretariat has no information concerning the participation of members of the Animals, Plants or Standing Committees in these meetings. However, the chair of the former joint Animals/Plants Committees transport working group is still a member on the Advisory Panel of the Board, representing the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA).
  7. With regard to paragraphs 3 b) and c) above, the Secretariat has consulted with IATA to understand if new or additional references or developments would be relevant to reflect in the *CITES guidelines for the non-air transport of live wild animals and plants* or Resolution Conf. 10.21 (Rev. CoP16). As the current review of the LAR and the PCR will be concluded in August of this year, it has been agreed to await the latest version, and consider any amendments to the Resolution at the next meeting of the Standing Committee. At present, the Secretariat has no indications that the *CITES Guidelines* or Resolution Conf. 10.21 (Rev. CoP16) need revisions or amendments.
  8. High mortality amongst shipments of live specimens is mostly an issue associated with illegal trade. The Secretariat has no indications of major problems for legal shipments of live specimens that respect the IATA LAR or IATA PCR.

#### Collaboration with IATA

9. On 8 June 2015, the Secretariat signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the International Air Transport Association to cooperate on reducing illegal trafficking in wildlife and wildlife products, as well as on ensuring the safe and secure transport of legally traded live animals and plants. The MoU was signed in the margins of the IATA Annual General Meeting where the CITES Secretary-General also made a keynote address. Since the signature of the MoU, significant collaboration has occurred around the role and possible responsibility of the international transport industry towards combatting illegal trade in wildlife (see document [CoP17 Doc. 25](#), paragraph 55).
10. In April 2017, the Secretariat met with the Secretary to the Live Animals and Perishables Board of IATA and agreed on a set of concrete actions to enhance the existing collaboration with respect to the implementation of the LAR and the PCR, as well as relevant CITES Decisions. The agreed actions include the following:
  - a) the 2018 edition of the LAR will be updated with the amended Appendices to the Convention; and
  - b) the new edition of the LAR will include a reference to the CITES list of current recommendations to suspend trade.

The next meeting of the Board will take place on 26-28 September 2017 (Miami, United States of America). The Secretariat will be invited to provide input on the agenda and designate a CITES representative to the meeting, if relevant and appropriate.
11. The Secretariat is regularly contacted by Parties with questions or concerns related to the transport of live animals of CITES-listed species, for instance in a recent case concerning the shipment of three tiger cubs from Ukraine to Syria via Lebanon. This and other examples demonstrate that there is still a need to promote “*the full and effective use of the by Management Authorities of the IATA Live Animals Regulations (for animals)*.” The Secretariat is collaborating with IATA to find ways to address this need in an effective and cost-efficient manner, including through further training and capacity building activities.
12. In this context it is recalled that CITES Parties can obtain the IATA *Live Animals Regulations* (LAR) and the IATA *Perishable Cargo Regulations* (PCR) through the CITES website as noted above and through the IATA website at

- LAR: <http://www.iata.org/publications/store/Pages/live-animals-regulation.aspx>
- PCR: <http://www.iata.org/publications/store/Pages/perishable-cargo-regulations.aspx>

It is further recalled that IATA provides a discount on the price if the code **CITES2016** is used for the purchase of the publications. Questions concerning the Regulations can be addressed to the Legal and Compliance Affairs Unit of the CITES Secretariat.

#### Recommendation

13. The Animals and Plants Committees are invited to take note of the information contained in the present document.