

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



Twelfth meeting of the Plants Committee
Leiden (The Netherlands), 13-17 May 2002

GUIDELINES FOR TRANSPORT OF LIVE PLANTS

1. This document has been modified by the Vice-Chairman of the Plants Committee on the basis of document PC11 Doc. 17.
2. The Vice-Chairman of the Plants Committee is very grateful to the United States who provided assistance with extensive and very constructive comments.
3. At the last meeting of the Plants Committee, a draft proposal resulting from the compilation of several origins was presented.
4. The overall feeling was in favour of such a guiding document as long as it does not become a burden. It was recognized that death often occurs to plants because of absence or inappropriateness of paperwork.
5. It was also suggested to indicate clearly:
 - a) where to put the documentation with the shipment; and
 - b) where to look for it when controlling.
6. Other comments suggested that such guidelines should be added to Resolution Conf. 10.2, widely circulated as information and posted on the CITES Website.
7. IATA also provide information about live plants in a manual about transportation on perishables. (<http://www.iata.org/cargo/perishables.htm>) This document is updated every 2 years and is presently under review. IATA expressed its interest in pursuing exchanges of views on this matter. The Vice-Chairman of the Plants Committee will report on further discussions with IATA at the coming meeting.
8. The new draft (in Annex 2) is the result of comments of PC members at the last meeting and enforcement persons. The various comments have been included (**bold** = additions; ~~strikethrough~~ = deletions; the paragraph numbers remain from the original document) in the previous version as presented in document PC11 Doc.17. A clean version is included in Annex 1.
9. These guidelines intend to reduce the mortality of live traded plants which are most frequently associated with delays at ports of entry caused by missing or improper documentation. Importing and exporting plant involves adherence to many different rules

and regulations that are not always obvious, even to experienced traders. Therefore these guidelines highlight the need of:

- Preconditioning of plants before transport;
- Shipping via the fastest transport mode available;
- Giving appropriate care to plants during transport;
- Communicating shipment arrival time to importer; and
- Adhering to phytosanitary regulations.

10. To accomplish those and hence to enhance the survival rate of plants that are traded internationally, these guidelines are provided to importers and exporters as a checklist to assist them with the Customs clearance process.
11. It was also suggested that Parties document shipments that arrived in their countries and were detained or seized for lack of adherence to the guidelines. Parties should also be encouraged to communicate that information to their counterparts in the exporting country. Also a standardized format for reporting problem shipment should be developed.
12. Finally the Vice-Chairman of the Plants Committee wishes to thank Yves-Marie Allain for providing interesting information through his book "voyages et survie des plantes au temps de la voile". Abundance of historical information and illustration on size and shape of - most often - wooden boxes could definitely become very handy for ...any long sailing journey back from unknown tropical countries!

GUIDELINES FOR TRANSPORTATION OF LIVE PLANT SPECIMENS

Introduction

1. Shipments of live plant material have to comply with applicable international and national phytosanitary and transportation regulations (*add link to where to find them*). These regulations dictate the way in which plant material shall be transferred from country to country and transit a country. They not only cover the form in which the plant specimens may be transferred but also the materials and methods which may be used in packaging and any preconditioning necessary to meet environmental conditions to be encountered in transit or at the final destination.
2. Living plant specimens should be given high priority over non living items during all phases of transportation - which usually means by air, using the pressurised compartment of the aircraft - and handling. Except for seeds, surface mail should not be used for long-distance transport of plant specimens.
3. All possible precautions should be taken in advance to ensure that shipment containers are kept dry, and not exposed to desiccating conditions, and that they are not left exposed to the sun, extreme heat, or freezing conditions (temperatures). Plants should be stored in such a manner that they have adequate ventilation.
4. It is the consignor's (exporter) responsibility to ensure that adequate advance arrangements are made to care for the plant specimens until the consignee (importer) takes them into his charge (i.e. the estimated time of arrival of the plant specimens should be notified in advance to the consignee, and also the route of the consignment).
5. Plant quarantine import requirements of the country of destination should be consulted before plants are packaged and shipped in order to avoid compulsory fumigation and other treatments what will injure plant specimens. It should be noted that soil and certain other materials used as growing media or packaging material are prohibited entry into many countries, as a potential source of pests or pathogens. Persons importing live plants should contact the national plant protection organisation (NPPO) in heir country to obtain up-to-date information concerning the phytosanitary requirements of the plants being traded and relay that information to the exporter. The names, addresses and telephone numbers of NPPOs can be found at the following website:

<http://www.fao.org/waicent/faoinfo/agricult/agp/agpp/pq/En/Contact/ctpts.htm>

6. In case of storage, plants should be kept in such a manner that they have adequate living conditions.

Package

7. Package should be strong enough to withstand handling and shipping.
8. Plant specimens shall be packaged in a manner to minimise desiccation, movement, and damage during transport, and to allow adequate ventilation. Plant specimens normally should not be enclosed in airtight containers; however, propagating material (newly germinated seedlings and tissue cultures) may travel on culture media in tubes or other sealed containers.

9. Indications such as "CITES" ; "URGENT" ; "FRAGILE"; LIVE PLANTS – NO EXTREME HEAT OR COLD" and "THIS WAY UP" or arrows indicating the top on all sides and top should be provided on durable, waterproof labels.

Documentation

10. Documents and other essential information shall be contained within durable, waterproof envelopes or sleeves if such documents are sent with the packages.
11. In a shipment with more than one box to more than one importer, each item shall show the appropriate information and carry copies of the original permits.
12. On package and documentation include:
 - a) the name, full address, and telephone number of the consignor and consignee;
 - b) a unique number or mark, especially for shipments with multiple packages (e.g. package #1 of 6), and documentation accurately describing the contents (quantity and plant names) of each package;
 - c) documentation that accompanies the shipment providing details of the content of each package, especially species names and the quantities of each;
 - d) when possible, labels on each plant with genus and species names;
 - e) copies of any required export and import licence or permits;
 - f) a phytosanitary certificate (this document does not replace the need for CITES permits, unless used in accordance with Resolution Conf. 10.2, section VI, and only for those Parties notified by the Secretariat);
 - g) a description of any pesticide treatment that was applied to the plants prior to the export, including the name of the pesticide, the rate of application, and the treatment duration (length of time); and
 - h) other applicable information required by the country of destination.

GUIDELINES FOR TRANSPORTATION OF LIVE PLANT SPECIMENS

(previous version with amendments)

Introduction

1. Shipments of live plant material have to comply with applicable international and national phytosanitary and transportation regulations. *(add link to where to find them)* These regulations dictate the way in which plant material shall be transferred from country to country **and transit a country**. They not only cover the form in which the plant specimens may be transferred but also the materials and methods which may be used in packaging and any preconditioning necessary to meet environmental conditions to be encountered in transit or at the final destination..
2. **Living plant specimens should be given high priority over non living items during all phases of transportation - which usually means by air, using the pressurised compartment of the aircraft - and handling. Except for seeds, surface mail should not be used for long-distance transport of plant specimens.** (mod 2 + 5) ~~To obtain optimum success in propagation and cultivation, live plant material should be transported as rapidly as possible, which usually means by air, using the pressurised compartment of the aircraft. Except for seeds, surface mail should not be used for long distance transport of plant specimens.~~
3. All possible precautions should be taken in advance to ensure that shipment containers are kept dry, and not exposed to desiccating conditions, and that they are not left exposed to the sun, extreme heat, or freezing conditions (temperatures). Plants should be stored in such a manner that they have adequate ventilation.

General

- ~~4. Shipments of live plant material have to comply with applicable international and national phytosanitary and transportation regulations.~~
- ~~5. Living plant specimens should be given high priority over non living items during all phases of transportation and handling. (merged with 2)~~
6. It is the consignor's (exporter) responsibility to ensure that adequate advance arrangements are made to care for the plant specimens until the consignee (importer) takes them into his charge (i.e. the estimated time of arrival of the plant specimens should be notified in advance to the consignee, and also the route of the consignment).
7. Plant quarantine import requirements of the country of destination should be consulted before plants are packaged and shipped in order to avoid compulsory fumigation and other treatments what will injure plant specimens. It should be noted that soil and certain other materials used as growing media or packaging material are prohibited entry into many countries, as a potential source of pests or pathogens. **Persons importing live plants should contact the national plant protection organisation (NPPO) in heir country to obtain up-to-date information concerning the phytosanitary requirements of the plants being traded and relay that information to the exporter. The names, addresses and telephone numbers of NPPOs can be found at the following website:**

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11. Indications such as "CITES" ; "URGENT" ; "FRAGILE"; LIVE PLANTS – NO EXTREME HEAT OR COLD" and "THIS WAY UP" or arrows indicating the top on all sides and top should be provided on durable, waterproof labels.

Documentation

12. ~~Durable, waterproof means of containing the following documents and other essential information should be firmly attached to the package.~~ **Documents and other essential information shall be contained within durable, waterproof envelopes or sleeves if such documents are sent with the packages.**
13. In a shipment with more than one box to more than one importer, each item shall show the appropriate information and carry copies of the original permits.
14. On package and documentation **include:**, ~~the following information must appear clearly:~~
 - a) **the name, full address, and telephone number of the consignor and consignee;**
 - b) **a unique number or mark, especially for shipments with multiple packages (e.g. package #1 of 6), and documentation accurately describing the contents (quantity and plant names) of each package;**
 - c) **documentation that accompanies the shipment providing details of the content of each package, especially species names and the quantities of each;**
 - d) **when possible, labels on each plant with genus and species names;**
 - e) **copies of any required export and import licence or permits;**
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 - h) **other applicable information required by the country of destination.**

- ~~— consignor's and consignee's name, full address and telephone number. (Postal box numbers must not be used as the sole address); Complete Latin names of all plants contained in package (on a label?);~~
- ~~— Copies of relevant export and import licences. (never list of higher taxa on documentation);~~
- ~~— A phytosanitary certificate is not replacing CITES Permits, unless in accordance with Resolution Conf. 10.2, section VI, and only for those Parties notified by the Secretariat; and~~
- ~~— A clear list of handling recommendations and restrictions should be provided by the consignor and attached to each shipment.~~