

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



Sixty-ninth meeting of the Standing Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 27 November - 1 December 2017

Interpretation and implementation matters

Trade control and traceability

Transport

TRANSPORT OF LIVE SPECIMENS

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.

Introduction

2. At the joint session of 29th meeting of the Animals Committee and the 23rd meeting of the Plants Committee (AC29/PC23, Geneva, July 2017), the Committees took note of document AC29 Doc. 17/PC23 Doc. 17 on which the present document is based.

Background

3. Resolution Conf. 10.21 (Rev. CoP16) on *Transport of live specimens* contains 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 of the Resolution, the Conference of the Parties 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

4. Resolution Conf. 10.21 (Rev. CoP16) provides that the Standing Committee and the Secretariat, in consultation with the Animals and Plants Committees and the 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*.
5. To promote as much as possible a uniform approach in a multimodal environment, the *CITES Guidelines for the non-air transport of live wild 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.

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

6. 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;*
  - 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;*
7. 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).
8. 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 in Resolution Conf. 10.21 (Rev. CoP16). At present, the Secretariat has no indications that the CITES Guidelines or Resolution Conf. 10.21 (Rev. CoP16) need revisions or amendments.
9. With regard to paragraph 3 d), the Secretariat notes that high mortality among 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

10. On 8 June 2015, the Secretariat signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the International Air Transport Association (IATA) 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).
11. In April 2017, the Secretariat met with the Secretary to the Live Animals and Perishables Board of IATA (IATA LAPB) 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.
12. IATA and the CITES Secretariat has also initiated work on a joint awareness raising campaign on the LAR. The campaign would be targeting actors involved in the transport of live animals, such as ground staff and cargo staff. It would also be addressed to actors involved in the regular trade of live animals, such as the pet industry and the zoos and aquariums.
13. The IATA LAPB met on 26-28 September 2017 (Miami, United States of America). Of interest to CITES on the agenda is a proposal to establish a system for anonymous incident reporting, in particular in case of

incidents related to the transport of live birds. Such a system would assist in addressing any problems with the container requirements that could be addressed by the LAR and the CITES Guidelines.

14. The Secretariat is regularly contacted by Parties with questions or concerns related to the transport of live animals of CITES-listed species. This demonstrates 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 as well as the above-mentioned awareness raising campaign.
15. It is also 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

16. The Standing Committee is invited to take note of this document.