

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

Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties

Ottawa (Canada), 12 to 24 July 1987

Interpretation and Implementation of the Convention

TRAVELLING FUR TRADE EXHIBITS

During the June 23-27, 1987 Technical Committee meeting, Canada tabled a discussion paper describing some of the difficulties experienced by furriers attending international fur fairs, and proposed a solution. The matter was discussed by the meeting participants and, because considerable interest and support was shown, Canada was encouraged to table the proposal for consideration by the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

An integral part of international trade is the display and sale of samples and goods at international exhibits. Insofar as fur garments are concerned, international fur fairs are an annual event in a number of countries in North America, Europe and Asia.

The following problem exists in Canada and probably exists in other countries and should be addressed by the Parties.

In Canada, we have many fur garment manufacturers who sell their goods internationally. Like all clothing designers and manufacturers, the furriers are innovative and aggressive in developing new styles that have to be marketed. The individuals travelling with their goods attend major international fur fairs where goods are displayed and offered for sale. Unsold goods are then either returned to home base or moved to other cities, often in other countries, for display and sale. It is not unusual for a furrier to visit three or four countries during a display and sales trip.

While the majority of fur garments thus traded are not made from CITES regulated species, species such as Canadian lynx (Lynx canadensis), bobcat (Lynx rufus), river otter (Lutra canadensis) and timber wolf (Canis lupus) are sometimes involved.

Two typical routes followed by some Canadian furriers are:

- a) Montreal (Canada) to Oslo (Norway) to Stockholm (Sweden) to Frankfurt (Federal Republic of Germany) and back to Montreal; and
- b) Montreal (Canada) to Zurich and Geneva (Switzerland) to Frankfurt (Federal Republic of Germany) and back to Montreal.

These people could set off with 100 coats of beaver, mink, muskrat and otter, selling 10 coats at each stop and returning the remainder to Canada.

Our problem is that, while we know the route in advance and the species involved, the furrier does not know, and we do not know, the number of garments that will be sold at each stop.

How do we handle the permit requirements?

The official CITES answer is, of course, we issue an export permit for the full complement of goods from Canada to stop 1. The furrier then applies to the CITES authorities at stop 1 for a re-export certificate to stop 2 and so on until the garments are all sold, or what is left of them is returned to Canada. In some countries goods are held in bond until sold, whereupon the items are cleared through Customs in the normal way.

The paperwork involved and, more importantly, the time involved is considerable and, in our opinion, unjustifiable for the legitimate trade of Appendix II species; especially when note is taken that the species are not endangered nor likely to become so in Canada, but are listed as "look-alikes".

There must be a better way of handling such international trade that is fast, efficient and reduces paperwork.

A possible solution could be the development, by resolution, of a "Transit/Export Permit" under Article VII, paragraph 7.

Such a document could be made out to a specific exporter for the export of "x" number of goods for display and sale in countries "a", "b", "c" and "d" and for the return of unsold goods to the exporting country. On import, the importing country would endorse the permit stating the number of goods entered and re-exported and so on down the line taking appropriate copies of the document for import and re-export record purposes. Finally, when unsold goods are returned to the original exporting country, Customs would endorse the document with the number of goods being returned, retain the permit and transmit it to the issuing Management Authority. Thus, the permit would clearly show the number of goods entered into each country visited and the number finally returned to the original country of export. Paperwork would be considerably reduced, there would not be any delay for the exporter and there would be a single record of all transactions by all countries involved.

The Government of Canada respectfully requests the Parties to examine their proposal and, if found appropriate, to approve the adoption of a new export/transit permit. They believe that the Convention was never intended, and must not be allowed, to prohibit or unduly interfere in the legitimate trade of non-endangered species or specimens.

DRAFT RESOLUTION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Travelling Fur Trade Exhibits

NOTING that specimens of species included in Appendix II shall require the prior grant and presentation of an export permit before trade is commenced;

NOTING that Resolution Conf. 3.6, adopted at the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties (New Delhi, 1981), recommends that original export permit numbers be shown on re-export certificates;

NOTING that a fur garment is manufactured from parts of a number of skins and that different parts of a specific skin could be used in the manufacture of a number of different garments;

NOTING that furriers often display and sell fur garments at international fur fairs held successively in different countries, returning any unsold garments to their home bases in the country of export;

NOTING that the Articles of the Convention do not make provision for the sale of specimens on temporary entry through a number of countries;

APPRECIATING that the export and resulting foreign import and following re-export can be accomplished by the use of an export permit and re-export certificates;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

RECOMMENDS

- a) that Parties adopt a special export permit to be used for manufactured fur goods containing specimens of Appendix II species being exported, temporarily imported and offered for sale with unsold goods being re-exported and for the return of any unsold goods to the country of export; and
- b) that Parties adopt the permit format as annexed.

Permit no., used for:
 -- shipments under Carnets
 -- travelling fur exhibits/sales

GOVERNMENT OF

EXPORT PERMIT

Exporter (name, address, telephone)		Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
Country of Origin		

Appendix Number	Identification Marks	Description of Specimens/Species	Quantity	Countries to be Transitted

Special Conditions

The specimens described on this permit will be exported from for display and sale in the countries to be transitted. Any unsold goods will be re-imported into before

Signature and Stamp of Signing Authority	Signature of Applicant (exporter)	Date
Permit Number		
Date of Issue		Expiry Date

1st State of Entry	Quantity Entered	Signature and Stamp of Importing Authority	Quantity Exported	Signature and Stamp of Exporting Authority
2nd State of Entry				
3rd State of Entry				

Checked by Collector of Customs on Re-entry to Date Stamp of Port of Validation

Instructions:

- Original Export Permit must accompany shipment at all times.
- States of import/re-export will endorse original permit, retain a copy of permit for their use and return original to permittee.
- On return to country of origination, permittee will surrender original to Customs for endorsement. After endorsement, Customs will send original permit to the CITES Authority.
- The validity of this Permit may not exceed 6 (six) calendar months.