



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2015/049

Geneva, 20 August 2015

CONCERNING:

AUSTRALIA

Consultation with CITES Parties about personal and household effects exemptions

1. This notification is published at the request of Australia.
 2. Australia invites CITES Parties to comment on a proposal to broaden its application of the personal and household effects exemption as provided under [Article VII, paragraph 3](#) of the Convention and further clarified through [Resolution Conf. 13.7 \(Rev. CoP16\)](#). Existing requirements for international movement of CITES-listed personal and household effects under Australia's national environment law are stricter than CITES requirements.
 3. Australia requests that CITES Parties provide advice to the Australian CITES Management Authority on the following:
 - Does your country implement the CITES personal and household effects exemption? If so, how?
 - Does your country accept Australia's personal baggage permits? If so, under what circumstances?
 - Do you have any other comments on Australia's proposal?
- Please direct all queries and comment to the Australian CITES Management Authority at wildlife.communications@environment.gov.au. Comments will be gratefully received by **30 September 2015**.
4. [Article VII, paragraph 3](#) of the Convention allows exemptions from CITES permit requirements when the items are exported as personal baggage or as part of a household move to another CITES member country that recognises the exemption, provided certain conditions are met. Australia only partially implements the personal and household effects exemption for the import and export of CITES specimens.
 5. For export from Australia, the only specimens eligible for the exemption under Australian law are those with a quantitative limit. These are:
 - Sturgeon caviar (up to 125g per person)
 - Cactus rainsticks (up to 3 per person)
 - Crocodile products (up to 4 per person)
 - Queen conch shell (up to 3 per person)
 - Seahorses (up to 4 per person)
 - Giant clam shells (up to 3 per person).
 6. For import of personal effects to Australia, CITES Appendix II listed specimens do not require a permit provided quantities are within those limits listed above and the country of export or re-export also recognizes the exemption.

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7. Australia does not require a permit for household effects provided quantities are within any relevant limits and the specimen is lawfully imported into Australia from one of the countries on the list below (unless it is a species always requiring an import permit):
- Belgium
 - Canada
 - Chile
 - France
 - Germany (not for native wildlife from Germany)
 - Greece
 - Hong Kong
 - Italy
 - Kenya (only if accompanied by a CITES certificate issued by the Kenya CITES Management Authority)
 - Malaysia (not for native wildlife from Malaysia)
 - Mauritius
 - Switzerland (only for items such as a worn belt or shoes, but not for new souvenirs, art objects, etc.)
 - United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (not for native wildlife from the United Kingdom)
 - United States of America
 - Vanuatu.
8. Permit exemptions do not apply for the list of taxa that always require an import permit. Further information is available [here](#).
9. The proposal is to:
- a) broaden the personal and household effects exemptions for import and export to include most species listed on Appendix II of CITES, consistent with CITES requirements, and
 - b) amend the list of countries for which household effects exemptions are recognized to require that the specimen was exported in accordance with the requirements of the exporting country.
10. It is expected that there will be some species listed on Appendix II of CITES for which a permit will always be required. Currently, Australian law includes a list of taxa (species and groups of species) that always require an import permit. This list will be examined as part of the review process.

Personal baggage permits

11. To enable exports of personally-owned products that include species listed on Appendix II of CITES and carried in the personal accompanied baggage of the owner, the Australian Government Department of the Environment issues 'personal baggage permits'. These permits are intended for the export of products containing CITES-listed species that are not eligible for the exemption under Australian law, but would be eligible for the personal effects exemption under the requirements of the Convention.
12. As part of the broadening of the personal and household effects exemption to most CITES Appendix II listed species, Australia is examining the feasibility of removing the requirement for personal baggage permits.
13. Currently, most personal baggage permits are issued for crocodile products. Personal baggage permits are also often issued for items containing python, other reptile species and coral. Under Australian national environment law, export of coral, python and other CITES listed reptile species requires a personal baggage permit.
14. Further information on Australia's proposals to amend requirements for the international movement of personal and household effects that contain CITES-listed species is available [here](#).
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15. Further information on Australia's current requirements for the international movement of personal and household effects that contain CITES-listed species is available [here](#).
16. Please direct all queries and comment to the Australian CITES Management Authority at wildlife.communications@environment.gov.au.