

Simplified import and export for personal belongings and certain pets

This information is a summary of existing laws and regulations and is therefore not legally binding.

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These simplified rules on import and export apply only to personal belongings and household effects from endangered animal species, and to live pets for which the Board of Agriculture has issued a “certificate for personal property”. *The information shall be read together with the Board of Agriculture’s information “Import, export and re-export of endangered animal species between non-EU countries and the EU”.*

Goods that are imported or exported through this simplified procedure must never be used in commercial activities. Similarly, a certificate for personal property is valid only for animals that are kept for personal and non-commercial use.

WHAT IS CONSIDERED PERSONAL BELONGING OR HOUSEHOLD EFFECT?

For a specimen to be regarded as a personal belonging or a household effect, it must

- be dead
- belong to a private individual
- be or become a part of that person’s normal property, for instance souvenirs and hunting trophies of animals the owner shot himself.

Personal belongings or household effects must be included in the luggage during travel. Only hunting trophies and house removal containers for persons taking up residence in the EU may be transported separately from the importer.

When the good is imported, exported or re-exported, the customs authorities shall check that the conditions above are met. In uncertain cases, the customs may consult with the Board of Agriculture.

If the good is imported to or exported from the EU within the framework of commercial activities, including future activities, they must not be regarded as personal belongings. **Goods imported or exported through this simplified procedure must never be used for commercial activities.**

WHAT IS MEANT BY COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES?

- purchase
- advertisements of purchase
- offer to purchase
- acquisition
- display
- use for commercial gain
- sale
- keeping for sale
- offering for sale
- advertising for sale
- transporting for sale

SIMPLIFIED RULES ON IMPORT AND EXPORT FOR PEOPLE WHO DO NOT LIVE IN THE EU

Private individuals who do not live in the EU may bring personal belongings or household effects from or to a country outside the EU, without any export or import permit. This applies to all species in Annex A-D.

SIMPLIFIED RULES ON IMPORT AND EXPORT FOR PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN THE EU

Import

The first time an object is imported to the EU, a (re)export permit and an import permit in its original are required for species listed in Annex A. The permits shall be presented to the customs office at the time of import.

As regards B-listed species, the first time an object is imported to the EU the original (re)export permit and a copy of it shall be presented at the time of import. The Board of Agriculture will issue an import permit in case the exporting country does not issue (re)export permits for personal belongings.

No permit is required for importing personal belongings or household effects of species listed in Annex C or D.

Re-import

When personal belongings or household effects of animals listed in Annex A or B are brought back to the EU, no import or (re)export permit is required if the owner can present the customs officials with a signed “permit-holder’s copy” of a previously issued

- EU import permit, or
- EU export permit, or
- Copy of (re)export permit, or
- EU certificate that the specimen was legally acquired within the EU.

Throughout the world, there are more than 5,000 extremely endangered animal species as well as 28,000 extremely endangered plant species. In order to preserve this treasure for future generations and insure the continuation of biological diversity, in 1973 the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora was adopted. CITES, also known as the Washington convention, was ratified by Sweden in 1975, and 174 countries had signed the convention by 2008.



Within the EU, CITES has been introduced through special legislation that is valid throughout the union. The purpose of the convention is to preserve wild fauna and flora and insure their conservation through the protection of certain species against over-exploitation through international trade. EU’s legislation includes more species than CITES, in addition to having stricter regulations.

Export

The first time an object of a species listed in Annex A or B is exported from the EU, an export permit shall be presented to the customs officials. No permit is required for the export of species on Annex C and D.

Re-export

In case of re-export from the EU of a personal belonging or a household effect of species listed in Annex A or B, no (re)export permit is required if the person can present the customs officials with a signed "permit-holder's copy" of a previously issued

- EU import permit, or
- EU export permit, or
- Copy of (re)export permit, or
- EU certificate that the specimen was legally acquired within the EU.

PERSONAL OWNERSHIP CERTIFICATE

The Board of Agriculture may also issue a "personal ownership certificate" for live pets that are kept for personal, non-commercial reasons. This certificate may be used both as import and (re)export permits, and may for instance simplify things for people who want to bring their CITES-listed parrot to a country outside the EU on their holidays. The certificate is valid for several border crossings, but not for sale or any other commercial purpose.

In order for such a certificate to be issued, the animal must be born and raised in captivity, or be legally acquired or imported to the EU before the species was listed. It must also be correctly marked. Please observe that it is necessary that the personal ownership certificate is accepted in the export/import country.

EXCEPTIONS TO THE REQUIREMENT OF IMPORT AND (RE)EXPORT PERMITS

By way of derogation the following items listed in Annex B do not require the presentation of a (re) export document or an import permit under the condition that they are included in the luggage during travel or house removal containers. Those items are:

- caviar of sturgeon species (*Acipenseriformes* spp.), up to a maximum of 125 grams per person, in containers that are individually marked in accordance with CITES regulations;

- rainsticks of *Cactaceae* spp, up to three per person
- Dead worked specimens of *Crocodylia* spp. excluding meat and hunting trophies, up to four per person (for example watchstraps or belts)
- shells of *Strombus gigas*, up to three per person
- *Hippocampus* spp. (seahorse), up to four dead specimens per person
- shells of *Tridacnidae* spp. (a kind of clam) up to three specimens per person not exceeding three kg in total, where a specimen may be one intact shell or two matching halves.

MARKING REQUIREMENT IN CASE OF EXPORT

Export permits for A-listed live vertebrates may only be issued if the animals are correctly marked, in accordance with the rules in Article 66 of the Commission Regulation (EC) 865/2006. This usually means using ISO standard microchips, except for birds, which ideally are marked using an individually marked, permanent leg ring.

VETERINARY IMPORT PERMIT TO SWEDEN

For reasons of disease control, a veterinary permit is required for certain live animals and animal products, whether or not they are personal belongings or household effects.