

PERSONAL, HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS and HUNTING TROPHIES

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If you are travelling or if you live abroad and would like to buy and bring back home souvenirs that are made of plants or animals for your own personal use, you should know that for many species you need a permit or certificate. In the absence of such documents, customs officers will confiscate your souvenir. People seeking to deliberately evade the law may be fined or even face a period of imprisonment for illegal trade in a threatened animal or plant species. These animals and plants may be listed in the CITES Appendices or Annexes of the EC Wildlife Trade Regulations because they are vulnerable to overexploitation and their trade must therefore be monitored and regulated.

The law calls such souvenirs ‘personal and household effects’ (Art. 7.3 of Council Regulation (EC) No. 338/97). However, this only applies to specimens made from **dead** animals or plants contained in the **personal luggage** of travellers or in the **personal property** of a natural person transferring her or his normal place of residence to or from the EU (thus not to goods purchased over the internet, mail or phone). In the case of **hunting trophies** being introduced into the EU, the traveller is allowed to import them at a later date, after his or her own arrival.

For further details on ways to apply for documents, please go to PDF file [Permits](#), which also explains the other (stricter) provisions that apply in case you want to bring back a **live (pet) animal or plant** or want to import specimens for **commercial purposes** (for commercial gain, selling, displaying for commercial purposes, keeping, offering and/or transporting for sale). You can find information on the species listed in the Annexes of the EC Wildlife Trade Regulations in the document [International Legislation](#) on this website.

All forms (e.g. permits), as well as additional information and advice, can be obtained from the [CITES Management Authorities](#) in the respective countries of origin, (re-)export and/or import.

Important note: Only dead specimens or parts and derivatives that are used for non-commercial purposes and are not given away as a gift or sold, are considered personal effects. Live animals and plants or dead specimens that will be given away or sold are not considered to be personal effects.

1. Introduction into the EU of wildlife specimens as personal effects

The following list of provisions concerns **people normally residing in the EU** for at least 185 days per year or **people taking up residence in the EU**. These provisions refer to **non-commercial trade in dead specimens or parts or derivatives** from species listed in the Annexes of EC Wildlife Trade Regulations.

What should you do if you are (or become) an EU resident and wish to come back home with your souvenirs or personal belongings?

When you bring your souvenirs or personal belongings back to your EU residence for the **first time**, it is called by law an **Introduction** of specimens and means. If you introduce a CITES specimen into the EU, you may need an **Export permit** issued by the country where you were on holiday or where you were living – if it was your residence and you are moving into a new residence in the EU – and, in some cases, an **Import permit** from an EU Member State, that you must obtain prior to your arrival in the EU (see Table below for details).

Also, if you wish at a later occasion, to leave the EU and bring one of these items with you on holiday or to a new residence outside the EU, it is called a **Re-export** and you may need one of the documents indicated in the table. If an item was purchased at a time when the species it is made from was not yet listed in the Annexes, e.g. an old ivory bracelet, the conditions for issuing re-export certificates for pre-Convention or Pre-Regulation specimens apply (see [Permits](#)).

Additionally, if you ever leave and return to the EU with a wildlife souvenir that is covered by the EC Wildlife Trade Regulations, which is called **Re-introduction**, you will have to present the “Copy for the holder” of the export permit at each border control.

Documents needed by EU residents for the trade in souvenirs (personal effects) made from animal and plant species regulated under CITES and the EC Wildlife Trade Regulations

Annex	Article	Return/Leave	Documents Required: Issued before travelling and presented to customs officer
Commission Reg. (EC) No. 865 / 2006			
A	57.2	Introduction (1 st import into the EU)	Export permit (issued by country of origin of specimen)* and Import permit (issued by an EU Member State)
A	58.2	Export (leaving the EU)	Export permit (issued by an EU Member State) and Import permit (issued by country of destination)**
A	58.3	Re-export (leaving the EU again)	“Copy for the holder” of a Community export/import permit (presented at first exit from or entry into the EU) or Evidence of purchase in the EU (when applicable), e.g. invoice / receipt, or Stamped copy of a (re-)export document (presented at first entry into the EU) or Re-export certificate (issued by country of re-export)
A	57.4	Reintroduction (returning again to the EU)	“Copy for the holder” of a Community export/import permit (presented at first exit from or entry into the EU) or Evidence of purchase in the EU (when applicable), e.g. invoice / receipt, or Stamped copy of a (re-)export document (presented at first entry into the EU) or Import permit (issued by an EU Member State)
B	57.3	Introduction (1 st import into the EU)	Export permit (issued by country of origin of specimen)*
B	58.2	Export (leaving the EU)	Export permit (issued by an EU Member State)
B	58.3	Re-export (leaving the EU again)	“Copy for the holder” of a Community export/import permit (presented at first exit from or entry into the EU) or Evidence of purchase in the EU (when applicable), e.g. invoice / receipt, or Stamped copy of a (re-)export document (presented at first entry into the EU) or Re-export certificate (issued by country of re-export)
B	57.4	Re-introduction (returning again to the EU)	“Copy for the holder” of a Community export/import permit (presented at first exit from or entry into the EU) or Evidence of purchase in the EU (when applicable), e.g. invoice / receipt, or Stamped copy of a (re-)export document (presented at first entry into the EU) or Import permit (issued by an EU Member State)
Council Reg. (EC) No. 338 / 97			
C	7.3		No permit, certificate or notification required
D	7.3		No permit, certificate or notification required

* If the exporting country is not able to issue an export permit (e.g. country that is not a Party to CITES), then you should apply for and obtain an import permit from the EU Member State of destination.

**The import permit is only required when the species is also listed in Appendix I of CITES

2. Introduction into the EU of hunting trophies as personal effects

Hunting trophies that are introduced into the EU for non-commercial purposes are also considered as personal effects under the EC Wildlife Trade Regulations and hence similar rules apply to the import of such specimens into the EU (see Table). However, it should be noted that many of the popular hunting species are listed in Annex A of the EC Wildlife Trade Regulations and are very often also subject to national legislation in the country of origin. In addition, the Scientific Review Group has imposed import suspensions on the import of certain species that may be subject to hunting and hence trophies of these species can currently not be imported into the EU (see [Legislation/ 1.6.1](#), *EU Import Suspensions*).

3. Export from the EU of wildlife specimens that are personal effects and originate in the EU

When you leave the EU with personal belongings made from species that originate in the EU (indigenous species or captive-bred or artificially propagated specimens) and are listed in Annex A or B of the EC Wildlife Trade Regulations (see table: Export), you are required to possess and present to customs upon your departure an export permit. You must apply for this permit at the Management Authority of the EU Member State where you purchased the items. In cases your specimen is listed in CITES Appendix I, the export permit will only be issued when you can prove that the Management Authority of the country of destination has already granted an import permit.

4. General Exemptions

For certain items made from species listed in Annex B (Art. 57.5 of Commission Regulation (EC) No. 856/2006) no documents are required for the (re-)introduction and (re-)export of a maximum of:

- a) 250 grams of sturgeon caviar (**Acipenseriformes** species) per person; and/or
- b) 3 cacti rainsticks (**Cactaceae** species) per person.

Note: More information on exemptions can be found in [Resolution Conf. 13.7](#) adopted at the 13th meeting of the CITES Conference of the Parties, e.g. 3 queen conch shells (*Strombus gigas*) and 4 dead specimens of crocodilian species. However, this Resolution is not legally binding and Parties can decide whether or not they want to implement its provisions. In the EU, however, this Resolution is legally binding as it implemented through Commission Regulation (EC) No. 865/2006

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