

CITES Bulletin

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Wildlife Licensing and Registration Service

"Supporting sustainable trade through customer focused licensing services"



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Increased Fees for CITES Licences

Fees for applications for CITES licences increased on 6 April 2009. Detailed guidance on how the new fees effect CITES applications can be found at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalhealth/CITES/guidance/GN11.htm>. This includes new guidance on how applications can be submitted in the most cost effective manner.

Fees will be phased in over three years. They will be reviewed and revised in 2009/10 and 2010/11 until full cost recovery is achieved, in accordance with Government policy.

Fees for conservation activities may be waived at the discretion of the Secretary of State. Guidance outlining the activities that will be considered for a waiver can be found at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalhealth/CITES/guidance/GN17.htm>

Changes to Bird Registration in Wales and Scotland

In the last bulletin we reported how the list of Schedule 4 birds had been amended in England on 1 October 2008. Wales have now amended their legislation with effect from 23 April 2009. This means that within England and Wales the following species are required to be registered:

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The Wildlife Licensing and Registration Service

Head of WLRS – John Hounslow | Animal Health | Zone 1/17 Temple Quay House | 2 The Square | Temple Quay | Bristol | BS1 6EB

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalhealth/cites>

Email: wildlife.licensing@animalhealth.gsi.gov.uk

Phone: 0117 372 8774

Honey Buzzard
Golden Eagle
White-tailed Eagle
Goshawk
Marsh Harrier
Montagu's Harrier
Osprey

Peregrine Falcon
Merlin



Hybrids of these species are not required to be registered. In England the Peregrine Falcon and Merlin will not be subject to registration if they have been issued with a valid CITES Article 10 certificate. In Wales they must be registered with a blue registration document.

Scotland have agreed to amend their legislation so that a consistent position is applied across Great Britain. However, until new legislation comes into force, all birds listed on Schedule 4 as amended by SI 1994 No 1151 will be required to be registered if they are kept within Scotland.

The current situation can be found on our website at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalhealth/cites/index.htm>

Please note that changes to Schedule 4 do not change the CITES requirements in regard to birds of prey.

Fast-track CITES Export Permits: An Update

In 2007, in response to requests from keepers who breed Annex A birds for commercial export, we introduced a new procedure to speed up the issue of export permits. The procedure will be offered again this year, in a slightly amended form to take account of the changes to bird registration.

We can process applications within 5 working days provided:

- any bird listed on Schedule 4 is already registered with us; **and**
- **either** an unconditional Article 10 certificate has been issued; **or**
- for semi-complete Article 10 certificates, the pink copy has already been returned to us with the bird's details (i.e. hatch date, ring number, both parental A10s).

If your application is submitted at the same time as a declaration of ringing and/or an amended semi-complete A10 certificate, we will need to process these first. You should therefore allow 20 working days for us to process all three applications.

Applicants must ensure that the bird's ring number, hatch date and Article 10 certificate number is provided in the description box of the export permit application form. It will not be possible to treat

an application as fast-track if any of these details are missing, or there is anything else about the application that needs further investigation. These applications will be subject to the standard 15 working day turnaround time.

Applications should be made on the fast track application forms which we can supply, so they are immediately recognisable when they arrive at our office. These may be obtained from your case officer. Please also mark the outside of the envelope "FAST TRACK".

Review of ports of entry and exit for CITES controlled goods

The European Wildlife Trade Regulations require that CITES controlled specimens only enter or exit the European Union through designated ports of entry and exit.

Defra are currently undertaking a review of the ports currently designated for these purposes. A number of stakeholders have been contacted as part of the review process to assess the likely impacts of any re-designation.

The outcomes of the review are expected later in the year and details will be published on Defra's website at <http://defra/wildlife-countryside/trade-crime/cites/index.htm>

Review of the Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Enforcement) Regulations (COTES)

The current COTES Regulations have been with us since 1997. Several changes have been made to this regulation over time, and it is now time to look at a complete re-write to bring the regulations up to date and reflect the current thinking on how we handle the enforcement of CITES in the UK.

We are looking to produce clear, comprehensive legislation which transposes all the EU requirements and provides proportionate penalties to act as a deterrent. Also for adequate and effective powers for enforcement authorities to prosecute wildlife crime cases without incurring an undue administrative burden and all within the overall aim of conserving biodiversity.

The time table for this review has not yet been set. We are however looking to go out to you, our stakeholders, and other interested bodies by the autumn and hope to have a regulation in place by 2011.

New Fees - Monitoring the impact of compliance with the CITES Regulations

In the next couple of months the Wildlife Licensing and Registration Service plans to conduct a telephone survey to ask the opinions of certain trade sectors regarding compliance with the CITES Regulations.

This survey is being conducted over a two year period as part of a monitoring programme following the introduction of full cost recovery charging for CITES permits and certificates.

Respondents will be picked at random from a list of individuals and businesses that have made CITES applications in a certain period from selected trade areas.

While the survey is not compulsory, the opinions of the people we contact are highly valued and the responses could help to influence the future policy on fees. Due to this we hope that if you are contacted you will be willing to spare the short time needed to record your responses.

Illegal Trade in Endangered Species

A two year Operation led by the UK National Wildlife Crime Unit (NWCU) and involving West Mercia Constabulary, West Midlands Police and the UK Borders Agency has resulted in the appearance of a man in court charged with a number of offences concerning the illegal trade in endangered species. The charges related to the prohibited sale of 191 Hermann's and 7 Spur-thighed tortoises, making false statements to obtain permits, and the prohibited purchase of 200 Hermann's tortoises. In court David Johnson pleaded guilty to eight offences contrary to the Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Enforcement) Regulations 1997. In view of the serious nature of the offence Johnson was committed to the Crown Court for deferred sentencing.

Detective Inspector Brian Stuart, Head of the UK NWCU stated "this protracted enquiry represents the organised methods that exist in wildlife crime. Johnson has been a significant player in the illegal trade of endangered species. Only through the collaboration and partnership of Law Enforcement Agencies both here in the UK and the countries from which the species were traded has this operation been disrupted. The UK continually works to identify these organised criminals, disrupt their activities and where crimes have been identified bring them before the court."

Action plan from Telephone Survey

In Sept 2008 in support of our application for the Customer Service Excellence award we conducted a telephone survey amongst recent applicants. The survey identified a number of areas where improvements could be made to the way we provide our service. The results of the survey and the action plan arising from it are attached.

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Inclusion in this newsletter does not necessarily indicate approval or any other form of endorsement by Animal Health.

Information about illegal trade in endangered species can be notified to us on Wildlife.enforce@animalhealth.gsi.gov.uk. All information is treated in the strictest confidence.