

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



Joint sessions of the 27th meeting of the Animals Committee and
21st meeting of the Plants Committee
Veracruz (Mexico), 2-3 May 2014

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Trade controls and marking

TRANSPORT OF LIVE SPECIMENS
[RESOLUTION CONF. 10.21 (REV. COP16)]

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 16th meeting (CoP16, Bangkok, 2013), the Conference of the Parties adopted the *CITES guidelines for the non-air transport of live wild animals and plants*.¹ At the same meeting, Parties also adopted Resolution Conf. 10.21 (Rev. CoP16) on *Transport of live specimens*, which was updated, inter alia, to include references to the new *CITES guidelines*. A copy of the revised Resolution is contained in the Annex to this document.

Review and revision of the CITES guidelines

3. In paragraph e) of Resolution Conf. 10.21 (Rev. CoP16), the Conference of the Parties recommends that:
the Standing Committee and the Secretariat, in consultation with the Animals and Plants Committees and IATA, regularly review, revise and approve amendments to the CITES guidelines for the non-air transport of live wild animals and plants;
4. As the *CITES guidelines for the non-air transport of live wild animals and plants* were only adopted in March 2013, there may not yet be sufficient experience with them, or a need, for the Animals and Plants Committees to undertake a review. The Committees may therefore wish to revisit this issue at one of their later meetings.
5. In Resolution Conf. 10.21 (Rev. CoP16), the Conference of the Parties directs the Standing Committee and the Animals and Plants Committees, in consultation with the Secretariat:
 - a) *to participate in meetings of the Live Animals and Perishables Board of IATA in order to amplify or update the IATA Live Animals Regulations and the IATA Perishable Cargo Regulations and the CITES guidelines for the non-air transport of live wild animals and plants;*
 - b) *to examine new or additional references for transport of live specimens for incorporation into the present Resolution, if appropriate;*

¹ These guidelines are available at: <http://www.cites.org/eng/resources/transport/index.php>

- c) *to examine developments related to the transport of live plant specimens for incorporation into the present Resolution, if appropriate; and*
- d) *to examine, when appropriate, any high mortality shipments of live specimens and make recommendations to relevant Parties, exporters, importers and transport companies on how to avoid this in the future;*

Cooperation with IATA

- 6. The Secretariat has continued to enhance its cooperation with the Secretariat of the International Air Transport Association (IATA). In July 2013, the two Secretariats agreed on introductory language for the inclusion of the *CITES guidelines for the non-air transport of live wild animals and plants* as an annex to the IATA Live Animals Regulations. In September 2013, the CITES and IATA Secretariats held a consultative meeting at the IATA offices in Geneva, Switzerland. In January 2014, the IATA Secretariat prepared a draft memorandum of cooperation which, at the time of writing (February 2014), is still under review by the CITES Secretariat.
- 7. During a technical assistance mission to Swaziland in September 2013, the Secretariat learned about a wildlife transporter network in South Africa whose experience with the transport of live wild animals might be useful to the IATA Live Animals and Perishables Board (IATA/LAPB). The Secretariat has therefore sought to put them in contact with each other.
- 8. The Secretariat notes that one of the co-chairs of the former Joint AC/PC Transport Working Group is now a representative of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) on the Advisory Panel to the IATA/LAPB.
- 9. CITES Parties can obtain a discount on the purchase of the IATA *Live Animals Regulations* (LAR) manual, as well the IATA *Perishable Cargo Regulations* (PCR) manual by using the following promotional codes on the IATA online store: CITES40 (for LAR) and CITES13 (for PCR).

Recommendation

- 10. The Secretariat recommends that the Animals and Plants Committees take note of the information contained in this document.

Resolution Conf. 10.21 (Rev. CoP16) on *Transport of live specimens*

CONSIDERING that the Convention, in Articles III, IV, V and VII, requires Management Authorities to be satisfied, before granting export permits, or re-export or travelling exhibition certificates, that specimens will be so prepared and shipped as to minimize the risk of injury, damage to health or cruel treatment;

FURTHER CONSIDERING that the Convention, in Article VIII, requires Parties to ensure that all living specimens, during any period of transit, holding and shipment, are properly cared for so as to minimize the risk of injury, damage to health or cruel treatment;

NOTING that air transport is the preferred method for transporting many live animals and plants and that there are special requirements necessitated by air transport;

FURTHER NOTING the extent to which, in the case of the transport of live animals, the *Live Animals Regulations* of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and, in the case of the transport of live plants, IATA's *Perishable Cargo Regulations*, are to be used for transport of live specimens and that the *Live Animals Regulations* and the *Perishable Cargo Regulations* are amended annually and are therefore more quickly responsive to changing needs;

RECOGNIZING the need to address the transport of all live specimens;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that the non-air transport of live specimens of certain animal species included in the Appendices may require transport conditions additional to or deviating from those found in the IATA *Live Animals Regulations* and IATA *Perishable Cargo Regulations*;

AGREEING that the effective implementation of Articles III, IV, V and VII of the Convention necessitates from time to time further specific evaluation of transportation issues, analysis of information and recommendations to the Parties for remedial or corrective action;

RECALLING that Article XIV, paragraph 1, permits any Party to adopt stricter domestic measures regarding the conditions for transport of specimens of species included in the Appendices and to adopt domestic measures restricting or prohibiting transport of species not included in the Appendices;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

DIRECTS the Standing Committee and the Animals and Plants Committees to deal with matters related to the transport of live specimens;

RECOMMENDS that:

- a) suitable measures be taken by the Parties to promote the full and effective use by Management Authorities of the IATA *Live Animals Regulations* (for animals), the IATA *Perishable Cargo Regulations* (for plants) and the *CITES guidelines for the non-air transport of live wild animals and plants* for the preparation and transport of live specimens and that they be brought to the attention of exporters, importers, transport companies, carriers, freight forwarders, inspection authorities and international organizations and conferences competent to regulate conditions of carriage by air, land and sea or inland waterways;
- b) Parties invite the above organizations and institutions to comment on and amplify the IATA *Live Animals Regulations* (for animals) and the IATA *Perishable Cargo Regulations* (for plants), so as to promote their effectiveness;
- c) the regular communication of the CITES Secretariat and the Standing Committee with IATA's Live Animals and Perishables Board and with the board of directors of the Animals Transportation Association (ATA) be continued and that a relationship with the International Animal Health Organisation (OIE) and the International Plants Protection Convention (IPPC) be developed;

- d) for as long as the CITES Secretariat and the Standing Committee agree, the IATA *Live Animals Regulations* (for animals), the IATA *Perishable Cargo Regulations* (for plants) and the *CITES guidelines for the non-air transport of live wild animals and plants* in their most recent edition be deemed to meet CITES transport requirements;
- e) the Standing Committee and the Secretariat, in consultation with the Animals and Plants Committees and IATA, regularly review, revise and approve amendments to the *CITES guidelines for the non-air transport of live wild animals and plants*;
- f) the IATA *Live Animals Regulations*, the sections of the IATA *Perishable Cargo Regulations* related to the transport of live plant specimens and the *CITES guidelines for the non-air transport of live wild animals and plants* be incorporated into Parties' domestic legislation or policies;
- g) applicants for export permits or re-export or travelling exhibition certificates be notified that, as a condition of issuance, they are required to prepare and ship live specimens in accordance with the IATA *Live Animals Regulations*, the IATA *Perishable Cargo Regulations* and the *CITES guidelines for the non-air transport of live wild animals and plants*;
- h) in compliance with national laws and policies, shipments of live specimens be examined and necessary action taken to ensure the well-being of the specimens by CITES-designated persons or transport company personnel during extended holding periods at transfer points;
- i) in compliance with national laws and policies where Parties to the Convention have designated ports of entry and exit, holding facilities for live animals and plants be provided; and
- j) in compliance with national laws and policies, Parties ensure that animal- and plant-holding facilities are open for inspection of shipments, with the concurrence of the transport company, by CITES-designated enforcement personnel or designated observers; and that any documented information be made available to the appropriate authorities and transport companies;

DIRECTS the Standing Committee and the Animals and Plants Committees, in consultation with the Secretariat:

- a) to participate in meetings of the Live Animals and Perishables Board of IATA in order to amplify or update the IATA *Live Animals Regulations* and the IATA *Perishable Cargo Regulations* and the *CITES guidelines for the non-air transport of live wild animals and plants*;
- b) to examine new or additional references for transport of live specimens for incorporation into the present Resolution, if appropriate;
- c) to examine developments related to the transport of live plant specimens for incorporation into the present Resolution, if appropriate; and
- d) to examine, when appropriate, any high mortality shipments of live specimens and make recommendations to relevant Parties, exporters, importers and transport companies on how to avoid this in the future;

ENCOURAGES the Secretariat, Parties and relevant organizations to assist in the distribution and increase public awareness of the IATA *Live Animals Regulations*, the IATA *Perishable Cargo Regulations* and the *CITES guidelines for the non-air transport of live wild animals and plants*;

INVITES non-governmental organizations, particularly veterinary, scientific, conservation, welfare and trade organizations with expertise in the shipment, preparation for shipment, transport, care or husbandry of live specimens, to provide the necessary financial, technical and other assistance to those Parties in need of and requesting such assistance to ensure the effective implementation of the provisions of the Convention for the transport and preparation for shipment of live specimens subject to international trade;

NOTES that in order to improve implementation of the IATA *Live Animals Regulations*, the IATA *Perishable Cargo Regulations* and the *CITES guidelines for the non-air transport of live wild animals and plants* by the Parties, there is a need for greatly increased awareness of the Regulations through more effective methods of training of personnel of transport companies, exporters and enforcement agencies; and

REPEALS:

- a) Resolution Conf. 9.23 (Fort Lauderdale, 1994) – Transport of Live Specimens; and
- b) the CITES Guidelines *for transport and preparation for shipment of live wild animals and plants* (1981).