

Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance, Cap. 586 Guidelines on Re-export of Non-scheduled Species

The import, export, re-export or possession of endangered species of animals and plants in Hong Kong, whether alive, dead, parts or derivatives, is subject to licensing control under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (the Ordinance), Cap. 586. The Ordinance is the local legislation that gives effect to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). The Convention aims to protect endangered species from over exploitation through international trade. The endangered species are scheduled in the Appendices to Schedule 1 to the Ordinance.

When is a Re-export Certificate Required?

No licence is required for the export or re-export of non-CITES species. However, some importing countries may require the importer to prove that the species concerned are not CITES-listed. To facilitate customs clearance of consignments of non-CITES species at the importing country, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) may consider issuing a Re-export Certificate on request of the exporter. The issue of a Re-export Certificate is not a statutory requirement under Cap. 586. Each certificate could cover one or more species but is valid for one shipment only and issued before the exportation.

Application for Re-export Certificate

To apply for a Re-export Certificate, the following documents must be submitted to AFCD in advance, by fax, mail, email or in person:

- completed application form (AF245), which is available from AFCD website and headquarters
- supporting documents proving the species and its scientific name of the shipment to be re-exported, such as photocopy of CITES Export Permit or Certificate of Origin issued by the CITES Management Authority* or a competent authority of the place of previous export.
- documents (e.g. invoices) showing the chain of transaction from the original importer/supplier, subsequent traders to the exporter.

Normally 2 working days are required for processing an application but the issue of Re-export Certificate is by no means automatic. The prescribed fee for a Re-export Certificate is \$260.

For Application and Enquiries

Fax: 2376 3749

Hotline: 2150 6973

Website: www.cites.hk

Application Email: applycites@afcd.gov.hk

Enquiry Email: hk_cites@afcd.gov.hk

Address: 5/F., Cheung Sha Wan Government Offices, 303 Cheung Sha Wan Road, Kowloon, Hong Kong.

Note

- The issue of a Re-export Certificate by AFCD does not in any way exempt the licensee from the provisions of other legislations.
- The specimens specified on the certificate may have to be produced for inspection by an authorized officer of the AFCD prior to exportation.

*Details of the CITES Management Authorities of CITES Parties are available at CITES website: www.cites.org.