

IMPORT INTO EU/FINLAND USING ONLY AN EXPORT PERMIT FROM A THIRD COUNTRY

Derogation: does not apply to commercial activities or live animals/plants.

EU Annex B species as part of a traveller's personal belongings/household move

Items made from an Annex B species may be imported using only an export permit from a third country if contained in the personal luggage of the traveller (personal belongings, souvenirs, import for personal non-commercial purpose) or as part of a household move (household belongings, personal belongings, import for personal non-commercial purpose). The purpose of the transaction must in this case be indicated with the code P (= personal use) in the export permit and the importer be recorded as the private individual themselves. Some countries employ an alleviated procedure for the export of items made of CITES Appendix II species from the country in question: special conditions are presented on the permit (e.g. 'valid only for personal items', 'not for postal packages' etc.).

EU Annex B hunting trophies (excluding the lion, elephant, hippopotamus, rhinoceros, polar bear, argali for which an import permit is always required)

The import of personal hunting trophies (included in the EU Annex B) using only a CITES export permit is subject to a derogation, and the importer recorded on the permit must be the hunter themselves. The importing is comparable to importing a part or a product made of an Annex B species in one's personal luggage or as part of a household move. However, hunting trophies are exceptional in that the items may be transported as freight or cargo or by post, i.e. separately from the hunter. That is to say that a simplified permit procedure is in place for importing Annex B hunting trophies.

Importing a personal Annex B hunting trophy into the EU/Finland using only a CITES export permit is possible only if the purpose of transaction is indicated with the code H (= hunting trophy) on the export permit. If the purpose of transaction is indicated with anything else on the permit (e.g. P = personal use, T = commercial trade, E = education), a CITES import permit is also required for import.

At customs the importer or their representative must present the original CITES export permit and its copy. The CITES export permit must always identify the hunter (i.e. the owner themselves) as the importer and include their home address. An agent (c/o) may be included in the remarks. Customs processes both the original permit as well as the copy (marking what has been imported, when, using which customs document etc.). The original permit shall be forwarded to Finnish Environment Institute and the endorsed copy shall be returned to the importer.

(turn)

The importer/hunter uses their copy of the CITES export permit endorsed by a Finnish/EU customs official as proof that they have legally imported the hunting trophy into the EU at a specific time.

Import for commercial purposes

If a company or a private individual is to import CITES Annex B goods for commercial purposes, the derogation concerning personal belongings does not apply. The same also concerns goods imported in one's personal luggage and goods included in household effects/a household move. In such case the purpose is commercial (T) and, in accordance with standard procedure, import also requires a CITES import permit. The permitting authority will consider whether the species or item in question may be imported into the EU for commercial purposes. E.g. the import of elephant in any form for commercial purposes is prohibited regardless of whether the specimen in question is from an African elephant population listed in Annex B or Annex A (the species is divided between Annexes A and B depending on the country the population originates from, and elephant populations in Annex B are also subject to strict and detailed rules).

Retrospective sale of an item imported as personal belongings

According to the Commission Regulation that entered into force in September 2012, items imported using only a CITES export permit from the exporting country may be used for commercial purposes, but only after two years have passed since the legal import. Commercial use requires a separate statement, which in Finland is issued by the Finnish Environment Institute. The applicant must be able to prove that the items/trophies have been imported in full compliance with CITES legislation at least two years previously. The permitting authority must verify whether, at the time of import, the specimen/items in question could have been imported into the EU for a commercial purpose or not.

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