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CITES (Endangered Plant Species)

Last Modified:

The USDA is responsible for enforcing regulations specific to the import and export of plants regulated by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) as well as the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

If you are in the business of importing, exporting or re-exporting CITES or ESA regulated plants and plant products, USDA regulation 7 CFR 355 requires that you possess a valid USDA Protected Plant Permit. Importers of live plants and seeds must also obtain permits under the USDA's nursery stock regulation. CITES listed plants and plant products must enter the United States through a "Designated Port".

In addition to USDA permits, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) issues export and re-export permits for CITES or ESA-protected plants leaving the United States. FWS also requires import permits for wild collected CITES Appendix I species.

There is a fee of $70.00 for the Protected Plant Permit. We require a check or money order made payable to Plant Protection and Quarantine.

CITES-Regulated Plants

View the list of CITES-regulated plants.

ESA-Regulated Plants

View the list of plants regulated by ESA.

Required Permit Applications

Importing CITES/ESA-Regulated Timber or Timber Products

If you are engaging in the business of importing CITES/ESA regulated timber or timber products, complete PPQ Form 621 and PPQ Form 585.

Importing CITES/ESA-Regulated Plants

If you are engaging in the business of importing CITES/ESA regulated plants, complete PPQ Form 621 and PPQ Form 587.

General Information

Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Agricultural Inspection Port Contacts for CITES-Related Matters

Frequently Asked Questions

Expand All

How long does it take for a permit to be issued?

It can take up to 30 days for a permit to be processed. Please apply 30 days before your first shipment arrives.

Can I apply for the Protected Plant Permit online?

You can apply online for a protected plant permit.

Do I need to apply for a permit for every shipment?

No. The Protected Plant Permit is valid for two years and covers additional shipments of CITES/ESA material until the permit expires.

Contact Us

CITES and ESA

For questions about CITES (endangered plant species)

CITES Team

Phone: 301-851-2347

For questions about Protected Plant Permits or PPQ Form 621

CITES and ESA Permits

Email: PPQCITESESAPermits@usda.gov

Phone: 301-851-2046

CITES (Endangered Plant Species) Contacts
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