



# Understanding CITES

## *CITES Appendix III*

### What is CITES Appendix III?

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is an international treaty aimed at protecting species at risk of overexploitation from international trade. CITES includes 184 Party (183 countries and the European Union) members. Species are included in one of three CITES Appendices, which provide varying levels of protection.

Appendix III includes wildlife and plants that are protected in at least one country, which has sought the assistance of other CITES Parties, to regulate international trade of that species. CITES requires that any Appendix-III exports from the country that listed them have additional regulations and documentation, whereas restrictions on trade of Appendix-I and -II species apply to all CITES Parties.

### What does an Appendix-III listing accomplish?

Appendix III helps a Party gain international cooperation in controlling trade in certain native wildlife and plant species that are subject to regulation domestically and provides a means of gathering trade data to assist the listing country in determining the impact of international trade of the species.

Appendix-III listings may be annotated to cover only specific parts and derivatives. The Parties have agreed that any annotation that is part of a request to include a species in Appendix III include those specimens that first appear in international trade as exports from its territory and that dominate the trade and the demand for the wild resource and is, to the extent practicable, harmonized with relevant existing annotations. As with other CITES-listed species, Appendix-III species may be traded internationally with required CITES documents.

### How does Appendix III differ from Appendix II?

A Party may unilaterally include a native species in Appendix III, whereas species are included in Appendix II by a decision of the Conference of the Parties.

For the export of Appendix III specimens from the listing country, the Management Authority in that country must make a determination that the specimens to be exported were legally acquired (i.e. not obtained in contravention of that country's laws for the protection of animals and plants) and issue a CITES export permit.

Exports of Appendix-III specimens from non-listing countries must be accompanied by a CITES Certificate of origin. Re-exports of Appendix-III listed species require the issuance of CITES re-export certificates.

The export of Appendix-II specimens also requires an export permit, but its issuance depends both on the determination that the specimens were legally acquired and that their export will not be detrimental to the survival of the species.

### What do country annotations mean?

Each Appendix-III listing includes an annotation, in parentheses, indicating the country (in some cases more than one country) that listed the species.

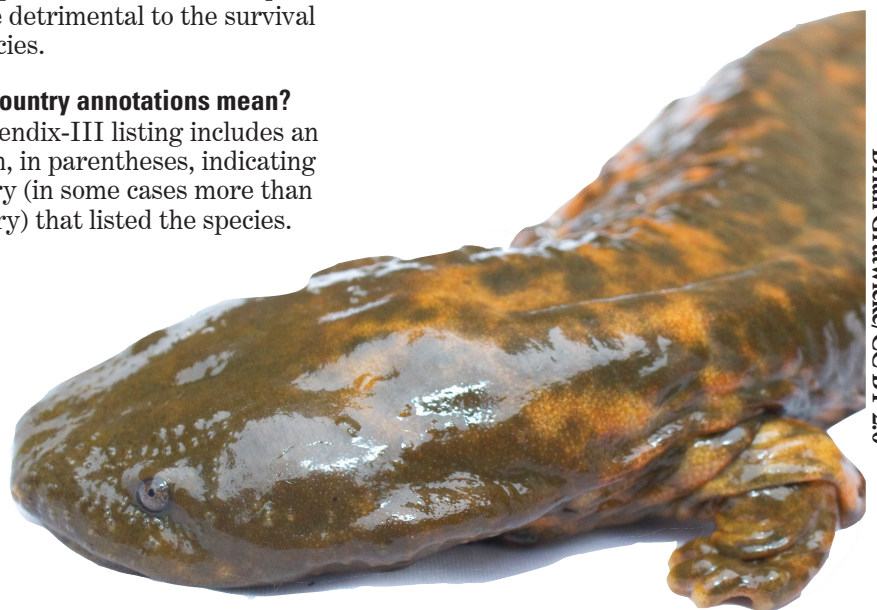
The annotation signifies that a CITES export permit must accompany a specimen exported from the country that listed that species. A CITES Certificate of origin is required from all other exporting countries unless the listing is restricted to specific populations.

### What does specific populations mean?

Some Appendix-III listings are limited to specific national populations (indicated by an annotation that reads, "Population of XX country"). This means that the listing country in its request to the CITES Secretariat advised that the listing is restricted only to its national population of the species.

In such cases, the listing country must issue a CITES export permit and any subsequent re-exports must be accompanied by a CITES re-export certificate.

However, no other populations are included in Appendix III, and therefore, CITES Certificates of origin are not required for exports from other range countries.



Hellbender, Appendix III



Ringed map turtle, Appendix III

The Parties have agreed that restricting Appendix-III listings to specific national populations poses implementation challenges and generally should be avoided.

The United States agrees that restricting Appendix-III listings to specific national populations poses implementation challenges, and also does not align with the intent of an Appendix-III listing in regulating international trade in the species and obtaining robust trade data, and the United States will not limit any Appendix-III listings to the U.S. national population.

**May Appendix-III species be imported to the United States?**

Yes. To import Appendix-III species into the United States, you must present valid CITES documentation to the appropriate U.S. authorities when your shipment enters the United States.

If your specimens came directly from a country that has listed the species in Appendix III, you must present a CITES export permit issued by the Management Authority of that country.

If your specimens came directly from a country that has not listed the species in Appendix III, you must present a CITES certificate of origin issued by the Management Authority of that country.

If your specimens came from a country of re-export, you must present a CITES re-export certificate issued by the Management Authority of that country.

For Appendix-III listings limited to specific national populations, a CITES export permit is required from the listing country and re-export certificates are required for subsequent re-exports, but all other trade in the species is outside the scope of CITES and therefore, no CITES documents are required.

**May Appendix-III species be exported or re-exported from the United States?**

Yes. To export or e-export Appendix-III species from the United States, you must obtain CITES documents from the U.S. Management Authority to present to U.S. enforcement authorities at the point of export and to authorities of the importing country.

If the United States has included the species in Appendix III, you must obtain a CITES permit from us.

If another country has included the species in Appendix III, you must obtain a CITES certificate of origin from the U.S. Management Authority.

If you are re-exporting specimens, you must obtain a CITES re-export certificate from the U.S. Management Authority.

**How do I obtain the required documents for international trade in CITES-listed species?**

To apply for a U.S. CITES document, complete a standard application form and submit it with a processing fee. Visit the Service's permit website at [www.fws.gov/permits](http://www.fws.gov/permits) for more information.

To apply for a CITES document from another country, contact their Management Authority. You can obtain names and addresses of other countries' Management Authorities from the CITES website at [cites.org/eng/parties/country-profiles/national-authorities](http://cites.org/eng/parties/country-profiles/national-authorities).

**What kinds of species are included in CITES Appendix III?**

Approximately 400 animal species and nearly 150 plant species are currently included in Appendix III.

The United States has included the hellbender (*Cryptobranchus alleganiensis*) and the genus of map turtles (*Graptemys* spp.) in Appendix III. The walrus (*Odobenus rosmarus*), included in Appendix III by Canada, is another species native to the United States.

**How do I know if my wildlife or plant is included in any of the CITES Appendices?**

Visit the CITES website at <https://cites.org/eng/app/appendices.php> to view the CITES Appendices, or search for species in the Species+ Database at [speciesplus.net](http://speciesplus.net).

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
International Affairs  
5275 Leesburg Pike - MS:IA  
Falls Church, VA 22041  
703/358-2104 or 800/358-2104  
e-mail: [managementauthority@fws.gov](mailto:managementauthority@fws.gov)  
<http://www.fws.gov/international>**

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