



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

CITES Reform- HTA

5TH February 2025



Convention on
International Trade
in Endangered
Species
(CITES)

CITES is an **international agreement** that regulates the trade of endangered species to safeguard them from over-exploitation, by ensuring that any trade of these species is legal and sustainable.

CITES works by subjecting international trade in specimens of **selected species to certain controls and regulation** requires **international co-operation** because it crosses borders between countries.

CITES is implemented in the UK(GB) primarily through the **retained Wildlife Trade Regulations**, and domestic **COTES 2018 Regulations**.

CITES legislative reform programme

Vision: For the UK to be an influential global actor, driving sustainable, legal, and safe international trade in wildlife and supporting local communities.

- Opportunity to **review and revise the CITES legislation** in Great Britain to ensure it is proportionate and fit for purpose.
- **Consolidate and rationalise** EU-derived legislation to ensure a more coherent legal regime.
- **Effective species protection** fully reflected and implemented in the UK.



Example proposals

Requirements for Imports of Annex B Specimens

Potential options to streamline the requirement for import permits for Annex B specimens include:

- Extending the use of semi-complete permits to imports for high volume, low risk trade,
- Introduce a species and/or species-country combinations list that do not require import permits,
- Utilise import notifications for Annex B imports,
- Remove the requirement for import permits from artificially propagated plants,
- Retaining the existing requirement and ensuring the administrative purposes are proportionate and reflects the relative risk.

Semi-complete Permits

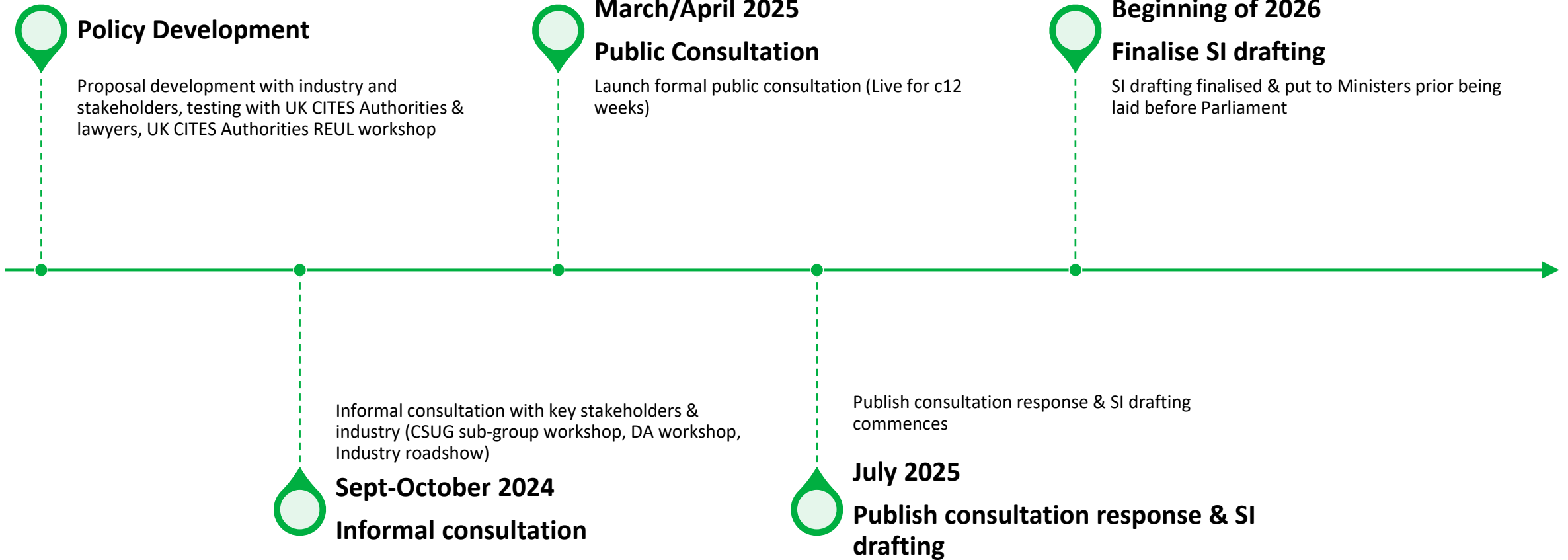
- Scoping options to extend the use of semi-complete permits to include some live Annex B and C specimens and import permits.
- APHA (in consultation with UK CITES Scientific Authorities) would retain discretion on whether to issue semi-complete permits on a case-by-case basis.

CITES reform consultation



- The purpose of the consultation is to **seek views on preliminary proposals and policy options** for reforming the UK CITES domestic legislation
- Once cross-Government clearances have been secured, Defra will advise key stakeholders, including HTA, when the **12-week** public consultation will launch.
- There will be **open text** and we're keen to hear suggestions for other options or proposals we might not have already included.
- **How to submit consultation responses:** Online via CitizenSpace, by email to our CITES MA mailbox, or by post.

Proposed Timings (subject to change/Ministerial prioritisation)



Next Steps



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Please send any questions to
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