

# Controls at the UK Border



# Customs border check

- Any shipments being imported or exported containing specimens of protected species listed on CITES or the UK Wildlife Trade regulations must be checked by the customs authorities (Border Force).
- These checks may be done only at designated CITES ports of import or export.
- No customs procedures will be authorised until all the required documents are presented.

# CITES documents

**Checking and validating CITES documents at the border is one of the most important parts of CITES.**



**Permits must be issued prior to goods being exported from the country of origin**

# Dual phytosanitary / CITES export permit

The following countries under CITES conference resolution 12.3 (rev CoP 16) are allowed to use Phytosanitary certificates as CITES export permits for artificially propagated plants. The document must have the CITES logo visible in a prominent position

**Austria**  
**Belgium**  
**Czech Republic**  
**Denmark**  
**Canada**  
**Germany**

**Hong Kong (SAR)**  
**Italy**  
**Netherlands**  
**Republic of Korea**  
**Singapore**  
**Sweden**

# Objective

Endorsement of the (re) export permit is required at the point of departure by the relevant control authority & mandatory verification at the point of import into the United Kingdom .

(Re) export permit

Import permit

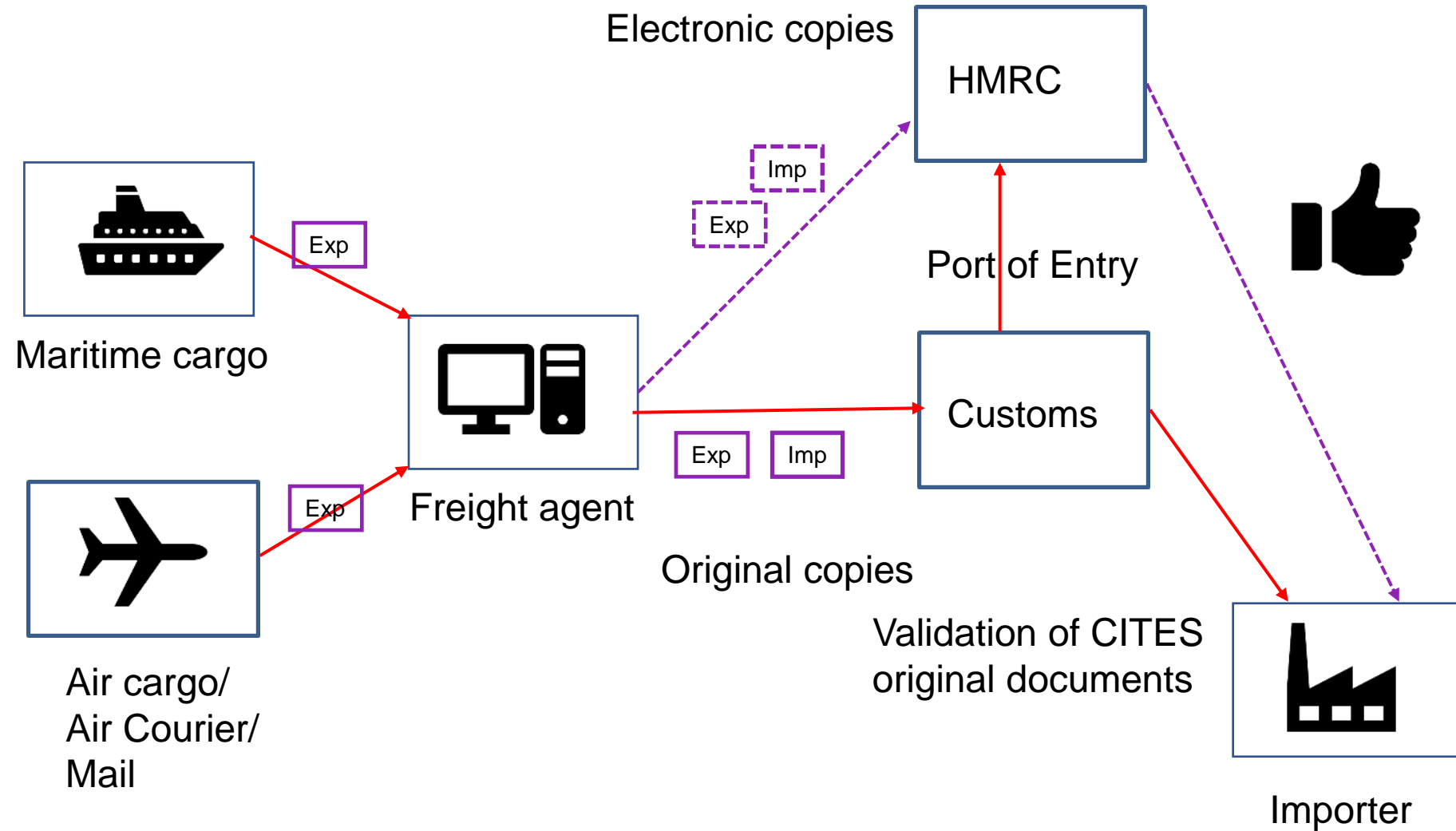
CITES CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA		PERMIT/CERTIFICATE No.	Original
<input type="checkbox"/> EXPORT <input type="checkbox"/> RE-EXPORT <input type="checkbox"/> IMPORT <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:		2. Valid until	
3. Importer (name and address)		4. Exporter (name, address and country)	
5a. Country of export		Signature of the applicant	
5b. Special conditions		6. Name, address, national authority and country of Management Authority	
7a. Purpose of the transaction		7b. Security stamp no.	
8a. Species name (genus and species) and common name of animal or plant		8b. Description of specimens including scientific name in full (Latin name)	
9. Appendix no. and source (see Annex)		10. Quantity (including units)	
11a. Field export date		11b. Field export date	
12. Country of origin		13. Date of issue	
14. Country of destination		15. Date of expiration	
16. Country of origin		17. Date of issue	
18. Country of destination		19. Date of expiration	
20. Country of origin		21. Date of issue	
22. Country of destination		23. Date of expiration	
24. Quantity in which the specimens are taken from the wild, based on export or re-export, or import (only in case of re-export)			
25. The date of departure of the specimens			
26. The date of arrival of the specimens			
27. The date of departure of the specimens			
28. The date of arrival of the specimens			
29. The date of departure of the specimens			
30. The date of arrival of the specimens			
31. The date of departure of the specimens			
32. The date of arrival of the specimens			
33. The date of departure of the specimens			
34. The date of arrival of the specimens			
35. The date of departure of the specimens			
36. The date of arrival of the specimens			
37. The date of departure of the specimens			
38. The date of arrival of the specimens			
39. The date of departure of the specimens			
40. The date of arrival of the specimens			
41. The date of departure of the specimens			
42. The date of arrival of the specimens			
43. The date of departure of the specimens			
44. The date of arrival of the specimens			
45. The date of departure of the specimens			
46. The date of arrival of the specimens			
47. The date of departure of the specimens			
48. The date of arrival of the specimens			
49. The date of departure of the specimens			
50. The date of arrival of the specimens			
51. The date of departure of the specimens			
52. The date of arrival of the specimens			
53. The date of departure of the specimens			
54. The date of arrival of the specimens			
55. The date of departure of the specimens			
56. The date of arrival of the specimens			
57. The date of departure of the specimens			
58. The date of arrival of the specimens			
59. The date of departure of the specimens			
60. The date of arrival of the specimens			
61. The date of departure of the specimens			
62. The date of arrival of the specimens			
63. The date of departure of the specimens			
64. The date of arrival of the specimens			
65. The date of departure of the specimens			
66. The date of arrival of the specimens			
67. The date of departure of the specimens			
68. The date of arrival of the specimens			
69. The date of departure of the specimens			
70. The date of arrival of the specimens			
71. The date of departure of the specimens			
72. The date of arrival of the specimens			
73. The date of departure of the specimens			
74. The date of arrival of the specimens			
75. The date of departure of the specimens			
76. The date of arrival of the specimens			
77. The date of departure of the specimens			
78. The date of arrival of the specimens			
79. The date of departure of the specimens			
80. The date of arrival of the specimens			
81. The date of departure of the specimens			
82. The date of arrival of the specimens			
83. The date of departure of the specimens			
84. The date of arrival of the specimens			
85. The date of departure of the specimens			
86. The date of arrival of the specimens			
87. The date of departure of the specimens			
88. The date of arrival of the specimens			
89. The date of departure of the specimens			
90. The date of arrival of the specimens			
91. The date of departure of the specimens			
92. The date of arrival of the specimens			
93. The date of departure of the specimens			
94. The date of arrival of the specimens			
95. The date of departure of the specimens			
96. The date of arrival of the specimens			
97. The date of departure of the specimens			
98. The date of arrival of the specimens			
99. The date of departure of the specimens			
100. The date of arrival of the specimens			




# Points to consider for Customs clearance

- **Are all required documents available invoice, packing list, Phytosanitary/Health certificate, CITES (Re) export permit, UK CITES import permit ?**
- **Are all the required documents original, valid ([re] export permit endorsed) and in date?**
- **Do the goods/specimens match the description on the invoice?**
- **Are there any irregularities? if so inform Border Force at the port of entry prior to the shipment arriving.**

# UK Import process



# Live plants from the European Union





# Live plants at Harwich port



# Common Questions

- Do BF or the CITES team clear Imp/Exp declarations?
- ***No (this is a role undertaken by HMRC)***
- Do BF endorse other countries CITES imp or Exp docs?
- ***No***
- Does the “common name” need to be on the CITES permit?
- ***No only the Latin MUST be on the permit***
- Does the item weight need to be on permit?
- ***No unless stated by management authority – liquids, timber etc – this is not for fashion items.***
- Can we accept a photocopy of the CITES permit?
- ***No (please refer to Heathrow CITES team)***

# Common questions continued

- Can we accept an UNENDORSED third country CITES (re) export permit?
- ***No (please refer to the Heathrow CITES Team)***
- Goods left the UK port on export with no UK Export CITES permit presented, can we stamp the CITES export permit(s) retrospectively?
- ***No (please refer to the Heathrow CITES Team)***
- Goods pass through the UK border at import with no CITES permits declared or presented by the Driver/Freight Agent, can BF endorse the permits retrospectively?
- ***No (Please refer to Heathrow CITES team; Case must be referred to APHA compliance if the goods are already “in country”)***

# Heathrow CITES team Contact details

**03000 739801 (Answerphone will cut in out of  
hours 23.00 – 07.00)**

**Out of hours “Duty Officer” phone  
07802 614670**

**Please try office number first!!**

**Email**

**BorderForceCITESTeam@homeoffice.gov.uk**