



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE BRISTOL UK CITES Management Authority



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Plant Health
Agency

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contacting wildlife.licensing@apha.gov.uk

January 2025

UK CITES Authorities

UK Management Authority

Defra policy
APHA operational delivery and compliance

UK Scientific Authorities



UK Enforcement Authorities



Our Work (APHA CITES Team, CIT-B)

- CITES UK Management Authority
 - ✓ We issue permits and certificates for the import, export and commercial use of CITES listed specimens.
 - ✓ Register of captive breeding operations, Scientific Institutions, nurseries and caviar exporters or re-packing operations
- Other work areas include, Ivory ban, Bird Registration, Zoo Licensing, and compliance.

What is CITES?

- CITES is an international agreement to which countries adhere to voluntarily
- There are 185 signatories to the Convention, the latest being Turkmenistan in 2025
- The Convention (drafted 1963, agreed 1973, in force 1975, UK became a party in 1976) covers roughly 34,310 species of plants and 6,610 Animals.
- EC Regulations 338/97 and 865/2006 (as incorporated in UK law as assimilated law)
- Management Authority for British Indian Ocean Territories

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora



LEGALITY

The specimen has been obtained in accordance with the national laws and regulations for the protection of fauna and flora. Parties must make a legal acquisition finding to confirm this.



SUSTAINABILITY

Parties must make a non-detriment finding: a science-based biological finding which confirms that the trade in the species is sustainable and will not be detrimental to the survival of the species and takes account of the role of the species in its ecosystem.



TRACEABILITY

Parties must ensure that trade can be traced through the issuance and control of appropriate CITES permits and certificates. Parties report on all permits and certificates issued in national annual reports, which are compiled in the CITES Trade Database (<http://trade.cites.org>).

What type of specimens are covered by CITES?



Dendrobium nobile

Market selling largely unprocessed parts and derivatives for local purposes

Traditional pharmacy selling processed products

Degrees of protection – CITES species

CITES Appendices	
Appendix I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> species threatened with extinction and for which trade is prohibited, and may only be authorised in exceptional circumstances
Appendix II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> species not immediately threatened with extinction, but which may become so unless trade is regulated, or look-alike species, which are similar in appearance to endangered species and are therefore included to facilitate a more effective control
Appendix III	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> species subject to regulation within the territory of a CITES Party and for which the cooperation of other Parties is needed to prevent or restrict their exploitation

GB Annexes	
Annex A	<p>All species listed in Appendix I of CITES, plus certain other species included because they meet additional EU/GB criteria for prohibition of trade</p> <p>Imports can only take place with a CITES (re)-export and an import permit</p>
Annex B	<p>All the remaining species listed in Appendix II of CITES, plus certain other species included because they meet additional EU/GB criteria for regulation of trade</p> <p>Imports can only take place with a CITES (re)-export and an import permit</p>
Annex C	<p>Contains the Appendix III species that are not listed in Annex B.</p> <p>Imports can take place with a CITES (re)-export document and an import notification</p>
Annex D	<p>List of species that does not have a CITES equivalent. Some species in App III for which the UK has a reservation.</p> <p>Imports can take place with an import notification</p>

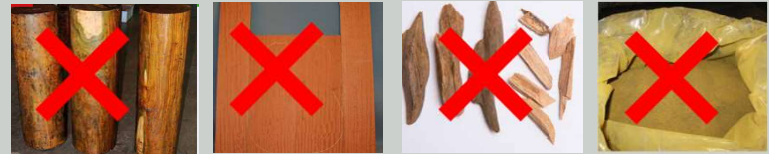
Is this specimen CITES-controlled?

- The Appendices require careful interpretation:

- Species in App II and III [Annex B-D] might be annotated to specify which parts or derivatives are controlled or not under CITES.
- The annotations are designated by a hashtag followed by a number after the species name.

2 types of annotations

#11 Designates logs, sawn wood, veneer sheets, plywood, powder and extracts



**CITES
controlled**

#2 Designates all parts and derivatives except:

- seeds and pollen; and
- finished products packaged and ready for retail trade.



**Not
CITES
controlled**

Species+ website

Cyclamen persicum

Mill.

► Primulales ► Primulaceae ► Cyclamen

LEGAL NAMES DISTRIBUTION REFERENCES DOCUMENTS

CITES Listings CITES Quotas CITES Suspensions EU Listing EU Decisions

CITES LISTING

APPENDIX	COUNTRY	DATE	NOTES
			[GENUS listing <i>Cyclamen</i> spp.]
II		23/02/2023	CoP19 #4 Artificially propagated specimens of cultivars of <i>Cyclamen persicum</i> are not subject to the provisions of the Convention. However, the exemption does not apply to such specimens traded as dormant tubers.

If, after checking [Species+](#), customers have doubts regarding possible exemptions:



Contact APHA CITES team
wildlife.licensing@apha.gov.uk

The annotations (in red) and the notes (in green) will tell you whether any parts or derivatives of the plant are listed on CITES and require permits or not

EC Regulations 338/97 (as incorporated in UK law as assimilated law)

	Annex A	Annex B	Annex C	Common name
NEPENTHACEAE				Pitcher plants (old-world)
		<i>Nepenthes</i> spp. (II) (Except for the species included in Annex A) #4		Tropical pitcher plants
	<i>Nepenthes khasiana</i> (I)			Indian pitcher plant
	<i>Nepenthes rajah</i> (I)			Giant tropical pitcher plant

Importing CITES-listed plants into the UK (special procedure)

- Phytosanitary certificate in lieu of CITES export permit from country of origin

- UK import permit

1 Name and address of exporter XXXXX XXXXX		2 PHYTOSANITARY CERTIFICATE No. IC 511 / XXXX 12345678 XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	
3 Declared name and address of consignee XXXXX XXXXX		4 Plant Protection Organisation of the United Kingdom to Plant Protection Organisation of UNITED KINGDOM 5 Place of origin NETHERLANDS	
6 Declared means of conveyance XXXX		7 Date of issue 11/11/11 -- < YEAR END > --	
7 Declared point of entry XXXX			
8 Description of goods, number and description of packages, nature of produce Botanical name of plants		9 Quantity declared XXXX	
10 This is to certify that the plants, plant products or other regulated articles described herein: - have been inspected and/or tested according to appropriate official procedures, and - are considered to be free from the quarantine pests specified by the importing contracting party, and - are considered to conform with the current phytosanitary requirements of the importing contracting party, including those for regulated non-quarantine pests.			
11 Additional declaration Alouatta palliata (0903); Aotus trichopsylla (0903); the specimens are artificially propagated as defined by CITES			
12 Issued at XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX		13 Place of issue XXXXX Date: 01-JAN-2024 XXXX	
14 Signature and stamp of the issuing authority		15 Date of issue XXXX	
16 Additional information			



1 Exporter (Re-exporter) FOSTER DIAMOND LUXE LTD 110 RUE DE LILLE 75000 PARIS FRANCE		PERMIT/CERTIFICATE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IMPORT <input type="checkbox"/> EXPORT <input type="checkbox"/> RE-EXPORT <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:		No. 627563/01	
2 Importer FOSTER DIAMOND LUXE LTD 160 NEW BOND STREET LONDON BX19 9PB		3 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species Of Wild Fauna and Flora CITES		2. Last day of validity: 01/07/23	
4 Country of re-export FRANCE		5 Country of import UNITED KINGDOM			
6 Location at which live specimens of Annex A species will be kept Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) UK CITES Management Agency Hornton House Deanery Road Bristol BS1 5AH Tel: +44(0)117 372 3700 Website: www.gov.uk/cites-imports-and-exports					
7 Description of specimens (including marks, sex/date of birth for live animals) One watchstrap made of Alligator skin, Via Switzerland on permit number 00CH00000 issued on 02/02/2016					
8 Net mass (kg) 11.50000000		9 CITES Appendix II		10 Country United States of America	
11 CITES Appendix II		12 GB Annex B		13 Source W	
14 Country of origin United States of America		15 Permit No. 11US00000A.0		16 Date of issue 10/01/11	
17 Country of last re-export France		18 Certificate No. FR210000000-R		19 Date of issue 01/01/23	
20 Scientific name of species Alligator mississippiensis					
21 Common name of species American Alligator					
22 Special conditions This permit certificate is only valid if live animals are transported in compliance with the CITES Guidelines for the Transport and Preparation for Shipment of Live Wild Animals or, in the case of an import, the Live Animals Regulations published by the International Air Transport Association (IATA) *TRAINING PURPOSES ONLY* This permit is not valid unless presented to customs authorities (Border Force) at a CITES designated port for completion of Box 27 at the point of entry to or on exit from Great Britain. Imports and exports of CITES specimens may only take place at designated CITES ports listed at https://www.gov.uk/guidance/trading-cites-listed-specimens-through-uk-ports-and-airports/designated-poe .					
23 The live import documentation from the country of re-export <input type="checkbox"/> has been surrendered to the issuing authority <input type="checkbox"/> has to be surrendered to the border customs office of introduction		24 The <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> importation <input type="checkbox"/> exportation <input type="checkbox"/> re-exportation of the goods described above is hereby permitted. Signature and official stamp: Emily Penry Head of International Trade Name of issuing official: Eva Pereira-Blanco			
25. BB of Lading/Air Waybill No.		26. Place and date of issue: Bristol, 24 January 2023			
27. For customs use only					
Quantity/net mass (kg) actually imported or (re-)exported	Number of animals dead on arrival	Customs Document Type Number Date			

Phytosanitary certificates in lieu of CITES export permits

What must be on the Phyto?

- ✓ **Scientific name at the species level** (exceptions apply)
- ✓ **type and quantity of specimens**
- ✓ bear a stamp, seal or other specific indication stating that **'the specimens are artificially propagated as defined by CITES'**.

1 Name of the exporter
2 PHYTOSANITARY CERTIFICATE
No. EC NL / PCN
3 Declared name and address of consignee
4 Plant Species Enumeration of the Netherlands
to Plant Protection Organization's of
UNITED KINGDOM
5
NETHERLANDS
6 Declared means of conveyance
Truck
7 Declared point of entry
UNITED KINGDOM
8 Distinguishing marks; number and description of packages; name of produce;
botanical name of plants
9 Quantity declared

No.	Product (pot. plants)	Packages	Quantity
0001	Aloe aristata, pot. plants	-	630 Pieces
0002	Aloe vera, pot. plants	-	160 Pieces
0003	Aloe excelsa, pot. plants	-	160 Pieces
0004	Crasula sp., pot. plants	-	622 Pieces
0005	Scheuchzia sp., pot. plants	-	2,248 Pieces
0006	Gasteria sp., pot. plants	-	1,074 Pieces
0007	Rawsonia sp., pot. plants	-	4,280 Pieces
0008	Kalanchoe sp., pot. plants	-	324 Pieces
0009	Fachosphyllum sp., pot. plants	-	432 Pieces
0010	Peperomia sp., pot. plants	-	160 Pieces
0011	Sedum sp., pot. plants	-	324 Pieces

10 This is to certify that the plants, plant products or other regulated articles described herein:
— have been inspected and/or tested according to appropriate official procedures, and
— are considered to be free from the quarantine pests specified by the importing contracting party, and
— conform with the current phytosanitary requirements of the importing contracting party, including those for regulated substances/pests.

11 Additional declaration
Aloe aristata (0001); Aloe excelsa (0003)
The specimens are artificially propagated as defined by CITES
----- < TEXT END > -----

12 Treatment
13 Chemical active ingredient(s)
14 Duration and concentration
15 Concentration
16 Date
17 Additional information
18 Place of issue
Name and signature of official officer
Stamp of Organisation

Increase in import applications for live plants

Results of trade sector engagement

Positive results



	June 22 - June 23	June 23 - June 24	% increase
Applications	1477	2558	42
Specimens	229,574	2,754,173	1099

To take away



- Education ahead of enforcement
- Consistencies in trade, enabling fair-trade amongst competitors in the market.
- Ensuring accurate reporting to CITES secretariat
- Ensuring legal acquisition and sustainability.

Delivery

2024 Stats:

61785 (62k) CITES permits issued

13677 (14K) applications received

✓ 530 permits rejected

90% issued within target Jan-Dec (55% within 15 working days – April-December)

678 Bird Registrations completed

Zoo Licensing:

✓ 117 Nomination Requests from Local Authorities to conduct inspections

✓ 17 Dispensation requests

Approx. 15,500 Emails and 10,000 calls answered



We aim to have reached a decision on applications within 30 days of receipt.



97% of our permits are issued within this 30-day target.



Our busy season runs from the spring through to the autumn months.



We have a total of 11 teams each focusing on different permits. One team dedicated to plants applications.

Permits

Original

Holder's copy

Custom's copy

Management Authority's copy

All, original and copies, need to be **presented** to Border Force and **endorsed** at the time of entry/exit the UK

(UK CITES designated ports - PoE)
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/trading-cites-listed-specimens-through-uk-ports-and-airports#designated-poe>

Retained by Border Force and returned to Management Authority

Must be kept by applicant or representative (proof of legal import into UK)

Retained by Border Force and returned to Management Authority



(Re-)export permit from country of (re-)export

Imports

3. CITES – Resources

Applying for CITES import permits online

- ✓ Online applications:
[Apply for a CITES permit - GOV.UK](#)

The screenshot shows the GOV.UK Government Gateway sign-in interface. At the top, it says 'GOV.UK Government Gateway'. Below that, there's a language selector for 'English' and 'Cymraeg'. A security warning box states: 'Keeping your information secure. Do not share your Government Gateway user ID and password with anyone else.' The main heading is 'Sign in using Government Gateway'. There are two input fields: 'Government Gateway user ID' (with a note 'This could be up to 12 characters.') and 'Password'. A 'Sign in' button is at the bottom.

- ✓ Guidance videos: [APHA - YouTube](#)

The screenshot shows the APHA YouTube channel page. The channel name is 'APHA' with the handle '@APHAgov', 2.19K subscribers, and 127 videos. The channel description states: 'APHA is an executive agency, sponsored by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs'. A 'Subscribe' button is visible. The video player shows a video titled 'CITES Online Applications – Applying for an import permit for artificially propagated live plants' from the 'Centre for International Trade – Bristol UK CITES Management Authority'. The video thumbnail features a green background with a white play button icon.

- ✓ Leaflets and pdf guidance: email wildlife.licensing@apha.gov.uk

Animal and Plant Health Agency
Guidance for CITES permit applications
Trade assessments for artificially propagated plant products (non-timber)
December 2024

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Future CITES

- Modernise IT and permitting systems (e-permits)
- Continuous improvements to the CITES digital service
- Reviewing UK CITES legislation (including retained EU Law Bill)
- Reviewing internal processes (including fees and charges, internal procedures)
- UK Priorities for Plants, Standing Committee (February 2025) and CoP20 (November 2025, Uzbekistan).

References

- [Apply for a CITES permit - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)
- [Import plants and plant products from the EU to Great Britain - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)
- Guidance videos – apply online for UK CITES permits and certificates: [APHA - YouTube](#)
- The CITES Publications | CITES: <https://cites.org/eng/resources/publications.php>
- CITES resources | Kew: <https://www.kew.org/science/our-science/science-services/UK-CITES/cites-resources>
- [Species+ \(speciesplus.net\)](https://speciesplus.net)
- [Virtual College | CITES](#)



CITES resources

Find many of the CITES resources such as checklists and publications here.



A screenshot of the CITES Virtual College website. The page features a large green frog in the background. The main heading reads: "The CITES Virtual College is an essential resource to strengthen the understanding of the Convention by those in the frontline of its implementation in each of the Parties." Below this, there are three paragraphs of text: "It provides training and reference materials and contributes to increase awareness.", "The CITES Virtual College was launched in 2011 to offer training, educational materials, tools and expertise on a variety of CITES-related topics in the three working languages of the Convention (also in other languages for some resources).", and "The first Virtual College platform was developed through the financial support from the European Union, with expert contribution from Spain and the International University of Andalusia (UNIA). In the course of 2024, the Virtual College will be considerably revamped with a new interface and a new set of online training courses with support from Switzerland." At the bottom, there are five icons representing different resources: Online courses (laptop), Training materials (stack of books), Identification materials (magnifying glass), Non-detriment findings (globe), and References and Tools (open book).



UK CITES Management Authority

Email enquiries: wildlife.licensing@apha.gov.uk

Telephone: 0117 372 3700

Online applications: [Apply for CITES permits and certificates to move or trade endangered species - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-cites-permits-and-certificates-to-move-or-trade-endangered-species)

Website: www.gov.uk/apha | Twitter: @APHAgovuk | Facebook: aphagov

Address: Centre for International Trade - Bristol
Horizon House, Deanery Rd, Bristol BS1 5AH