



CHANGES TO WILDLIFE IMPORT AND RE-EXPORT MULTIPLE USE PERMITS

Question and Answer

The federal environment department is introducing changes to the issuing of import and re-export multiple use permits for wildlife products to bring the process in line with the national environment law. It is important to understand these permit requirement changes and how they may affect you or your business. Otherwise, you may find yourself accidentally importing or re-exporting wildlife goods illegally, and they may be seized at the border

What permit requirements are changing?

Up until now, to obtain a multiple use permit, you only needed a CITES export permit for the first shipment to be covered by that permit. The permit would then be valid for six months.

Under the new requirements, to ensure compliance with national environment law, every multiple use import permit application will need the CITES export permits for all intended shipments to be covered by that permit. Every re-export permit will need the Australian import permit and the original export permit for the products, for all shipments to be covered by that permit. If you don't have the CITES permit for every shipment, you will need to switch to single use permits.

Multiple use permits will now be valid for a set number of products listed on the CITES export permits. You can have as many or as few shipments as you like under a multiple use permit, as long as you have a valid export permit for each shipment when you apply for the permit.

What if I have a valid multiple use permit that was issued under the old requirements?

Existing multiple use permits which have not yet expired will remain valid until their expiration date. Permits issued after your current permit expires will be subject to the new requirements.





Can I still get a multiple use import permit?

Yes. Multiple use import permits will still be issued as long as you have a valid CITES export permit for every shipment you want covered by that permit. This means that before you apply for a multiple use permit, you need multiple use CITES export or import permits.

Can I still get a multiple use re-export permit?

Yes. Multiple use re-export permits will still be issued as long as you have a valid Australian import permit and the original export permit for the products for all shipments to be covered by that permit.

What if I don't have the CITES export permit yet, but I'm applying for a multiple use import permit for other shipments?

You won't be able to apply for an import permit for any product until you have received the export permit (from the overseas country of export) for that specimen.

You won't be able to apply for the re-export of a product until you have imported the product into Australia. This means you may have to wait a little longer before you can apply for a multiple use permit.

Will I need more permits this way?

Some business may at times have to switch to single use permits, or apply for more multiple use permits that cover fewer shipments rather than for all shipments over a six month period.

How will this affect my business?

While it may mean you need more permits each year, we are determined to not let the new procedures interrupt the normal running of your business. Please contact us to discuss ways your business can adapt to the new procedures without affecting the smooth running of your business.

Is it going to cost me more?

The cost of a multiple use import permit will remain \$75 per permit. The cost of a single use permit will also remain unchanged at \$30 per permit. The overall cost may increase slightly if you require more permits.

I receive shipments on an ad hoc basis, and do not always know when they are arriving. How do I get a valid permit for these?

We understand that for some businesses it is difficult to always know when wildlife products will be arriving far enough in advance to gain a valid permit. You may apply for single use permits to cover these situations. If this does not work for your business, please contact us to see what arrangements may be able to be made to suit you without disrupting your business.

I am a scientific or research organisation. Do the new requirements apply to me?

If your business is non-commercial, please contact us to discuss your options and make arrangements.





When do the new permit conditions start?

The new arrangements are effective immediately.

What if I have already applied for a multiple-use permit but have not yet received my permit?

Any permit applications we have received to date will be assessed under the old requirements.

Why these changes?

The changes are designed to make Australian wildlife permit requirements compliant with national environment law. They also support Australia's international obligations under CITES.

What is national environment law?

National environment law refers to Australia's primary legislation that governs environment protection across Australia, the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999, or EPBC Act for short.

How does national environment law relate to the importation and re-exportation of wildlife products?

This law states that all wildlife products listed under CITES that are to be imported into Australia must have a valid CITES export permit from the country it comes from. This export permit must be sighted by us before an import permit can be granted. This is to make sure the wildlife products are being exported legally, and is consistent with Australia's international wildlife protection obligations.

I still don't understand and require more information.

We understand the new processes may be a little confusing. More information has been uploaded on the department's website at www.environment.gov.au/wildlife-permits, or you can call us on (02) 6274 1900.

We can also come to you to talk about the new arrangements and how they can be introduced with minimal disruption to your businesses. Please call the department to make arrangements.

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