

FSVO - CITES Import other than live plants EU

1. General

1.1 Background

The CITES Convention is an international trade convention designed to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of animal and plant populations. International cooperation is intended to prevent international trade from resulting in overexploitation of animal and plant species that are endangered or threatened with extinction.

Protected animals and plants and parts thereof, or goods with components thereof, that are imported into Switzerland must be accompanied by a CITES certificate from the country of origin and be inspected at a species protection control post. In addition, certain CITES consignments require a permit from the [FSVO](#).

There are also regulations governing the import of protected but non-CITES items that are subject to the Hunting Act and the Federal Act on Fish, and articles that may easily be mistaken for CITES items.

1.2 Legal basis and information

- Federal Act on the Trade in Protected Animal and Plant Species (FA-CITES; [SR 453](#))
- Ordinance on the Trade in Protected Animal and Plant Species (O-CITES; [SR 453.0](#))
- FDHA Ordinance on the Control of the Trade in Protected Animal and Plant Species (CITES Control Ordinance; [SR 453.1](#))
- Federal Act on Hunting and the Protection of Wild Mammals and Birds (Hunting Act; HuntA; [SR 922.0](#))
- Federal Act on Fish (FishA; [SR 923.0](#))

1.3 Reference in Tares

Tariff items that are often relevant under species protection law contain the note "NZE: FSVO - CITES Import other than live plants EU". However, in principle, goods under any tariff heading may contain components of protected animals or plants. If this is the case, the corresponding NZE/regulation code has to be entered in the customs declaration, even if there is no note to this effect in Tares (general clause).

1.4 Definitions

Non-CITES consignments	- Animal and plant items from species that can easily be confused with species listed in CITES appendices I to III (e.g. skins/hides of non-protected species and certain living animals of non-protected species); - Animals from species listed in the HuntA (SR 922.0); - Fish and crustaceans of alien species, breeds and varieties listed in the FishA (SR 923.0).
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2. Information in the customs/goods declaration

Anyone importing goods subject to species protection legislation must provide an indication in the goods declaration regarding the regulation requirement and enter the requisite CITES certificate and/or permit from the FSVO. In addition, the goods declaration must contain the name of the species protection control post at which the inspection is to take place.

Identification Regulation	e-dec: - NZE mandatory code "yes" - NZE type code 200 "FSVO - CITES Import other than live plants EU" - Authorisation requirement "yes" (if FSVO permit is required) - Authorising office "11 CITES-Imp" Passar: - Regulation "yes" - Regulation code 312 "FSVO - CITES Import other than live plants EU"														
Additional details	Consignments subject to authorisation - Authorisation type¹ "Individual authorisation code 1" or "General authorisation code 99" - FSVO permit number - Permit holder² CITES certificate - "Documentation" section¹ Format "Other (ZZZ), number, date, CITES" or - "Supporting documents" section² type "2100 CITES authorisation international" Format "number, date" or Text "none" for non-CITES consignments Species protection control post - Header, "Special remarks" section <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Species protection control post</th><th>Code</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Basel</td><td>CITES01</td></tr> <tr> <td>Geneva airport</td><td>CITES02</td></tr> <tr> <td>Zurich airport</td><td>CITES03</td></tr> <tr> <td>Bern</td><td>CITES04</td></tr> <tr> <td>Ticino</td><td>CITES05</td></tr> <tr> <td>Le Locle</td><td>CITES07</td></tr> </tbody> </table> - Species protection inspection fee (additional fee code 292 for fauna or 792 for flora)	Species protection control post	Code	Basel	CITES01	Geneva airport	CITES02	Zurich airport	CITES03	Bern	CITES04	Ticino	CITES05	Le Locle	CITES07
Species protection control post	Code														
Basel	CITES01														
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Goods that are subject to the inspection requirement, and that can be brought into the country without an FSVO permit due to an exemption from the requirement, must be declared in Passar accordingly:

Identification Regulation	Passar: - Regulation 1 (yes) - Regulation code 312 "FSVO - CITES Import other than live plants EU"
Licence exemptions	- Goods manufactured from animal skins/hides of species listed in appendices II and III to the CITES Convention; - Products containing caviar extract; - Blood and tissue samples from apes listed in appendix II to the CITES Convention, intended for the pharmaceuticals industry; - Live specimens of artificially propagated plants from species listed in appendices I to III to the CITES Convention;

¹ Only for declarations in e-dec: Code 2 (general import authorisation) must not be used in relation to CITES

² Only for declarations in Passar

	- Products containing components of artificially propagated plants from species listed in appendices I to III to the CITES Convention, individually packaged for retail; - Non-CITES consignments subject to the inspection requirement³.
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3. Further information

3.1 Inspection requirement

Anyone importing goods subject to species protection legislation must present them for inspection at the species protection control post within two days after they have been cleared through customs.

3.2 Certificates

Import consignments of goods regulated under species protection legislation must be accompanied by the following documents:

Goods	Documents	Inspection requirement
Live animals, live wild plants (source code W) and animal/plant products from species listed in appendices I to III to the CITES Convention	CITES certificate FSVO permit	Fee and inspection obligation
Artificially propagated plants (source code A and D) from species listed in appendices I to III to the CITES Convention from third countries	CITES certificate	
Animals and products from species listed in the HuntA (SR 922.0), as well as fish and crustaceans of alien species, breeds and varieties listed in the FishA (SR 923.0)	FSVO permit	No inspection requirement
Goods manufactured from animal skins/hides of species listed in appendices II and III to the CITES Convention	CITES certificate	Fee and inspection obligation
Products containing caviar extract		
Blood and tissue samples from apes listed in appendix II to the CITES Convention, intended for the pharmaceuticals industry		
Live specimens of artificially propagated plants from species listed in appendices I to III to the CITES Convention		
Products containing components of artificially propagated plants from species listed in appendices I to III to the CITES Convention, individually packaged for retail		
Live animals from species that can easily be confused with those listed in appendices I to III to the CITES Convention.	FSVO permit	
Animal products from species that can easily be confused with those listed in appendices I to III to the CITES Convention.	None	

³ Only animal products from species that can easily be confused with those listed in appendices I to III to the CITES Convention fall under the licence exemption "non-CITES consignments subject to the inspection requirement". They are subject to the inspection requirement under the CITES Control Ordinance, without needing an FSVO permit

3.3 Species protection inspection fee

The person subject to the declaration obligation must manually enter the fee for the species protection inspection in the customs declaration. It is levied as part of the customs clearance for each customs declaration.

CITES fauna (animal species protection); additional fee, revenue type 292 (fauna)	
Consignments from all countries except New Zealand	- CHF 88.00 for consignments weighing up to 6 tons - CHF 14.70 for each additional ton - maximum additional fee: CHF 676.00
Consignments from New Zealand	- CHF 68.20 for consignments weighing up to 6 tons - CHF 11.40 for each additional ton - maximum additional fee: CHF 523.90
CITES flora (plant species protection); additional fee, revenue type 792 (flora)	
-	- CHF 60.00 per consignment

If, in addition to the species protection inspection fee, the goods are subject to a fee for border veterinary controls or for inspections by the Swiss Federal Plant Protection Service (SPPS), this will be levied, in which case the CITES fee does not need to be entered.

If the goods are subject to both the CITES fauna fee and the CITES flora fee, only the CITES fauna fee should be entered.

3.4 Other exemptions from the inspection and/or licence obligation

Household effects

If the criteria for household effects are met, **non-live** goods covered by species protection may be imported without having to indicate the regulation code, without a permit, without a CITES certificate and without a species protection inspection.

This does not apply for live goods covered by species protection.

Products exchanged between scientific institutions

The non-commercial lending, donation or exchange of preserved goods covered by species protection and of live CITES plant material between scientific institutions (which are recognised by and registered with the relevant CITES authority) is not subject to requirements on certificates, permits, inspections or fees. The consignments are accompanied only by certificates from the institution. The declaration is performed without any indication of a regulation code.