



Application Form and Guidelines for Approval of a Commercial Import Program

Introduction

In Australia, Part 13A of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) regulates the:

- import and export of specimens protected under the *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora* (CITES);
- exports of Australian native specimens; and
- imports of live specimens.

Permits to import specimens listed on Appendix II of CITES into Australia for commercial purposes can be obtained from the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA).

Specimens of CITES Appendix II species that are **declared specimens** may only be imported commercially if they have been artificially propagated or bred in captivity (source codes¹ A, C or D), or if the operation from which they were sourced has been approved as a Commercial Import Program (CIP). Aquaculture of certain aquatic species listed under Appendix II of CITES may also be approved under this provision. A list of approved Commercial Import Programs can be found at: <http://www.deh.gov.au/biodiversity/trade-use/sources/import/index.html>.

Species, that are not **declared specimens** do not require approval of a CIP.

Declared specimens (current as at 20 February 2007) are:

- Ramin (*Gonystylus* spp.)
- Beluga sturgeon (*Huso huso*) originating from the Caspian Sea
- South African Ghaap (*Hoodia gordonii*)
- All specimens originating from countries not Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

The list of declared specimens is at:

[use/sources/declared-specimens.html](http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/trade-use/sources/declared-specimens.html)

A list of species listed under **CITES** is at:

<http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/trade-use/lists/cites/index.html>

Further information on wildlife trade, the EPBC Act and CITES is at: <http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/trade-use/index.html>

Who needs to apply for a Commercial Import Program?

- Individuals or companies wishing to gain access to Australian markets for **wild harvested and ranched** specimens of CITES Appendix II species that are **declared specimens** (ranching is defined as rearing in a controlled environment of specimens taken from the wild).
- Overseas government agencies responsible for managing a species who want to facilitate the import into Australia of **wild harvested and ranched** specimens of CITES Appendix II species that are **declared specimens**.

PLEASE NOTE: A Commercial Import Program is not applicable to CITES Appendix I and III species. Specimens listed on Appendix I of CITES can only be imported if they are artificially propagated or sourced from an approved CITES registered captive breeding program. For CITES III specimens, the requirement under the EPBC Act is that a CITES export permit has been issued by the relevant CITES Management Authority in the exporting country.

Completing the Application Form

The 'Application Form' starts on page 3. Please complete the application form, detach it from the guidelines and submit it to DEWHA.

- Attach all supporting documentation to your application as requests for additional information will result in delays.
- Sign the form as unsigned applications will not be accepted.
- There are severe penalties for knowingly making false or misleading statements in this application.
- A reference to 'CIP' in the application form means Commercial Import Program.

Assessment of the application

When the Department receives your application, it will be assessed to ensure it meets the requirements of the EPBC Act. The assessment and approval process usually takes 4-6 weeks, provided that your application is satisfactory and contains all supporting documentation.

Assessment will include a consideration of:

- Whether the trade is detrimental to the survival of the taxon to which the specimens belong.
- Whether the appropriate levels of management are in place to monitor and manage the trade.

The approval of a Commercial Import Program is dependent on satisfying the requirements of regulation 9A.21 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000*. Applicants will need to attach evidence that they can satisfy these requirements.

Once a decision has been made, you will be notified of the outcome. Approval will generally be for a period of 5 years. Renewal will be subject to a review to establish that the program is still operational and continues to meet the requirements of the Act.

Approval may be withdrawn if it is determined that the program no longer meets the

requirements for a commercial import program.

Import Permits

Once the Commercial Import Program has been approved, the importer must obtain permits from DEWHA before any specimens can be imported into Australia. Contact International Wildlife Trade at the address below for more information on obtaining permits or visit our website at <http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/trade-use/permits/index.html>

For Further Information on Wildlife Programs and Permits Please contact

Wildlife Trade Assessments	Telephone:	(02) 6274 1353
Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts	Facsimile	(02) 6274 1921
	Email:	wta@environment.gov.au

GPO BOX 787
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Website: <http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/trade-use/index.html>



Application Form for Approval of a Commercial Import Program

Applicant Details

1. Name

Mr, Ms, Mrs, etc First (given) name

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Family name (Surname)

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2. Organisation/trading name (if appropriate)

Registered name and ABN

3. Street address

Town/suburb	
State	Postcode

4. Postal address

If same as street address, tick here

Town/suburb	
State	Postcode

5. Contact details (include area code)

Telephone number – work / home / mobile

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Fax number

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Email

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Program Details

6. Is this a renewal of, or an amendment to, an existing approved CIP program?

No **Go to next question**

Yes Please contact DEWHA to determine what information will be required.

7. Complete the attached List of Species (page 5 of the application form).

8. Refer to the 'Information to Support CIP'

This is on page 5 of the application form. You will need to prepare this information and attach it to the application form.

9. Tick the items for which you have attached evidence:

- List of species (page 5 of the application form)
- Copy of Management Plan
- Information to Support CIP (page 5 of the application form)
- Copy of reports to CITES Secretariat from the relevant CITES Management Authority

10. Declaration by Applicant

I declare that:

- the particulars provided by me in this application (including attachments) are true and correct in every detail.

Name of applicant or authorised person (if applicant is an organisation)

Signature of applicant or authorised person

Date signed by applicant

Detach this application form from the guidelines and fax or mail it with all supporting documents to the following address:

Postal address:

The Director
Wildlife Trade Assessments
Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts
GPO Box 787
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Phone: (02) 6274 1900
Fax: (02) 6274 1921
E-mail: wta@environment.gov.au

Small Businesses

Please provide an estimate of time taken to complete this form:

 Hours Minutes

Include:

- the time actually spent reading the instructions, working on the questions and obtaining the information; and
- the time spent by your employees in collecting and providing this information.

List of Species

Species covered by the Commercial Import Program

PLEASE PRINT - If more convenient the applicant may submit a list of species in a different format but must include all required information.

Scientific Name	Common Name

Information to Support CIP

You will need to supply information on:

1. Biology of the species.
2. Population monitoring (size of the population, population trends and monitoring techniques).
3. Harvest methodology (how does the harvest occur).
4. Procedures for regulating the harvest (quotas, licensing etc).
5. Procedures for regulating and monitoring trade, including a description of how illegal trade is detected.

It is not necessary to provide the information in any particular format, and it may be possible to provide most of the information by submitting copies of management plans, reports or fact sheets from the relevant CITES Management Authority.

In order to find this information it may be necessary to contact the CITES Management Authority of the country in which the harvest occurs. A list of CITES Management Authorities can be found at: www.cites.org/common/directy/e_directy.html

PLEASE NOTE: When submitting the application form please ensure that this information is attached.