



## CoP20 species changes: consequences for import and (re)export CITES species

Most CoP20 species amendments will enter into force on the 5<sup>th</sup> of March 2026. the CITES Appendices will then be amended, but the EU Species List will not yet. By the Species List, we mean the EU Annexes to the Basic Regulation (Regulation (EC) No 338/97).

A transition period applies from the 5<sup>th</sup> of March until the new Species List enters into force. We expect this Species List mid-May 2026.

### CITES species with delayed implementation

the inclusion of the following species on Appendix II of CITES has been postponed by 18 months, until June 5th, 2027:

- Epirus water frog (*Pelophylax epeiroticus*)
- Pool frog (*Pelophylax lessonae*)
- Marsh frog (*Pelophylax ridibundus*)
- Albanian water frog (*Pelophylax shqipericus*)
- School shark (*Galeorhinus galeus*)
- *Mustelus* spp.
- Gulper sharks (*Centrophoridae* spp.)
- *Holothuria lessoni*

View all changes in Appendices and annotations at CITES species or not > Step 2: View how strictly the species is protected > Change in protection levels. Here you will find the PDF document Overview of amended CITES appendices COP20

### Import and (re)export

On the following page, you will find rules that apply to import and (re)export from the 5<sup>th</sup> of March, 2026. On the page after that, you will find the rules that apply when the new Species List comes into effect.

### Within the European Union (EU)

Within the EU, we maintain the current Species List. Do you have a species that has been newly included in Appendix I and will be included in Annex A? then you will only need EU certificates when the new Species List comes into effect. You can find more information about EU certificates at [Welk CITES-document heeft u nodig?](#) (in Dutch).

the marking requirement for the new Annex A species also only applies after the new Species List enters into force. For new Annex B species, you must be able to demonstrate legal origin from that moment on. We recommend starting with this now. Collect documentation proving that you already had your species before it was listed on Annex A or B. Additionally, when the new Species List comes into effect, in many cases you must maintain an administration.

## the period from 5 March 2026 until the new Species List enters into force

For the import or (re)export of new or amended CITES species, we will already refer to the international Appendix during this transition period.

the following applies to import and (re)export during the transition period:

	0 to I	II/B to I/B	0 to II	I/A to II/A
<b>Import to the EU</b> (re)exported before 5/3, but imported after 5/3	1. import permit (the Netherlands)	1. (re)export permit (country of export) 2. Import permit (the Netherlands)	1. No CITES documents needed yet	1. (re)export permit (country of export) 2. Import permit (the Netherlands)
<b>Import to the EU</b> (re)exported from 5/3 and imported from 5/3	1. (re)export permit (country of export) 2. Import permit (the Netherlands)	1. (re)export permit (country of export) 2. Import permit (the Netherlands)	1. (re)export permit (country of export)	1. (re)export permit (country of export) 2. Import permit (the Netherlands)
<b>Export from the EU</b> from 5/3	1. (re)export permit (the Netherlands) 2. Import permit (country of import)	1. (re)export permit (the Netherlands) 2. Import permit (country of import)	1. (re)export permit (the Netherlands) 2. Check if import permit is necessary (country of import)	1. (re)export permit (the Netherlands) 2. Check if import permit is necessary (country of import)

	III/C to II/C	New on III
<b>Import to the EU</b> (re)exported before 5/3, but imported after 5/3	1. (re) export permit or a certificate of origin (country of export) 2. Import notification (the Netherlands)	1. No CITES documents needed yet
<b>Import to the EU</b> (re)exported from 5/3 and imported from 5/3	1. (re)export permit (country of export) 2. Import notification (the Netherlands)	1. (re) export permit or a certificate of origin (country of export)
<b>Export from the EU</b> from 5/3	1. (re)export permit (the Netherlands) 2. Check if import permit is necessary (country of import)	1. (re)export permit (the Netherlands)

### Legend:

0 to I = Species newly added to Appendix I, previously not protected by CITES

II/B to I/B = Species has been uplisted to Appendix I, and was previously on Appendix II and Annex B

0 to II = Species newly added to Appendix II, previously not protected by CITES

I/A to II/A = Species has been downlisted to Appendix II, and was previously on Appendix I and Annex A

III/C to II/C = Species has been uplisted to Appendix II, and was previously on Appendix III and Annex C

0 to III = Species newly added to Appendix III, previously not protected by CITES

## the period following the entry into force of the new Species List

As soon as the new Species List enters into force, the above schedule will no longer apply. the following schedule will then apply:

	<b>0 to I/A</b>	<b>II/B to I/A</b>	<b>0 to II/B</b>	<b>I/A to II/B</b>
<b>Import to the EU</b> (re)exported before 5/3	1. Import permit (the Netherlands)	1. (re)export permit (country of export) 2. Import permit (the Netherlands)	1. Import permit (the Netherlands)	1. (re)export permit (country of export) 2. Import permit (the Netherlands)
<b>Import to the EU</b> (re)exported after 5/3	1. (re)export permit (country of export) 2. Import permit (the Netherlands)	1. (re)export permit (country of export) 2. Import permit (the Netherlands)	1. (re)export permit (country of export) 2. Import permit (the Netherlands)	1. (re)export permit (country of export) 2. Import permit (the Netherlands)
<b>Export from the EU</b>	1. (re)export permit (the Netherlands) Import permit (country of import)	1. (re)export permit (the Netherlands) 2. Import permit (country of import)	1. (re)export permit (the Netherlands) 2. Check if import permit is necessary (country of import)	1. (re)export permit (the Netherlands) 2. Check if import permit is necessary (country of import)

	<b>III/C to II/B</b>	<b>New on III/C</b>
<b>Import to the EU</b> (re)exported before 5/3	1. (re) export permit or a certificate of origin (country of export) 2. Import permit (the Netherlands)	1. Import notification (the Netherlands)
<b>Import to the EU</b> (re)exported after 5/3	1. (re) export permit (country of export) 2. Import permit (the Netherlands)	1. (re) export permit or a certificate of origin (country of export) 2. Import notification (the Netherlands)
<b>Export from the EU</b>	1. (re)export permit (the Netherlands) 2. Check if import permit is necessary (country of import)	1. (re)export permit (the Netherlands)

### Legend:

0 to I/A = the species has been newly added to Appendix I and Annex A; it was previously not protected by CITES  
 II/B to I/A = Species has been uplisted to Appendix I and Annex A, but was previously on Appendix II and Annex B  
 0 to II/B = the species has been newly added to Appendix II and Annex B; previously not protected by CITES  
 I/A to II/B = Species has been downlisted to Appendix II and Annex B, and was previously on Appendix I and Annex A  
 III/C to II/B = Species has been uplisted to Appendix II and Annex B, and was previously on Appendix III and Annex C  
 0 to III/C = the species has been newly added to Appendix III and Annex C; it was previously not protected by CITES