



FISH & WILDLIFE

Facts

For further information, contact:
Federal Wildlife Permit Office
Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Dept. of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240 (703)

Please refer to FWS-F-015 when making

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR • FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

IVORY

Elephants

1. Asian elephant (Elephas maximus). The Asian elephant is listed as "endangered" under the U.S. Endangered Species Act (ESA), and under Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). No commercial activity is allowed with Asian elephant ivory.

2. African elephant (Loxodonta africana). The African elephant (and its parts and products, including ivory) is regulated as an Appendix II species under CITES. In addition, African elephant ivory is protected under a Special Rule of the ESA (50 CFR 17.40(e)). This rule was amended, effective September 1982.

A. Non-commercial shipments. Raw and worked ivory may be imported and reexported for personal use (accompanying personal baggage) without CITES documents. However, some foreign countries require that CITES permits be obtained prior to entry/exit. We recommend that individuals contact foreign countries prior to their travels to determine what is required. Addresses of foreign authorities to contact are available from the Federal Wildlife Permit Office (WPO).

B. Interstate commerce. No Federal permits are required for interstate commerce in African elephant ivory. However, all State and local laws must be observed.

C. Commercial import.

i. Import shipments of raw and worked ivory must be accompanied by proper CITES export or reexport documentation issued by a CITES party nation (contact WPO for addresses of foreign CITES authorities).

ii. Raw ivory must have originated in the wild in a CITES party country, and this country must be indicated as the country of origin on all CITES documents.

iii. As of January 1984, all imported raw ivory (when size and density make it feasible) must be legibly marked with punch-dies pursuant to a government established system, as follows: a) two-letter standard international code for country of origin (or country of reexport), b) registration number, c) year of registration, and d) weight of ivory to nearest kilogram. A flash of color should serve as a background for the marking on the "lip mark area" (where the tusk emerged from skull, denoted by staining if tusk is in natural state).

iv. Prior to January 1984, importers must show that the country from which any unmarked raw ivory is imported has certified that it does not require the raw ivory to be marked with punch-dies.

v. Worked ivory (substantially all of the surface has been worked and no further substantial work is necessary to effect its purpose) is not required to be marked prior to import.

2. Commercial reexport. U.S. CITES reexport certificates are required for commercial reexport of both raw and worked ivory. Applications are available from WPO.

i. Prior to reexport, unmarked or improperly marked raw ivory must be marked by punch-die, as described above. Individuals possessing such raw ivory should apply to WPO to obtain a marking code prior to making any commercial reexport shipments.

ii. Worked ivory is not required to be marked with punch-dies prior to reexport.

3. Mammoth or Mastodon. There are no restrictions on commercial activities involving mammoth or mastodon ivory.

Walrus

The walrus (Odobenus rosmarus) is regulated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and is listed on Appendix III of CITES. Walrus ivory acquired prior to December 21, 1972, and authentic Alaskan Native handicrafts may be sold in interstate commerce without a permit and exported under a CITES Certificate of Origin issued by WPO. Polishing or carving initials on walrus ivory does not qualify it as a Native handicraft. In general, possession and transportation of fresh walrus ivory other than Native handicrafts is prohibited.

Whale teeth

The sperm whale (Physeter catodon) is listed as Endangered under the ESA, under Appendix I of CITES, and is covered under the Marine Mammal Protection Act. Interstate commerce in scrimshawed sperm whale teeth is allowed only under a National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Certificate of Exemption issued for material lawfully held in the U.S. on December 28, 1973. Contact the NMFS for further information (Page Building #1, Room 280, F-CM5, 3300 Whitehaven St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20235, 202/634-7265). Export is allowed only under this NMFS Certificate of Exemption; in addition a CITES permit must be obtained from WPO. Import for commercial purposes is prohibited. These same restrictions apply to material from the less commonly used blue, bowhead, finback, gray, right, and Sei whales.

August 1982

漁農自然護理署
九龍長沙灣道三零三號
長沙灣政府合署五樓



AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND
CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT
Cheung Sha Wan Government Offices
303 Cheung Sha Wan Road 5th Floor
Kowloon, Hong Kong

本處標號 Our Ref: AF CON 07/1

來函編號 Your Ref:

電話 Tel: (852) 2150 6969

傳真號碼 Fax: (852) 2376 3749

電郵 E-mail: tony_kw_wong@afcd.gov.hk

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Buddhist Mala.com

Sakura Designs LLC

PO Box 21516
Boulder, Colorado 80308
1.720.350.6905

Dear Sir,

Enquiry of Permit Requirement on Mammoths Tusk and Products

I refer to your facsimile letter of 04 July 2006 regarding permit requirement on import and export of Mammoths (*Mammuthus primiginus*) tusk and products.

Please be advised that Mammoths (*Mammuthus primiginus*) is not listed in the Appendices to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna & Flora (CITES). As such, it is not subject to control under the Animals and Plants (Protection of Endangered Species) Ordinance, Cap. 187 and there is no mandatory permit requirement for import and re-export of the aforesaid specimens / products in Hong Kong. Nonetheless, upon receiving an application with supporting documents from Hong Kong exporter, this department may issue a re-export certificate for non-CITES specimens to facilitate the customs clearance of the commodities at the destination country. However, this department does not issue retrospective re-export certificate for exported shipment.

If you have further queries, please feel free to contact Miss Elman Law at 2150 6977.

Yours faithfully,

(Tony K.W. Wong)

for Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

All replies must be addressed to Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

覆函請寄交「漁農自然護理署署長」