



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Washington, D.C. 20240



IN REPLY REFER TO:
FWS/DMA/PLA 7-15

AUG 14 2007

Dear U.S. Importer/Re-exporter of pernambuco wood and products:

This letter is addressed to possible importers and re-exporters of pernambuco (*Caesalpinia echinata*) wood or wood products, and associations that work with businesses that may use pernambuco wood in the fabrication of bows for stringed musical instruments. In addition to sending this letter to you, we are posting this letter on our website at <http://www.fws.gov/international/>.

Pernambuco was listed in Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) at the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES, which was held in June 2007. The following commodities are regulated by the CITES listing of pernambuco: logs, sawn wood, veneer sheets, and unfinished wood articles used for the fabrication of bows for stringed musical instruments. The listing does not include finished wood articles made of pernambuco wood. The listing becomes effective September 13, 2007.

CITES is an international treaty that has been ratified by more than 170 countries worldwide since it first entered into force in 1975. Its aim is to ensure that international wildlife trade is based on sustainable use and management of wild and captive populations of animals and plants. CITES regulates international wildlife trade through a system of permits and certificates to ensure that trade in listed wildlife and plants, including parts and products, is legal and does not threaten their survival in the wild. Species may be listed under CITES in one of three Appendices, each of which provides a different level of protection. Appendix I includes species threatened with extinction, and international trade in these species is strictly regulated. Appendix II includes species that, although currently not threatened with extinction, may become so without trade controls. Most CITES species are listed in this Appendix, including pernambuco. Appendix III includes species for which a range country has asked for cooperation from other CITES member countries to help it better control international trade in the species.

Imports of pernambuco into the United States

Beginning on September 13, 2007, all shipments of pernambuco logs, sawn wood, veneer sheets, and unfinished wood articles used for making bows for import into the United States must be accompanied by CITES Appendix-II documents. These documents must be issued by the CITES Management Authority in the exporting or re-exporting country. Since this species is endemic to Brazil, Brazil is the only country that we anticipate will be issuing export permits for pernambuco. Re-export documents from other countries must be issued by the CITES

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Management Authority of the re-exporting country. If the pernambuco to be imported into the United States was acquired before September 13, 2007, the shipment must be accompanied by a CITES document issued by the appropriate CITES Management Authority, indicating that the wood in the shipment is pre-Convention. For more information and instructions on obtaining CITES documents from a foreign country to import pernambuco into the United States, please see the CITES member country contact information on the CITES website at: http://www.cites.org/common/directy/e_directy.html.

All shipments of pernambuco logs, sawn wood, veneer sheets, and unfinished wood articles used for fabricating bows imported into the United States must enter through a port designated for the import and export of plants by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). The U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection (CBP) will inspect the shipments at these ports prior to the wood entering the United States to ensure that they are accompanied by the appropriate CITES documentation and are otherwise in compliance with U.S. law.

Re-exports of pernambuco from the United States

For a shipment of pernambuco logs, sawn wood, veneer sheets, and unfinished wood articles used for fabricating bows to be legally re-exported from the United States, it must be accompanied by a U.S. CITES Appendix-II certificate issued by this office, the U.S. CITES Management Authority. If the wood to be re-exported was acquired prior to the effective date of this listing in the CITES Appendices (i.e., September 13, 2007), our office will issue a CITES pre-Convention certificate. Pernambuco logs, sawn wood, veneer sheets, and unfinished wood articles used for fabricating bows to be re-exported from the United States must go through an APHIS designated port for plants, and must be inspected and cleared by APHIS.

Documentation of existing stockpiles of pernambuco wood in the United States

Recognizing that there are a number of individuals and businesses in the United States that possess stockpiles of pernambuco wood acquired before the species was listed under CITES, we provide the following suggestions for documenting those stockpiles. In the event that you wish to re-export pre-Convention pernambuco wood from the United States, you will be asked to provide documentation showing that the wood you want to export was acquired prior September 13, 2007. Examples of documentation may include copies of sales receipts or inventory logs. In addition, photographs, date stamped if possible, of existing stock would further support the provided documentation. Additionally, when you apply for a permit to re-export pernambuco wood from the United States, you may be asked to provide information concerning the total amount of pernambuco wood you own at that time. However, we will not be requiring registration of stockpiles of pernambuco wood held in this country.

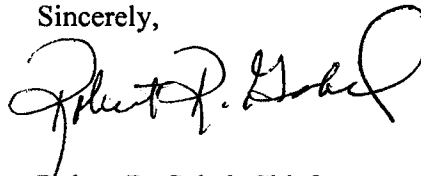
International travel with finished bows

Finished bows and other finished products made of pernambuco wood are not covered by the listing and are not subject to the provisions of CITES. If you intend to ship finished pernambuco bows or products internationally, or travel with finished bows in your personal accompanying

baggage, you will not be required to obtain CITES documents. Additionally, you will not be required to import, export, or re-export finished bows through an APHIS designated port for plants.

We look forward to working with you on implementing this listing. If you have any questions, please feel free contact me or Anne St. John, of my staff. I can be reached at: tel: 703-358-2093, fax: 703-358-2281, or email: managementauthority@fws.gov, and Ms. St. John can be reached at tel: 703-358-2095 or email: anne_stjohn@fws.gov. If you have specific questions about APHIS designated ports for CITES-listed plants and timber, or other pernambuco enforcement matters, please contact Mr. Bud Petit de Mange with APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine, at: tel: 301-734-7839, fax: 301-734-5276, or email: bud.petitdemange@aphis.usda.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert R. Gabel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Robert R. Gabel, Chief
Division of Management Authority

Cc: International Pernambuco Conservation Initiative-USA
International Wood Products Association
Hardwood, Plywood and Veneer Association
CITES Secretariat
Environment-Directorate of the European Commission