



# United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Office of Law Enforcement



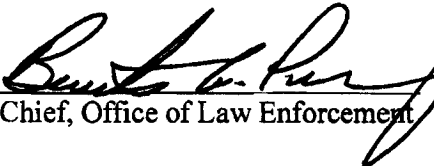
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## CHIEF'S DIRECTIVE

### **Subject: CITES In-Transit Shipments**

**Background:** The 2007 revisions to 50 CFR Part 23 eliminate the need for a re-export certificate for specimens moving through intermediary countries under certain circumstances (50 CFR 23.22). The shipment requirements described in § 23.22(c) require an in-transit shipment while in an intermediary country to stay only for the time needed to immediately transfer the specimen to the mode of transportation used to continue to the final destination. The shipment must remain under customs control while in the intermediary country. Other than during immediate transfer, the specimen may not be stored in a duty-free, bonded, or other kind of warehouse or a free trade zone. The primary intent of the new regulation is to prevent the misuse of the in-transit exemption, particularly when delays could be used to deliberately circumvent permitting requirements of an intermediary country. However, we have recognized that some shipments transiting intermediary countries experience delays that are beyond the exporter/importer's control.

**Guidance:** Imports of non-living specimens destined for the United States that have been shipped through an intermediary country and remained in customs control will be cleared for import into the United States, provided no other violation exists.

  
Chief, Office of Law Enforcement