

December 21, 2004

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

To the CITES Management Authorities of the following ramin (*Gonystylus* spp.) exporting and re-exporting countries:

Indonesia
Malaysia
People's Republic of China
Italy
Singapore

Dear Sir or Madam:

This letter is to advise you of the U.S. implementation plan for the CITES Appendix-II listing of ramin (*Gonystylus* spp.), effective January 12, 2005. As you know, the listing regulates all parts and derivatives of ramin, including logs, sawn wood, veneer, and all ramin wood products (e.g., dowels, mouldings, window blinds, furniture, billiard cue sticks, picture frames, etc.). As one of the largest importers of ramin wood and wood products, we believe that it is important to clearly outline CITES documentation requirements for exporting and re-exporting ramin to the United States and to reiterate the information that must be included on all CITES documents in order for shipments to be cleared into the United States.

Concerning the acceptance of Appendix-III and Appendix-II documents for shipments of ramin wood and wood products, we have determined that all shipments of ramin logs, sawn wood, veneer, or ramin wood products exported or re-exported to the United States before January 12, 2005 (that is, with a date of export endorsement of January 11 or earlier), must be accompanied by CITES Appendix-III documents or they will not be accepted into the United States. This policy applies regardless of whether such a shipment arrives in the United States before, on, or after January 12.

For any such shipment exported to the United States from Indonesia, that shipment must be accompanied by an Appendix-III export permit. For any such shipment exported to the United States from another range country, that shipment must be accompanied by a CITES Certificate of Origin. The Certificate must indicate on its face the information recommended in Annex 1 of CITES Resolution Conf. 12.3, including the Appendix in which the species is currently listed (i.e. Appendix III). Finally, for any such shipment re-exported to United States before January 12, it must be accompanied by an Appendix-III re-export certificate.

On January 12, 2005, the Appendix-II listing of ramin becomes effective. Consequently, any shipment of ramin exported to the United States on or after January 12, 2005 (that is, with a date of export endorsement of January 12 or later), must be accompanied by a CITES Appendix-II export permit or it will not be accepted into the United States. Regardless of whether the permit accompanying such a shipment has an issuance date earlier than, equal to, or later than January 12, if it is exported to the United States on or after January 12, it must be accompanied by a CITES Appendix-II export permit.

Resolution Conf. 12.3, paragraph XIV e) recommends that Parties refuse to accept permits and certificates that do not indicate the scientific name of the species concerned except where the Conference of the Parties has agreed that the use of higher-taxon names is acceptable. In addition, Annex 1, paragraph e) of the same Resolution, states that CITES permits and certificates should include the scientific name of the species to which the specimens belong in accordance with adopted standard nomenclature. Although ramin is listed in the CITES Appendices at the genus level (i.e., *Gonystylus* spp.), because the Conference of the Parties did not agree that the use of higher taxon names was acceptable, CITES permits and certificates for ramin should include the species name. The clearance process for shipments of ramin wood or wood products exported or re-exported to the United States on or after January 12, 2005, that are accompanied by CITES permits or certificates not adhering to the requirements of Resolution Conf. 12.3, may be delayed in order to consult with the appropriate Management Authority.

For your information, enclosed is a data summary of U.S. trade in ramin for the years 2001 through 2003. We look forward to working with you in order to ensure that the transition of ramin from Appendix III to Appendix II is smooth and that implementation of this listing is effective and in accordance with CITES requirements.

Sincerely,

/s/ Peter O. Thomas

Peter O. Thomas, Ph.D., Chief
Division of Management Authority

Enclosure

Cc: CITES Secretariat
Council of Agriculture, Conservation Division, Taiwan