

Sample Fee Assessments

This factsheet provides a number of examples showing how inspection fees will be calculated for different types of shipments during 2009 – the first year of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s new inspection fee schedule. (All fees increase each year through 2012.)

Commercial Shipments

- A company imports a shipment of mother-of-pearl watches at the designated port of Chicago. The company pays an \$87 base inspection fee for this routine shipment.
- A leather goods business imports a shipment of belts made from CITES-listed wildlife at the designated port of New York. The importer pays an \$87 base inspection fee plus a \$37 premium fee for protected wildlife.
- A reptile dealer imports a shipment of live CITES-protected snakes at the designated port of Miami. The total fee for this import will be \$161 (the \$87 base fee plus a \$37 premium fee for live wildlife and a \$37 premium fee for protected species).
- A circus imports three African elephants (a threatened species), two tigers (an endangered species) and other live animals at the designated port of Portland, Oregon, on a Saturday. The circus, which must now hold an import/export license, pays an \$87 base inspection fee plus a \$37 premium fee for live wildlife and a \$37 premium fee for protected species. The circus also pays overtime charges since the inspection occurs outside of normal business hours.
- A company imports a shipment of tropical fish at the non-designated staffed port of Tampa. The company pays a base inspection fee of \$136 plus a premium fee of \$37 for live wildlife.
- A company imports a shipment of beaver furs from Canada at the non-designated staffed port of Denver. The company must pay a base fee of \$136.
- A company exports a shipment of U.S. ranch-raised bison meat to Canada via the border port of Dunseith, North Dakota. The company, which would previously have been exempt from inspection fees, will pay an \$87 base inspection fee for this shipment since Dunseith functions as a designated port for wildlife consisting of non-protected North American species moving between Canada and the United States.
- A company imports a shipment of CITES Appendix II wolf hides from Canada via the border port of Champlain. The company will pay a \$136 base inspection fee since Champlain is

considered a staffed, non-designated port for protected (e.g., CITES listed) and/or non-North American species. The company must also pay a \$37 premium fee for protected wildlife.

Non-commercial Imports & Exports

- A zoo imports a giant Panda (an endangered species) from China at the designated port of Los Angeles by air cargo. The zoo must pay a \$37 premium fee for live wildlife and a \$37 premium fee for protected species.
- A museum imports an exhibit containing antique sea turtle items at the staffed, non-designated port of Denver. The museum will pay the base inspection fee of \$136 for using a non-designated port and a premium fee of \$37 since the sea turtle is a protected species.
- A museum imports a shipment of non-protected mounted reptiles for an exhibit at the designated port of Boston during normal working hours. The museum pays no base inspection fee and no premium fees.
- A researcher at a university imports a shipment of monkey tissue samples via FedEx at the designated port of Memphis, Tennessee. The researcher must pay a \$37 premium fee since monkeys are protected species.
- A researcher at a university imports a shipment of mounted butterfly specimens that includes CITES-listed species by express mail at the non-designated, non-staffed port of Philadelphia. The researcher must pay a \$37 premium fee plus a \$136 base inspection fee and the travel and per diem costs for the inspector who travels to the port to inspect the shipment.
- A hunter imports a leopard trophy by air cargo at the designated port of Houston. The hunter will pay a \$37 premium fee since the leopard is a protected species.
- A hunter imports a leopard trophy by air cargo at the staffed, non-designated port of Denver. The hunter will pay a base inspection fee of \$136 plus a \$37 premium fee.
- A hunter imports migratory game birds taken in Canada at the border port of Sweetgrass, Montana. Although migratory birds are protected under U.S. law, no permit is required for sport-hunted birds lawfully taken in Canada and no premium fee is assessed. The hunter pays no base inspection fee since Sweetgrass functions as a designated port for North American species.
- A hunter imports doves lawfully taken in Mexico at the border port of Nogales, Arizona. The hunter pays no fees as in the previous example.
- A hunter imports via personal vehicle a black bear trophy taken in Canada at the border port of International Falls, Minnesota. Although black bear is protected, no permit is required for personally taken black bear trophies that accompany the hunter. The hunter pays no base or premium fees.

- An individual ships their personally owned antique piano with elephant ivory keys from Germany by air cargo to the designated port of Atlanta. This individual pays a \$37 premium fee since the piano keys are made from a protected species and the piano has been imported by air cargo.
- A tourist returns from a European vacation with an alligator handbag at Dulles International Airport (a staffed, non-designated port). This individual pays no fees since the handbag is a personal effect that does not require a permit under CITES.
- A U.S. citizen visiting Mexico drives across the border in El Paso with a wild African grey parrot kept as a pet. This individual will pay \$74 in premium fees (\$37 for live wildlife and \$37 for protected species) plus a \$136 base inspection fee since El Paso functions as a non-designated port for non-North American species.
- When this same citizen drives back from Mexico via El Paso with his wild African grey parrot, he will not need to pay fees. In this instance, El Paso acts as a designated port because it is an authorized agriculture port for the importation of live birds, so no base inspection fee is charged. Premium fees for live wildlife and protected species do not apply because the bird is being imported by personal vehicle rather than by air, ocean, truck or rail cargo.
- A U.S. citizen returning from a trip to Mexico drives across the border in El Paso with a pet red-eared slider turtle. This individual will pay no inspection fees since this North American turtle is not protected and the border port of El Paso acts as “designated” for imports and exports of non-protected North American species.