



NOTICE TO THE WILDLIFE IMPORT/EXPORT COMMUNITY



December 9, 2008

Subject: Inspection Fee Increases and New License and Fee Requirements

Background: On December 9, 2008, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) published a [final rule](#) in the Federal Register to increase inspection fees for wildlife imports and exports; add new fees for certain types of shipments; and eliminate some exemptions from import/export license and fee requirements.

Groups affected by these changes include all commercial importers/exporters; non-commercial importers/exporters using non-designated ports or importing or exporting either live wildlife or protected species; and some businesses that were previously exempt from license and/or fee requirements (specifically, circuses, animal shows, and companies dealing in certain captive-bred furs, meat from U.S. bison, emu and ostrich ranching operations, and aquacultured sturgeon products).

These changes were first outlined by the Service in a proposed rule that was published on February 25, 2008; the agency collected public comments, held a public meeting, and conducted public outreach before finalizing this rulemaking.

The Service last increased inspection fees in 1996. The changes being made will allow the agency to maintain its current level of inspection services and treat importers and exporters more equitably.

Action: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will implement new inspection fees and changes in license and fee requirements on January 8, 2009. Fees will increase each year through 2012.

The final rule and explanatory materials, including the new fee schedule, can be found at: <http://www.fws.gov/le/AboutLE/InspectionFeeIncreasesLicenseFeeChanges.htm>

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