



ANNOUNCEMENT FOR US TIMBER IMPORTERS AND RE-EXPORTERS

This announcement is directed to U.S. timber importers and re-exporters, and associations that represent such businesses, including the International Wood Products Association (IWPA) and the International Hardwood, Plywood, and Veneer Association (HPVA).

In [Notification to the Parties No. 2014/014](#), posted on March 26, 2014, on the website of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora ([CITES](#)), the CITES Secretariat announced that Nicaragua had listed Yucatan rosewood (*Dalbergia tucurensis*) in CITES Appendix III, with the following commodities regulated under the listing: logs, sawn wood, veneer sheets, and plywood (Annotation #6). Additionally, the same Notification announced that the Russian Federation had listed Mongolian oak (*Quercus mongolica*) and Manchurian ash (*Fraxinus mandshurica*) in CITES Appendix III, with the following commodities covered under the listing: logs, sawn wood, and veneer sheets (Annotation #5). All three listings become effective on June 24, 2014.

CITES is an international treaty that has been ratified by 180 countries since it 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 or cultivated populations of animals and plants. Under CITES, international wildlife trade is regulated 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 the survival of the species. Species can 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. 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 these three timber species into the United States

Beginning on June 24, 2014, all shipments of Yucatan rosewood logs, sawn wood, veneer sheets, and plywood, and Mongolian oak and Manchurian ash logs, sawn wood, and veneer sheets for import into the United States must be accompanied by CITES documents. These documents must be issued by the CITES Management Authority in the exporting or re-exporting country. For exports of the listed commodities from the countries that listed these three species in Appendix III (*i.e.*, Nicaragua for Yucatan rosewood and the Russian Federation for Mongolian oak and Manchurian ash), the shipments must be accompanied by CITES export permits. As required for species listed in Appendix III, the Management Authority of the exporting country must determine that the CITES specimens of the listed species to be exported were not obtained “in contravention of the laws of that State [country] for the protection of fauna and flora.” This determination is referred to as the “legal acquisition finding.” For exports of the listed commodities from all other countries except the listing countries, the shipments must be accompanied by CITES certificates of origin. If the specimens to be exported were acquired

prior to June 24, 2014, the Management Authority of the exporting country must issue a CITES pre-Convention certificate. All re-exports of the listed commodities must be accompanied by CITES re-export certificates, which are issued by the Management Authority of the re-exporting country. For a directory of CITES contacts in member countries, please see the CITES directory at: <http://www.cites.org/eng/cms/index.php/component/cp>.

All shipments of Yucatan rosewood logs, sawn wood, veneer sheets, and plywood, and Mongolian oak and Manchurian ash logs, sawn wood, and veneer sheets 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 the three listed species from the United States

For a shipment of Yucatan rosewood logs, sawn wood, veneer sheets, and plywood, or Mongolian oak and Manchurian ash logs, sawn wood, and veneer sheets to be legally re-exported from the United States, it must be accompanied by a U.S. CITES Appendix-III re-export certificate issued by this office, the U.S. CITES Management Authority. These regulated commodities must be re-exported from the United States through an [APHIS designated port for plants](#), and must be inspected and cleared by APHIS. To apply for a U.S. CITES Appendix-III re-export certificate, you will need to complete application form [3-200-32](#).

We look forward to working with you on implementing these listings. If you have any questions, please feel free contact us by telephone at: 703-358-2095 or by email at: managementauthority@fws.gov. If you have specific questions about APHIS designated ports for CITES-listed plants and timber, or other timber enforcement matters, please contact John Veremis, National CITES Coordinator-USDA-APHIS-PPQ, at john.veremis@aphis.usda.gov.