

Exporting Injurious Salamanders: A Guide for Businesses

As of January 28, 2016, 20 genera of salamanders (approximately 201 species) will be added to the list of injurious species barred in the United States from import and interstate transport under the Lacey Act:

- *Chioglossa*
- *Cynops*
- *Euproctus*
- *Hydromantes*
- *Hynobius*
- *Ichthyosaura*
- *Lissotriton*
- *Neurergus*
- *Notophthalmus*
- *Onychodactylus*
- *Paramesotriton*
- *Plethodon*
- *Pleurodeles*
- *Salamandra*
- *Salamandrella*
- *Salamandrina*
- *Siren*
- *Taricha*
- *Triturus*
- *Tylotriton*

The listing prohibits the import and interstate transport of live or dead specimens (including parts); it does not prohibit the importation or interstate transport of eggs or gametes of these species. Nor does it affect the sale and possession of these species within a State.

While this listing generally makes it illegal to import these salamanders into the United States and move them across State lines for any purpose without a permit, it does not prohibit export provided that certain conditions are met.

These salamanders (and [other species listed as injurious](#)) may only be exported:

- Directly to a foreign country from a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) [designated port](#) in the State where the salamanders are already located; or
- Directly to a foreign country from a non-designated port in the State where the salamanders are located under a Service-issued [designated port exception permit](#).

Designated port exception permits will only authorize use of a port in the same State where the salamanders are located, and issuance will depend on the availability of inspections staff and other criteria. Salamanders may not be transported between States by any means for the purpose of eventual export.

Aircraft, trucks, or other conveyances carrying injurious wildlife may make stops **within the same State** in which the wildlife was located and loaded for export. But no conveyance may enter another State during the export process because such entry (i.e., interstate transport) is barred under the injurious species listing.

Any export shipments that transit another State by air or land will be considered contraband subject to seizure and forfeiture whether or not the exporter knew that such interstate transport would occur.

Scenarios

The following scenarios provide examples of legal and illegal export for commercial shipments of salamanders. These same requirements also apply to the export of live specimens of any species listed as injurious and to personal travel with “pets” or personal shipment of injurious wildlife. Please note that any salamander species listed on any Appendices of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), must be accompanied by a valid CITES export permit issued by the United States and must be certified by a Service wildlife inspector before the shipment leaves the country.

Air Cargo

- *Newts R Us, Inc., located in San Francisco, California, wants to export a shipment of fire-bellied newts to Japan. The animals are booked on Far East Airlines Flight #123 (San Francisco to Tokyo). Can this shipment be exported as booked?*

Yes. The shipment is booked on a nonstop international flight departing a Service designated port in the State where the animals are located and there are no intermediate stops for any reason in the any other U.S. State or Territory.

- *Best Salamanders Inc., located in Tallahassee, Florida, wants to export a shipment of listed salamanders to the United Kingdom. The shipment will move from Tallahassee to the designated port of Miami on SmallTown Airlines Flight #123 then transfer to Transatlantic Airlines Flight #456 to London. Can this shipment be exported as booked?*

Yes. Stopovers are allowed within the State where the salamanders are located and from which the shipment will eventually depart for its international destination.

- *This same company wants to send a shipment of listed salamanders to Jamaica from Tampa; once again the animals will be moved from Tallahassee to another site in Florida and then exported. Can the shipment be exported as booked?*

If the company has obtained a designated port exception permit authorizing export from Tampa, then the answer is yes. The salamanders remain solely in Florida before export.

- *Pet Salamanders Incorporated, located in Colorado, wants to export a shipment of listed salamanders to Germany. The **domestic** air waybill issued for this shipment shows the airport of departure as Denver, Colorado, and airport of destination as Chicago, Illinois. The international air waybill will be issued from Chicago to Munich, Germany. Can this shipment be exported as booked?*

No. Interstate transport is prohibited. The animals must be booked on a direct international flight out of the United States from Denver with no stops in any other State for any reason. Pet Salamanders Incorporated must also obtain a designated port exception permit to export the salamanders from Denver.

- *This same Colorado company wants to export a shipment of listed salamanders to Paris, France. An **international** air waybill has been issued from Denver, Colorado to Paris, France. The freight will be placed on a flight that makes an interline connection (Colorado on Western Airlines to JFK Airport, New York where it will be transferred to a Fly France Airlines flight for onward movement to France). Can this shipment be exported as booked?*

No, for the same reasons as stated above. It does not matter if the shipment is consigned on a domestic or international air waybill, the animals must be booked on a direct flight out of the United States from the State where they are located with no stops in any other State for any reason.

- *BestPetsintheWorld.com, located in Cincinnati, Ohio, wants to export a shipment of listed salamanders to the Netherlands. The shipment is consigned for export on an international air waybill from Cincinnati and is on a flight that makes an intermediate stop in Atlanta before leaving the United States. Can this shipment be exported as booked?*

No. Cincinnati is not a Service designated port and this shipment cannot land in another State for any reason (even to obtain Service inspection and clearance). No interstate transport is allowed.

- *Big Snake Supplier Inc. in Miami wants to export a shipment of snakes and salamanders from Miami, Florida to Hong Kong. These animals are booked on Far East Airlines Flight #987 that departs Miami, then lands in Anchorage for re-fueling. Can this shipment be exported as booked?*

No. Interstate transport is prohibited. The animals must be booked on a flight that leaves the United States without stopping in any other State for any reason (including re-fueling). Exporters must ensure that the flight chosen for export does not stop at a U.S. airport in another State.

Trucked Freight

- *GreatSalamanders.com wants to send salamanders to a customer in Vancouver, Canada. The company keeps its stock in Spokane, Washington, and plans to send the salamanders by truck to Canada via the border port of Blaine, Washington. Can the salamanders be exported via this routing?*

Yes, but the exporter first needs to obtain a designated port exception permit authorizing use of this non-designated port.

- *Big Sky Pythons, Inc., located in Glendive, Montana, wants to export snakes and salamanders to a buyer in Estevan, Saskatchewan, Canada. The buyer agrees to meet the company's owner in Portal, North Dakota, and accept delivery of the shipment for export. Can this be exported as planned?*

No. Big Sky Pythons cannot move the shipment through another State on its way to Canada. The company, however, could obtain a designated port exception permit to export the shipment from Sweetgrass, Montana – an export that would not involve interstate transport.

- *Big Valley Salamanders, Inc., located in Albuquerque, New Mexico, wants to export a shipment that includes listed salamanders to a buyer in Mexico. The company wants to use the border port of El Paso, Texas to obtain clearance from the Service and enter Mexico. Can these animals be exported as planned?*

No. This shipment cannot be taken from New Mexico to Texas. Interstate transport for the purpose of export is not allowed.

- *Ozark Salamanders, Inc. located in Little Rock, Arkansas, wants to ship listed salamanders to Canada using an international courier service. The shipment is picked up by the courier company at the business's premises in Little Rock. The courier company trucks the shipment to its hub in Tennessee to be loaded on another truck outbound for Canada. Can these salamanders be exported as planned?*

No. These salamanders cannot be trucked from Arkansas to Tennessee (or any other State). Export by land is no longer an option for this company.

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