New Procedures in Japan for Imports/Exports of the CITES Listed Species
in Line with the CITES Amended Appendices

December 28, 2016

Office of Trade Licensing for Wild Animal and Plants,
Trade Control Department, Trade and Economic Cooperation Bureau,
Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry

The 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) (CoP17) which was held in the Republic of South Africa from September 24 to October 4, 2016 decided to amend the CITES Appendices (hereinafter referred to as the “Appendices”).

(For details of the amendment, visit the following website:

The amended Appendices will enter into force on January 2 (Mon.), 2017. In line with the amendment, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) hereby announces that Japan will take some procedures for imports/exports of the species listed in the Appendices.

1. Importing a specimen of the species (any individuals of animals or plants, parts or derivatives thereof; these meanings will also be adopted in the following texts) covered by the amended classes of the Appendices, e.g., in the cases where the target specimen will be newly listed in the amended Appendices or where such specimen will be transferred from Appendix II to Appendix I

- If you intend to import a specimen of the species that will be newly listed in the amended Appendices and the specimen is loaded for shipment by the day before the enforcement date of the amended Appendices, i.e., January 1, 2017, you are able to import the specimen through the procedure not subject to the regulations under the CITES. Regardless of whether or not you have obtained a CITES export permit or re-export certificate issued by the destination country to which you intend to export such specimen, if you intend to import any goods of such specimen, you are required to submit to customs a Bill Of Lading or other documents certifying that the goods had already been loaded for shipment by the day before the enforcement date of the amended Appendices.

- If you intend to import a specimen of the species that will be transferred from Appendix II to
Appendix I under the amended Appendices after the enforcement date of the amended Appendices, i.e., January 2, 2017, you are able to import the specimen as goods related to the species listed in Appendix II, provided that there is a description of “Appendix II” in the CITES export permit or re-export certificate issued by the CITES Management Authorities of export country, the permit has been issued before the enforcement date of the amended Appendices, and that the date of the import of the goods is before the expiration date of the permit.

2. Exporting a specimen of the species covered by the amended classes of the Appendices, e.g., in the cases where the target specimen will be newly listed in the amended Appendices or where such specimen will be transferred from Appendix II to Appendix I

1) Domestic procedures in Japan
- If you intend to export any species newly listed in the amended Appendices, you are able to export the species through the procedure not subject to the regulations under CITES, provided that the species are loaded for shipment in Japan before the enforcement date of the amended Appendices.

- If you intend to export any species that will be transferred from Appendix II to Appendix I under the amended Appendices, you are able to export the species through the same procedure as those listed in Appendix II as the regulations then in force remain applicable, provided that there is a description of “Appendix II” in the CITES export permit issued by the CITES Management Authorities of Japan, the permit has been issued before the enforcement date of the amended Appendices, and that the scheduled date of the import of the goods to the destination country is before the expiration date of the permit.

2) Domestic procedures in CITES parties (destination countries) other than Japan to which you intend to export listed species
- If you intend to make an import customs clearance procedure of the listed species at customs after the enforcement date of the amended Appendices, i.e., January 2, 2017, in a destination country to which you intend to export the listed species, you may be required by the destination country to submit your CITES export permit or re-export certificate under the amended Appendices. METI strongly recommends you to check in advance the details of the related measures in the destination country to which you intend to export such species.

- If you intend to export any listed species from Japan before the enforcement date of the amended Appendices and to make an import customs clearance procedure of the species at customs in the destination country after the enforcement date of the amended Appendices and you are required by
the destination country to which you intend to export the species to submit your CITES export permit or re-export certificate under the amended Appendices, you are able to apply to METI for the issuance of a CITES export permit or re-export certificate by filing a complete set of necessary documents with METI.

3. Exports of rosewood’s species

In line with the amendment of the Appendices, the following species will be newly listed in Appendix II: Leguminosae (Fabaceae) (Dalbergia spp.), three types of Bubinga (Guibourtia demeusei, Guibourtia pellegriniana, and Guibourtia tessmannii), and African rosewood (Pterocarpus erinaceus), excluding the species to be listed in Appendix I

Concerning Leguminosae (Fabaceae) (Dalbergia spp.) and the three types of Bubinga (Guibourtia demeusei, Guibourtia pellegriniana, and Guibourtia tessmannii), all individual parts and derivatives thereof will be subject to the regulations, excluding the following:

a) Leaves, flowers, pollen, fruit and seeds

b) Non-commercial exports at a maximum total weight of 10kg per shipment

However, as for Dalbergia cochinchinensis, all individual parts and derivatives thereof that are stipulated in Annotation #4 of the amended Appendices are considered to be subject to the regulations, while as for Dalbergia. spp. originating in and exported from Mexico, all individual parts and derivatives thereof that are stipulated in Annotation #6 of the amended Appendices are considered to be subject to the regulations.

No annotations are provided for African rosewood (Pterocarpus erinaceus) in the amended Appendices, but all individual parts and derivatives thereof are expected to be subject to the regulations.

If you intend to import or export rosewoods around January 2, 2017, METI recommends you to check the related domestic measures in the destination country. In particular, if you intend to export any products of rosewoods to the United States and the date of completing import to the United States is the date after January 2, 2017, you are required by the US Government to submit your CITES export permit or re-export certificate under the amended Appendices, even if you have loaded the goods for shipment in the originating country before January 1, 2017. If you intend to export any products of rosewoods from the United States before January 1, 2017, and the goods arrive at the destination country after January 2, 2017, you are able to obtain a CITES pre-Convention certificate issued by the authority of the US Government, provided that the trees of
the species had been acquired prior to the effective date for the CITES listing of that taxon.

Reference: Announcement from the United States concerning the exports/imports of rosewoods

Division in charge
Office of Trade Licensing for Wild Animal and Plants,
Trade Control Department, Trade and Economic Cooperation Bureau,
Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry
E-mail: uketsuke@meti.go.jp