

Additional Information

What is CITES?

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is an international agreement between 185 countries. Its goal is to help to protect wild animals and plants (including wood) from becoming endangered because of international trade. It does this by setting rules and controls on global trade in certain species.

[International trade in protected animals and plants - Canada.ca](http://www.ec.gc.ca/cites)

The protection of Pernambuco wood under CITES

Pernambuco, also called Brazil wood (*Paubrasilia echinata*) has been listed under CITES Appendix II since 2007. It was listed because the species became at risk of extinction due to over harvesting and habitat loss in Brazil's Atlantic Forest. The listing aims to control international trade so the species can recover.

Even with the existing trade controls, the species continues to be endangered. At the recent 20th Conference of the Parties to CITES there was a [proposal to move Pernambuco to Appendix I](#), which is the highest level of protection of CITES. This would have stopped commercial trade for all wood harvested after 2007. It also would have removed existing streamlined travel options for musical instruments under the Music Instrument Certificate or the Travelling Exhibition Certificate. However, the participating countries reached a compromise that strengthened trade controls while keeping the species under Appendix II.

What documents are needed to prove the wood that was harvested before 2007?

To show that your item was made from wood harvested before September 13, 2007, you will need to provide proof with your permit application. Examples of such proof are:

- Purchase invoices or receipts dated before September 13, 2007
- Past CITES export or re-export permits
- Instrument/item maker or luthier certification
- Provenance records

If you do not have documentation or are not sure if what you have is acceptable, contact the CITES management authority office by email at cites@ec.gc.ca or by phone at 1-855-869-8670.

Can I import and export items made after 2007?

If a Pernambuco wood item was made after September 13, 2007, but you can prove that the wood was harvested before that date, then it may be traded internationally with the appropriate permits.

Is it possible to obtain Pernambuco wood from cultivated sources?

There are plantations of Pernambuco trees, however they are not ready to be harvested. It takes many decades for the trees to be mature enough to harvest for use in instrument making.

Brazil has increased efforts to grow Pernambuco trees to reduce pressure on wild trees and create sustainable stocks for the future. However, having access to cultivated Pernambuco wood is likely still many years away.

Can I register my stock of Pernambuco wood in Canada?

Canada does not currently have a registry for Pernambuco wood. Environment and Climate Change Canada is looking into options. Any updated information on this and other Pernambuco trade information for Canadians will be published on its [CITES webpages](#).

Key Changes

1. CITES Permits Now Required for All International Commercial Trade

- A CITES permit is required for **all international commercial activity** involving Pernambuco wood. This includes buying, selling, or exchanging items whether they are finished or unfinished.
- The previous exemption for re-exporting finished musical instruments, accessories, and parts for commercial purposes **no longer applies**.

2. Prohibition on Commercial Trade in Wood Harvested After 2007

International commercial trade is now **prohibited** for Pernambuco wood which was taken from the wild (CITES source code W) **on or after September 13, 2007**. This is the date the species was first listed under CITES.

International trade is only allowed, via a permit, if:

- the wood was harvested **before** September 13, 2007 (this is called pre-convention), and
- the person applying for the permit can prove it

If you cannot prove the wood is pre-convention:

- a CITES permit cannot be issued
- the item cannot be traded internationally
- the item may only be traded within Canada

IMPORTANT: The new permit requirements apply to Pernambuco wood in all forms. This includes unfinished wood (such as bow or stick blanks, planks, boards) and finished products (such as string instrument bows), and any item that contains parts or derivatives of this wood.

3. Non-Commercial Travel and Use: No Permit Needed

You do NOT need a CITES permit for the international travel or shipment of **finished musical instruments, accessories and parts** containing Pernambuco wood if:

- the movement is **for one of the following non-commercial reasons**:
 - a performance (paid or unpaid)
 - personal use
 - display
 - loan
 - competition
 - teaching
 - appraisal
 - repair

- **AND** when the item is outside of the owner's usual country of residence:
 - ownership of the item does not change
 - the item is not sold, transferred or disposed of

This permit exemption allows musicians, organizations, and individuals to travel or ship items made of Pernambuco (such as bows) outside of the country without a permit, as long as the conditions above are met.

The new requirements came into effect on March 5, 2026

Now, any item made of or containing Pernambuco wood can only enter or leave Canada for commercial purposes (such as a purchase, sale, exchange, change of ownership of item) if it has the required CITES permit.

A CITES permit can only be issued when there is **proof that the wood was harvested before September 13, 2007**.

CITES Permits

- **Importing into Canada:** You must have a CITES export permit from the CITES authority of the country that the item is coming from.
- **Re-exporting from Canada:** You must have a CITES re-export certificate issued by the Canadian CITES authority.

You must have the required CITES permits **before** you import or export items. These permits must be checked (validated) by a border services officer at both the place of exit (for items leaving the country) and the place of entry (for items entering the country). **Permits cannot be issued after the fact.** If you do not have the correct permit, border officers can seize the item, and you will not be able to get a permit afterward to get the item back.

For more information on Canadian CITES permits, including where and how to apply, please visit [Permits for trade in protected species - Canada.ca](https://www.ec.gc.ca/cites/Permits_for_trade_in_protected_species_-_Canada.ca).

Contact Us:

If you have any general questions about CITES or the new requirements, you may reach out to us at: ReglementsFaune-WildlifeRegulations@ec.gc.ca.

If you have specific questions about permits under the [Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna \(CITES\)](#), or would like assistance in completing CITES permit application forms, you may also contact the Canadian CITES management authority:

- by email at cites@ec.gc.ca, or
- by phone at 1-855-869-8670