



CITES and the Medical Devices Industry: What you need to know

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NATIONAL PARKS BOARD

SINGAPORE CITES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Presentation Outline

- ▶ Singapore and CITES
- ▶ Online CITES Application system
- ▶ Examples of CITES-listed specimens used in medical industry
- ▶ Clearance procedures
- ▶ Consequences for non-compliance
- ▶ Key takeaways
- ▶ Q&A

Singapore and CITES

- ▶ CITES – Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
- ▶ International agreement to ensure trade in wildlife species do not threaten them with extinction in the wild.
- ▶ Listed in 3 Appendices. Most CITES species in trade are in Appendix II where commercial trade is permitted with permits.
- ▶ When species are in the Appendices, it means the **whole, live or dead, animal or plant and parts and derivatives are included.**
- ▶ 184 Member countries to CITES.

Singapore and CITES



- ▶ Singapore acceded to CITES on 30 Nov 1986 and ratified the Convention on 9 Feb 1987.
- ▶ NParks is the national focal point for CITES to implement and enforce Singapore's obligations under CITES.
- ▶ The Endangered Species (Import and Export) Act (ESA) is the principal legislation that gives effect to CITES in Singapore.
- ▶ Heavy penalties for contravention of the ESA.

CITES CoP Process

- ▶ CoP meeting happens every 2 to 3 years
- ▶ Consider proposals to amend Appendices (I & II)
- ▶ Adoption of amendments of CITES resolutions and decisions
- ▶ Recommend measures to improve the effectiveness of the Convention and enforcement of illegal wildlife trade



Online CITES application system

- ▶ NParks regulates the import, export and re-export of CITES specimens through the issuance of CITES permits and certificates via online system – GoBusiness.
- ▶ Applicants log in portal using unique ID (SingPass for individuals or CorpPass for companies)

CITES Permit

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[National Parks Board \(NPARKS\)](#) ^

[CITES Permit](#)

[View CITES Certificate](#)

Apply for CITES Permit

National Parks Board (NPARKS)

[Apply on GoBusiness Dashboard](#)


Stock Card System

- ▶ Each CITES specimen imported has an unique stock card number of its own
- ▶ ‘Library’ containing records of all imported CITES-listed species
- ▶ Created automatically during import application, and activated with documentary proof of legal import
- ▶ Stocks can be transferred electronically



NParks CITES Permit

- ▶ NParks CITES permit has a scannable QR code on the top right of the CITES permit for verification by Customs and foreign CITES Management Authority officers.
- ▶ The issued CITES permits are required to be printed on single-side, plain A4 white paper (normal 70 or 80gsm) in black and white.
- ▶ Every issued CITES permit is valid for one consignment only. There should be no attempts to print multiple copies of the same CITES permit number for re-use or reprint a lost/damaged/defaced permit.

REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE		Page 1 of 2
	CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA	RE-EXPORT 1. Permit No: 2. Valid Until:
3. Consignee (Name and address, country/region)		4. Permittee (Name and address, country/region)
5. Special Conditions		6. Name, address, national seal/stamp and country of Management Authority NATIONAL PARKS BOARD MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT National Parks Board Headquarters Singapore Botanic Gardens 1 Cluny Road Singapore 259569 REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE
<small>For live animals, must comply with IATA Live Animals Regulations (air) or CITES guidelines for transport (other).</small>		

Medical Devices

- ▶ *'A medical device can be any instrument, apparatus, implement, machine, appliance, implant, reagent for in vitro use, material or other similar or related article, intended by the manufacturer to be used, alone or in combination for a medical purpose'* – World Health Organisation
- ▶ Any medical device or product that contains parts, products or derivatives of CITES-listed species **must** comply with CITES regulations and procedures.

Examples of CITES listed species used in the Medical Industry

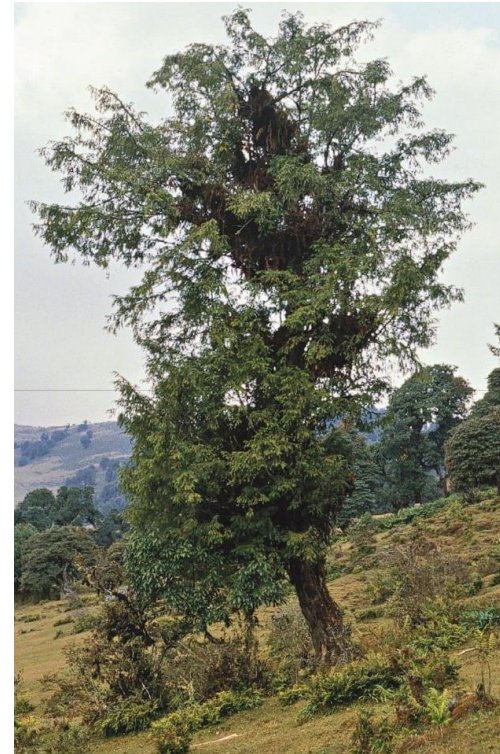
- ▶ Reptiles (*Naja kaouthia*, *N. siamensis*)
- ▶ Snake venom used in production of antivenom, treat hypertension.
- ▶ Painkiller, e.g. rheumatoid arthritis



Source: <https://www.inaturalist.org/>

Examples of CITES listed species used in the Medical Industry

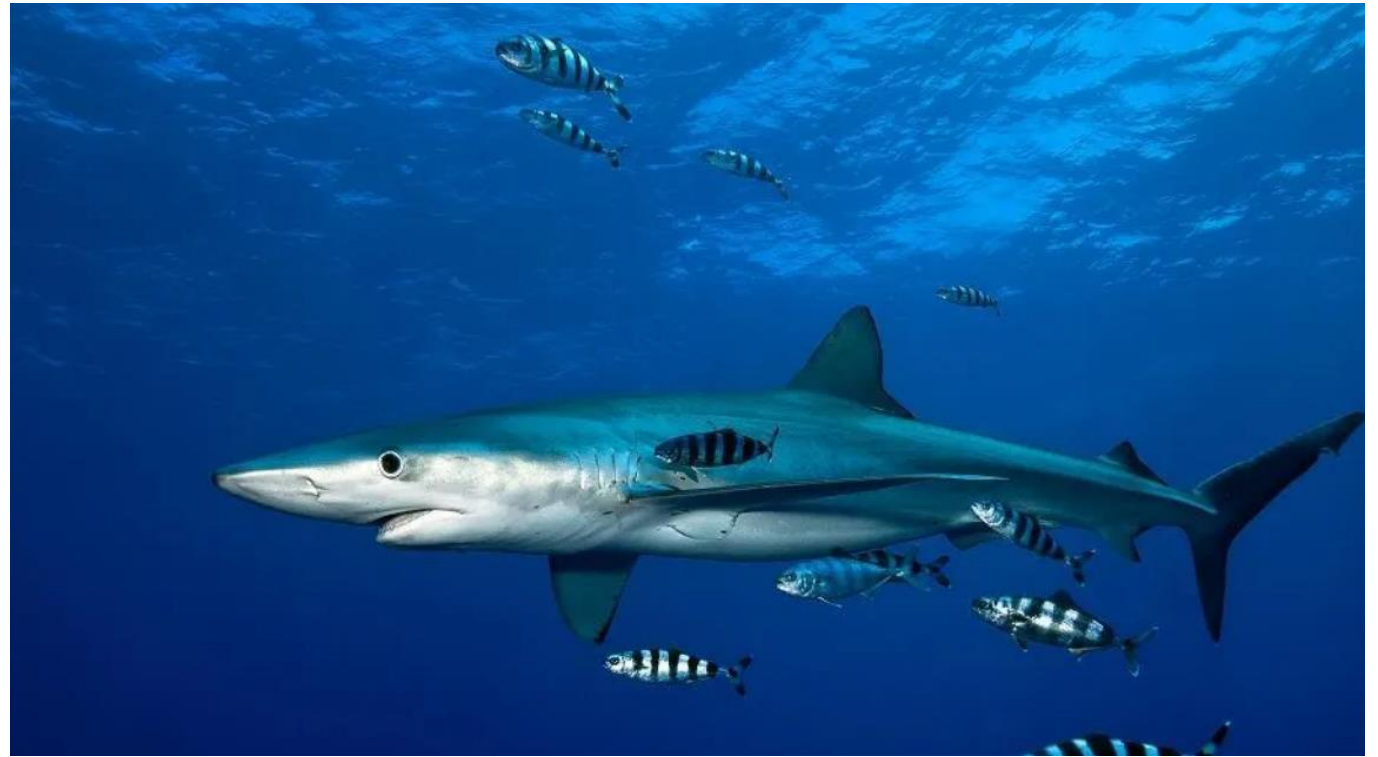
- ▶ Himalayan yew (*Taxus wallichiana*)
- ▶ Bark and leaf are rich source of Taxol (potent anticancer drug), which is used widely to cure breast and ovarian cancers. – Wahab et. al., IJCBS 9(2016)



Sources: <https://www.treesandshrubsonline.org/>

Examples of CITES listed species used in the Medical Industry

- ▶ Shark cartilage (*Prionace glauca*)
- ▶ Trace amounts of compound (Chondroitin sulfate) used in viscoelastic products, e.g. in cataract surgery.



Source: <https://www.inaturalist.org/>

Clearance procedures

- ▶ For imports, all shipment of CITES specimens must be accompanied with a valid CITES export permit from exporting country, and CITES import permit from NParks.
- ▶ For imports via aircargo, to clear consignment via Changi Animal and Plant Quarantine. For imports via other modes, to clear with ICA at the respective ports of entries.
- ▶ For exports/re-exports, all shipments to be accompanied by CITES export/re-export permits issued by NParks, and CITES import permit from destination country, if required.

CITES CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA		PERMIT/CERTIFICATE No.		Original	
		<input type="checkbox"/> EXPORT <input type="checkbox"/> RE-EXPORT <input type="checkbox"/> IMPORT <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:		2. Valid until	
3. Importer (name and address)		4. Exporter/re-exporter (name, address and country)			
3a. Country of import		Signature of the applicant			
5. Special conditions		6. Name, address, national seal/stamp and country of Management Authority			
<small>If for live animals, this permit or certificate is valid only if the transport conditions comply with the IATA Live Animals Regulations; for live plants, with the IATA Perishable Cargo Regulations; or, in the case of non-air transport, with the CITES Guidelines for the Non-Air Transport of Live Wild Animals and Plants.</small>					
5a. Purpose of the transaction (see reverse)	5b. Security stamp no.				
7.8. Scientific name (genus and species) and common name of animal or plant	9. Description of specimens, including identifying marks, or numbers (ages if live)	10. *Appendix no. and source (see reverse)	11. Quantity (including unit)	11a. Total exported/Quota	
7.9. Country of origin *	8. Permit no. Date	10. Country of last re-export	11. Certificate no. Date	11a. No. of the operation ** or date of acquisition ***	
A					
B					
C					
D					
<small>** Country in which the specimens were taken from the wild, listed in validity or artificially propagated (only in case of re-export) *** Only for specimens of Appendix species bred in captivity or artificially propagated for commercial purposes For pre-Convention specimens</small>					
13. This permit/certificate is issued by:					
Place		Date		Security stamp, signature and official seal	
14. Export endorsement:		15. Bill of Lading/Air waybill number:			
Block	Quantity				
A					
B					
C					
D		Port of export	Date	Signature	Official stamp and title

Consequences for non-compliance

- ▶ Shipment may be delayed or seized by importing countries if not accompanied by necessary CITES permits.
- ▶ Losses due to perishable nature of goods, incurring port storage charges and associated costs.
- ▶ Penalties may be imposed on importer/exporter for non-compliance under ESA.
- ▶ Commonly faced issues:
 - ▶ Misplacement of CITES permits
 - ▶ No CITES permits
 - ▶ No original CITES permits

Key takeaways

- ▶ **CITES regulates** the international trade in endangered species and its products **via issuance of permits** whenever shipments enter or leave a country.
- ▶ **Severe consequences in non-compliance to CITES regulations**, including delay with clearance of consignments, detention or even seizure. Penalties may also be imposed on the importer/exporter for the non-compliance.
- ▶ **Due diligence** to check if the medical device has parts, products or derivatives of animal or plant origin, and check against Speciesplus website or Nparks if CITES permits are required for its import/export.

References

- ▶ NParks website – <https://www.nparks.gov.sg/biodiversity/cites>
- ▶ CITES website – <https://www.cites.org>
- ▶ Species Plus – <https://speciesplus.net>
- ▶ NParks CITES email – cites@nparks.gov.sg



Thank you.

CONTACT US: CITES@NPARKS.GOV.SG