



Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

Additional guidance notes for taxidermists and their customers

You should read these additional guidance notes together with the general guidance notes for importers and exporters (GN1) and the general guidance notes for commercial use within the EU (GN2). The additional guidance notes for antique dealers (GN7) may also be useful.

These notes are for guidance only and are not a full statement of the law. If you need points of law to be explained, you should get independent legal advice.

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1 Introduction

Annex A taxidermy specimens are no different from other Annex A specimens and require an Article 10 certificate before they can be used commercially. There are two types of Article 10s: Specimen Specific Certificates (**SSCs**) valid for all commercial uses, and Transaction Specific Certificates (**TSCs**) covering a single transaction - i.e. one sale. Please see Guidance Note GN2 for more details.

SSCs can only be issued for specimens that have been permanently marked, but they have the advantage that they travel with the specimen, and as long as the description of the specimen does not change, they stay valid for all subsequent commercial uses, even if the specimen is moved to another EU member state.

2 Commercial Taxidermists - Covering yourself and your stock

(i) Origin

It is very important to keep accurate records relating to the origins of a specimen. You are responsible for proving that any specimens in your possession were obtained legally. All specimens should be marked with a unique number from your logbook.

As part of the application process for an Article 10 certificate it may be necessary for the specimen(s) to be inspected by an Animal Health Wildlife Inspector. Unless legal acquisition can be shown it is likely that an Article 10 application will be refused.

You also need to be aware that if you start work on a specimen before an Article 10 certificate has been issued you may be destroying the evidence that shows you obtained the specimen legally.

(ii) Keeping for Sale

It is essential that you apply for a certificate as soon as a specimen comes into your possession and prior to mounting, as the Courts have deemed in the past that specimens found on taxidermist's premises are being kept for commercial purposes.

To make sure all of your stock, including stored items that are not for immediate sale or treatment, is covered by an Article 10 certificate, you should do one of the following:

- Apply for an Article 10 certificate to cover 'one dead specimen' to cover the specimen before and after mounting. You will need to quote the log book number of that specimen on the application form. The Article 10 will then be issued as a Transaction Specific Certificate because the specimen will not have been permanently marked at the time the certificate is applied for. You should advise your customers that each subsequent transaction will need a new Article 10 certificate; or
- If you intend to mark the specimen with a microchip when you mount it (see following paragraph), you must first apply for a TSC to cover it before it is mounted, and then return it to us with a new application for a Specimen Specific Certificate (SSC) to cover all future transactions including sale, offering for sale, transporting for sale and keeping for sale. We will then issue you with an SSC with the chip number quoted on it. There will, however, be a charge for this new certificate.

(iii) Permanent marking of taxidermy specimens

Taxidermy specimens can be permanently marked with a microchip transponder encased in resin (or any other similar material) in the skull cavity of a specimen. The Guild of Taxidermists will be able to give you technical advice on how to do this.

Under EC CITES Regulations, microchips must be 'unalterable' and meet ISO Standards 11784: 1996 (E) and 11785: 1996 (E). Specimens fitted with microchips in this way can be issued with SSCs. Those not fitted with microchips will be issued with TSCs.

(iv) Log book records and specimen descriptions.

If you are applying for a certificate to sell dead animals, you must send us a completed copy of the logbook page with your application. You must provide reliable documentary or other evidence to confirm that these specimens were bred in captivity or legally removed from the wild. If the specimen originated from the wild, the location where the specimen was found (dead or alive) should be recorded (a grid reference or address must be provided).

All specimens held should be marked with a uniquely-numbered tag or label. The details of these must match those in your logbook. When applying for an Article 10 certificate for a taxidermy specimen, please ensure you give as detailed a description as possible, e.g. 'one male Barn Owl perched on a log with wings open'. This will enable easier identification of a specimen.

Appendix 1 to this note shows the recommended format for these records. If you do not send us this information, we will not be able to process your application.

(v) Commissions

Our current policy is that if you are a taxidermist preparing a specimen for a client you do not require an Article 10 for this specimen. This is because you are providing a service to the client and not using the specimen commercially yourself. If your client wishes to sell the specimen they will require an Article 10 certificate and you should advise them to contact us for advice.

(vi) Semi-complete export/re-export licences

We may issue semi-complete (re-)export permits for specimens of species listed on Annex B – C to taxidermists. These are part completed carbonated documents, part of which is left blank for you to fill in prior to the (re)export.

3 Gifts

There are no controls on keeping Annex A specimens for non-commercial purposes, so you do not need a certificate if you plan to give these specimens away. However, if the person receiving the specimens plans to use them for commercial purposes, he or she should apply for a certificate for that purpose. Anyone who receives a specimen as a gift should ask the person who gave it to them for written details of its origin, as well as confirming that the item was a gift. We will need this information if the new owner applies for a certificate.

4 Requirements for customers and owners of taxidermy specimens

If you want to buy a taxidermy specimen listed in Annex A of the regulations, you should make sure that the taxidermist/current owner has the appropriate Article 10 certificate that allows them to sell the specimen. This certificate may be either:

(i) a yellow SSC which should be given to you at the time you buy the specimen. You should keep this certificate as proof that you bought the specimen legally and for passing on if you sell the specimen; or

(ii) a TSC. You should ask for a photocopy of this certificate or make sure the taxidermist's label includes the certificate number (this will make it easier for you to get another certificate if you sell the specimen).

Certificates will be clearly worded to show whether they are SSCs or TSCs. Some items (such as display cases) that contain more than one Annex A species, will need separate certificates to cover each species in the display.

If you have a dead specimen you wish to sell to a taxidermist you will require an Article 10 certificate for that sale.

If you wish to display a taxidermy item for non-commercial reasons (in your own home for instance), then no certificate is required. You may have old taxidermy specimens that do not have a current Article 10 certificate because they have not been in commercial trade since the EC Regulations came into force in 1997. If you own such a specimen and want to sell it, you must apply for an Article 10 certificate and show you bought the specimen legally. To support your application you may wish to have the specimen inspected by the Guild of Taxidermists, who will be able to make a judgement

on its age and likely origin. We cannot guarantee any application will be successful, but we will consider their report within the context of the overall application, which can help to identify whether the specimen was obtained legally.

A list of taxidermy inspectors approved by the Guild, and who work independently from us, is available at <http://www.taxidermylaw.co.uk/guild/inspecters.cfm>. Taxidermists may charge for this inspection as they are acting on your behalf, and not ours.

5 Requirements of other legislation

If you are granted a certificate under Council Regulation 338/97 and Commission Regulation 865/2006, you may also need to get a licence under other legislation.

- **Birds:** you may need a licence issued under sections 16 (4)a and 16 (5) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (WCA). There are several General Licences which permit the sale of certain birds and these are available to download from the websites of Natural England, the Welsh Assembly or the Scottish Government, depending on where you live.
- **Other species:** species listed on Annex A of the EC CITES Regulations and both the Habitats Regulations 1994 and Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 require licences under these additional two pieces of legislation before they can be legally sold. The most common of these species used for taxidermy are the Common Otter (*Lutra lutra*) and the Scottish Wildcat (*Felis silvestris*) but there are others and you should contact Defra for advice.

Applicants should obtain the relevant sales licences above before applying for a CITES Article 10 certificate.

If you need more information, you should contact the relevant authority listed below.

For England

Natural England
First Floor
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol BS1 6EB

Phone: 0300 060 2065 (local rate)
Fax: 0300 060 2185 (local rate)
E-mail enquiries – enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk

Please quote : For attention of the Wildlife Licensing Unit

For Wales

The National Assembly for Wales
Cathay's Park
Cardiff CF1 3NQ

Phone: 02920 823169
Fax: 02920 825008

For Scotland

The Scottish Executive
Countryside and Natural Heritage Unit
1st Floor, Victoria Quay
Edinburgh EH6 6QQ

Phone: 0131 244 4435

Fax: 0131 244 4071

6 CITES enquiries desk and application forms

If you have any questions or would like an application form for an Article 10 certificate, please contact the enquiries desk (see contact details below) or down-load the form from the website.

Animal Health
Wildlife Licensing and Registration Service (WLRS)
Floor 1, Zone 17
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol BS1 6EB

Phone: 0117 372 8774

Fax: 0117 372 8206

E-mail: wildlife.licensing@animalhealth.gsi.gov.uk

Website: www.defra.gov.uk/animalhealth/cites/

Your Name - Taxidermist:	Log No / Stock Item	
Your Address:	Common Name	
.....	Scientific Name	
.....	Date Received	
Your Tel:	Supplier's Name:	
Your Fax:	Supplier's Address:	
Your e-mail:	
Your web site:	Supplier's Tel:	
Specimen Origin (Only one item per sheet)		
Supplier's Article 10 (if any)	Finders Name, Address, Tel No	
Supplier's Log No (if any)		
Date found/ died		
Origin - Wild / Captive	Address & Tel No where item was kept between found & received dates	
Sex		
Age		
Ring numbers (if any)	Cause and Location of Death	If imported complete below
Male parent's ring number (if any)		Country of Origin
Female parent's ring number (if any)		Permit No / Date of Issue
Micro chip number (if any)	Additional History	Document No / Date of Issue
Visible injuries		
<p>Please tick box(s) as appropriate: <input type="checkbox"/> This item was given free of charge for the purpose of taxidermy; <input type="checkbox"/> A fee was paid for this item</p> <p>I confirm that to the best of my knowledge this specimen was not killed or taken illegally.</p> <p>Signed Name Date.....</p> <p>Due to the very strict laws regarding Taxidermy a signature is required with all items.</p>		

Application & Return Details

Application Details	Date
I declare that the particulars provided above are correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. I declare that an application for a permit/licence for the above specimen was not previously rejected. Signed Name..... Date.....	Licence applied for
	Date
Return Details Only (to be filled in when sold by the taxidermist)	Return Sent
Sold to Date Sold	Date
	Guild Micro Chip No