

AV 16.01.004.0021

20 July 2015

To Shipping & Logistics companies, Declaring Agents and Freight Forwarders

## ADVISORY ON TRADE IN CITES WILDLIFE AND TIMBER

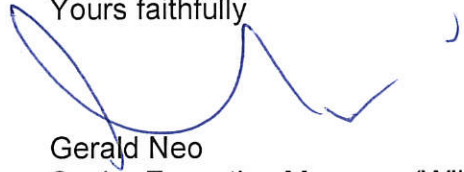
Singapore is a Party to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), which is an international agreement to ensure that trade in wild fauna and flora does not threaten them with extinction. CITES regulates international trade in wildlife and their parts and products through a system of CITES permits which are granted when certain conditions are met. The Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA) is the CITES Management Authority in Singapore that implements and enforces CITES.

2 Under the Endangered Species (Import and Export) Act [ESA], all imports, exports and re-exports of CITES specimens would require CITES permits prior to arrival and departure of consignments. In addition, in-transit and transshipment of CITES specimens via Singapore would also require valid CITES permits from the exporting/re-exporting country and importing country (if required, eg. where the specimens are listed in CITES Appendix I ie. highly endangered). Under the ESA, offenders are liable on conviction to a fine of up to \$50,000 per specimen (not exceeding an aggregate of \$500,000) and/or up to 2 years' imprisonment for wildlife smuggling offences. Any person found abetting in the commission of the offence may also be liable for conviction under the ESA. In addition, companies implicated may be required to bear the cost of storage, confiscation, maintenance and repatriation of the contraband.

3 In recent years, AVA has detected several significant cases of illegal wildlife and timber being imported or transhipped through Singapore. Recent cases involved seizures of ivory tusks, amounting to 6.5 tonnes since 2013. AVA has also seized 45 tonnes of red sandalwood since 2013. AVA has also received reports about other countries intercepting ivory and pangolins in shipments bound for Singapore. It has been brought to our attention that shipping & logistics companies, declaring agents and freight forwarders are often implicated in such illegal wildlife cases. AVA views violation of CITES seriously and would like to take this opportunity to remind shipping & logistics companies, declaring agents and freight forwarders to exercise vigilance and prudence when accepting jobs from customers or companies, and adopt internal security measures to prevent your company and staff from being implicated in the smuggling of CITES species.

4 Please feel free to contact AVA at Tel: 6805 2992 or the undersigned at Tel: 6805 2844 if you have any further queries on this matter. You may also visit the CITES ([www.cites.org](http://www.cites.org)) and AVA ([www.AVA.gov.sg](http://www.AVA.gov.sg)) websites for more information.

Yours faithfully



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