



AV 16.01.004.0021

**[REMINDER]**

7 July 2017

To Shipping & Logistics companies, Declaring Agents and Freight Forwarders

### **ADVISORY ON ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE**

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. The Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA) is the designated CITES Management Authority in national authority in Singapore that implements and enforces CITES.

2 AVA has detected several cases of illegal wildlife and timber being shipped through Singapore. These cases involved seizures of ivory tusks, rhinoceros horns, pangolin scales and rosewood from Africa. It has been brought to our attention that shipping & logistics companies, declaring agents and freight forwarders are often implicated in such illegal wildlife cases.

3 AVA views wildlife smuggling and timber trafficking seriously and would like to remind shipping & logistics companies, declaring agents and freight forwarders to exercise due diligence when accepting jobs from customers or companies, and adopt internal risk assessment and security measures to prevent your company and staff from being implicated in the smuggling of illegal wildlife, their parts and products.

4 Under the Endangered Species (Import and Export) Act [ESA], all imports, exports and re-exports of CITES species including live specimens, their parts and products, would require CITES permits from AVA before the CITES shipments enter or leave Singapore. In addition, CITES shipments in transit (ie. no local consignee) via Singapore would also require CITES permits from the exporting/re-exporting country and if required, from importing or destination country as well.

5 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, repatriation and disposal of the contraband.

6 AVA seeks your cooperation to ensure that shipments, which your company is responsible for transporting through Singapore, comply with CITES. Please feel free to contact AVA at tel: 6805 2992 if you have any queries.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in grey ink, appearing to be 'JY' with a stylized flourish.

Janice Yap  
Sr Executive Manager (Wildlife)  
Quarantine and Inspection Group  
for Director-General  
Agri-Food and Veterinary Services