§ 23.48 What are the requirements for a registered scientific institution?

(a) Purpose. Article VII(6) of the Treaty grants an exemption that allows international trade in certain specimens for noncommercial loan, donation, or exchange between registered scientific institutions.

(b) U.S. and foreign general provisions. The following provisions apply to the registration of scientific institutions and acceptance of shipments from registered scientific institutions:

1. The specimen was propagated for commercial purposes: 23.5
2. The parental stock was legally acquired: 23.60
3. The proposed export would not be detrimental to the survival of the species: 23.61
4. The plant was artificially propagated: 23.64
5. The scientific name of the species is the standard nomenclature in the CITES Appendices or the references adopted by the CoP: 23.23
6. The live plant will be prepared and shipped so as to minimize risk of injury, damage to health, or cruel treatment of the specimen: 23.23

(e) Nursery registration. [Reserved]
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will assign the institution a five-character code consisting of the ISO country code and a unique three-digit number. In the case of a non-Party, the Secretariat will ensure that the institution meets the standards and assign it a unique code.

(ii) The Management Authority must communicate the name, address, and assigned code to the Secretariat, which maintains a register of scientific institutions and provides that information to all Parties.

(2) A registered scientific institution does not need separate CITES documents for the noncommercial loan, donation, or exchange of preserved, frozen, dried, or embedded museum specimens, herbarium specimens, or live plant material with another registered institution. The shipment must have an external label that contains information specified in paragraph (e)(5) of this section.

(c) U.S. application to register as a scientific institution. To register, complete Form 3–200–39 and submit it to the U.S. Management Authority.

(d) Criteria. The criteria in this paragraph (d) apply to the registration of U.S. and foreign institutions for scientific exchange. To be issued a certificate of scientific exchange as a registered U.S. scientific institution, you must provide sufficient information for us to find that your institution meets all of the following criteria:

(1) Collections of wildlife or plant specimens are permanently housed and professionally curated, and corresponding records are kept.

(2) Specimens are accessible to all qualified users, including those from other institutions.

(3) Specimens are properly accessioned in a permanent catalog.

(4) Records are permanently maintained for loans and transfers to and from other institutions.

(5) Specimens are acquired primarily for research that is to be reported in scientific publications, and CITES specimens are not used for commercial purposes or as decorations.

(6) Collections are prepared and arranged in a way that ensures their accessibility to researchers.

(7) Specimen labels, permanent catalogs, and other records are accurate.

(8) Specimens are legally acquired and lawfully possessed under a country’s wildlife and plant laws.

(9) Appendix-I specimens are permanently and centrally housed under the direct control of the institution.

(e) U.S. standard conditions. In addition to the conditions in §23.56, any activity conducted under a certificate of scientific exchange must meet all of the following conditions:

(1) Both scientific institutions involved in the exchange must be registered by the applicable Management Authorities (or the Secretariat in the case of a non-Party), and be included in the Secretariat’s register of scientific institutions.

(2) An institution may send and receive only preserved, frozen, dried, or embedded museum specimens, herbarium specimens, or live plant materials that have been permanently and accurately recorded by one of the institutions involved in the exchange and that are traded as a noncommercial loan, donation, or exchange.

(3) An institution may use specimens acquired under a certificate of scientific exchange and their offspring only for scientific research or educational display at a scientific institution and may not use specimens for commercial purposes.

(4) The institution must keep records to show that the specimens were legally acquired.

(5) A customs declaration label must be affixed to the outside of each shipping container or package that contains all of the following:

(i) The acronym “CITES.”

(ii) A description of the contents (such as “herbarium specimens”).

(iii) The names and addresses of the sending and receiving registered institutions.

(iv) The signature of a responsible officer of the sending registered scientific institution.

(v) The scientific institution codes of both registered scientific institutions involved in the loan, donation, or exchange.

(6) A registered institution may destroy samples during analysis, provided that a portion of the sample is maintained and permanently recorded at a
§ 23.49 What are the requirements for an exhibition traveling internationally?

(a) Purpose. Article VII(7) of the Treaty grants an exemption for specimens that qualify as bred in captivity, artificially propagated, or pre-Convention and are part of a traveling exhibition.

(b) U.S. and foreign general provisions. The following general provisions apply to the issuance and acceptance of a certificate for live wildlife and plants, or their parts, products, or derivatives in an exhibition that travels internationally:

1. The Management Authority in the country of the exhibitor’s primary place of business must have determined that the specimens are bred in captivity, artificially propagated, or pre-Convention and issued a traveling-exhibition certificate.

2. The certificate must indicate that the wildlife or plant is part of a traveling exhibition.

3. A separate certificate must be issued for each live wildlife specimen; a CITES document may be issued for more than one specimen for a traveling exhibition of live plants and dead parts, products, or derivatives of wildlife and plants.

4. The certificate is not transferable.

5. Parties should treat the certificate like a passport for import and export or re-export from each country, and should not collect the original certificate at the border.

6. Parties should check specimens closely to determine that each specimen matches the certificate and ensure that each live specimen is being transported and cared for in a manner that minimizes the risk of injury, damage to health, or cruel treatment of the specimen.

7. If offspring are born or a new specimen is acquired while the traveling exhibition is in another country, the exhibitor must obtain the appropriate CITES document for the export or re-export of the specimen from the Management Authority of that country.

8. Upon returning home, the exhibitor may apply for a traveling-exhibition certificate for wildlife born overseas or for wildlife or plants acquired overseas.


(d) Criteria. The criteria in this paragraph (d) apply to the issuance and acceptance of U.S. and foreign certificates. When applying for a U.S. certificate, you must provide sufficient information for us to find that your proposed activity meets all of the following criteria:

1. The traveling exhibition makes multiple cross-border movements, and will return to the country in which the exhibition is based before the certificate expires.

2. The cross-border movement must be for exhibition, and not for breeding, propagating, or activities other than exhibition.

3. The traveling exhibition is based in the country that issued the certificate.

4. The specimen meets the criteria for a bred-in-captivity certificate, certificate for artificially propagated plants, or pre-Convention certificate.

5. The exhibitor does not intend to sell or otherwise transfer the wildlife or plant while traveling internationally.

6. The wildlife or plant is securely marked or identified in such a way that border officials can verify that the certificate and specimen correspond. If a microchip is used, we may, if necessary, ask the importer, exporter, or re-exporter to have equipment on hand to read the microchip at the time of import, export, or re-export.

(e) U.S. standard conditions. In addition to the conditions in §23.56, you must meet all of the following conditions:

1. The certificate may be used by you, and you must not transfer or assign it to another person or traveling exhibition.

2. You must transport the specimen internationally only for exhibition, not for breeding, propagating, or activities other than exhibition.

3. You must present the certificate to the official for validation at each border crossing.