



# EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL FOR HANDICRAFTS

## Note and FAQ - Amendment in CITES Appendices pertaining to Dalbergia Species

In the 17th meeting of the Conference of the parties to CITES (CoP17), held in September/October 2016, the entire genus *Dalbergia* spp. (except for Brazilian rosewood (*Dalbergia nigra*), which is listed in Appendix I), three bubinga species of *Guibourtia demeusei*, *Guibourtia pellegriniana*, and *Guibourtia tessmannii*, and kosso (also called African rosewood) (*Pterocarpus erinaceus*) were listed in Appendix II. The listings became effective on January 2, 2017.

All parts and derivatives are included, except:

1. Leaves, flowers, pollen, fruit, and seeds;
2. Non-commercial exports of a maximum total weight of 10 kg per shipment;
3. Parts and derivatives of *Dalbergia cochinchinensis* which are covered by Annotation #4;
4. Parts and derivatives of *Dalbergia* spp. Originating and exported from Mexico which are covered by Annotation #6.

In this new annotation, paragraph b) refers to both exports and re-exports and exempts from CITES controls "non-commercial" shipments weighing 10 kg or less.

CITES is an international treaty that has been ratified by 182 countries and the European Union since it entered into force in 1975. Its aim is to prevent species from becoming endangered or extinct because of international trade. CITES regulates international wildlife trade through a system of permits and certificates to ensure that trade in listed wildlife (including plants), including their parts, derivatives, and products, is legal and does not threaten the survival of the species. Species may be listed under CITES in one of three Appendices, each of which provides a different level of protection. Appendix I includes species threatened with extinction; international trade in these species is strictly regulated and commercial trade in them is largely prohibited. Appendix II includes species that, although currently not threatened with extinction, may become so without trade controls. Most CITES species, including those discussed in this letter, are listed in Appendix II. Appendix III includes species for which a range country is seeking the cooperation of other CITES member countries to help it better control international trade in the species.

India has filed a reservation against the CITES CoP 17 Johannesburg Notification to the parties No. 2016/063 dated 29th November 2016. The reservation has come into effect from 24th January 2017. The Indian CITES Management Authority has designated the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) as the competent authority to issue the comparable document in lieu of the CITES permit till the time the reservation is in force.

In view of the above, following clarifications w.r.t. the trade in *Dalbergia* products, are as under:

- 1) What are the wood species that have been affected by this notification?



All members of the Genus *Dalbergia* have been affected by this notification. **However, of particular impact in India's scenario would be to the species *Dalbergia sissoo* (sheesham) and *Dalbergia latifolia* (rosewood).**

**2) What does that mean to me as an exporter - is sheesham and rosewood products now banned from exports?**

No, sheesham and rosewood products are not banned from exports. They have been classified under Appendix 2 of CITES, which means that each shipment would be needing a CITES Export certificate. India has already filed a reservation against the CITES CoP 17 Johannesburg Notification to the parties No. 2016/063 dated 29th November 2016. The reservation has come into effect from 24th January 2017. The Indian CITES Management Authority has designated the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) as the competent authority to issue the comparable document in lieu of the CITES permit till the time the reservation is in force.

**3) From which date this rule becomes effective?**

2nd January 2017

**4) Before the rules comes into force, if any shipments are made (on stream) and if the consignment reaches after the effective date, what is the procedure to clear the consignment at the import point?**

The factories/companies are to contact EPCH with the list of shipments, no. of containers and their value and EPCH would contact the various diplomatic missions in the recipient countries to facilitate the clearance of the shipments.

**5) What are the forms and procedures required for obtaining certificates concerning CITES?**

Since EPCH has been designated as the competent authority to issue the comparable document in lieu of the CITES permit, the permits shall henceforth be issued by EPCH as the Vriksh Shipment Certificate. The application form can be downloaded from the Vriksh website [www.vrikshindia.in](http://www.vrikshindia.in). The detailed procedure for issuance of the Vriksh Shipment certificate is also provided on the Vriksh website.

**6) Who all are eligible for applying for the Vriksh shipment certificate?**

To be eligible for the Vriksh Shipment certificate, the company needs to:

- a. Be a member of EPCH
- b. Holding a valid Vriksh certificate
- c. Having no open CARs (Corrective Action Requests) against Parts 3,4 and 5 of the Vriksh Timber Legality Assessment and Verification Standard VI.4

**7) I am already a Vriksh certified company and hold a valid Vriksh certificate. Do I still need to obtain the Vriksh shipment certificate?**

Yes, having a Vriksh certificate is the pre-condition for obtaining the shipment certificate. However, even though you are having the Vriksh certificate, you still need to apply for the shipment certificate, as this is issued per shipment/per invoice.

**8) I am a merchant exporter? Do I also need the Vriksh shipment certificate?**

The Vriksh shipment certificate is required by all categories of exporters who are exporting goods containing sheesham or rosewood from India.



**9) What are the documents required for presenting to the concerned agency for obtaining the Vriksh shipment Certificate?**

The list of applicable documents for obtaining the Vriksh shipment certificate have been categorized as per state of origin and the same is uploaded on the Vriksh website. The company has to maintain the documents for purchase, transport and sale of wood, as well as the details of the batch accounting as well as wastage/conversion factors. The documents should be made available to the Vriksh assessment team for inspection before issuing the certificate.

**10) Do we have to obtain the Vriksh Shipment certificate for every shipment or will it be for particular period?**

Vriksh Shipment Certificate is required for every shipment. This certificate is issued per shipment and is different from the Vriksh legality compliance certificate, which is a proof of legal compliance by the company. The shipment certificate is essentially a permit to export goods manufactured from *Dalbergia sissoo/latifolia* from India in lieu of the CITES permit.

**11) What is the time period for issue of the Vriksh export certificate?**

Following the receipt of the application form, the certificate assessment authority shall be sending a document docket to the applicant, requesting details of the shipment. The document docket shall undergo a technical review at the assessment agency, which, as and when cleared, shall be followed by an onsite inspection. If all the documents are complete, the turnaround time for issue of the certificate from the time of receipt of the application form is 6 business days.

**12) When do I apply for the Vriksh Shipment certificate?**

The application for the Vriksh shipment certificate can be downloaded from the Vriksh website. It is advised that the application is submitted when atleast the following conditions are fulfilled viz.,

- i. 100% of material is 'in line' - all material is within the premises and can be inspected
- ii. At least 40% of production is completed

This is the minimum requirement for the assessment agency to schedule an onsite inspection of the material prior to issuance of the certificate

**13) What is the cost of the shipment certificate and how do I pay?**

The details regarding costs of the certificate for different classes of goods and the mode of payment is provided in detail on the Vriksh website, [www.vrikshindia.in](http://www.vrikshindia.in)

**14) what is the validity of the certificate?**

The Vriksh export certificate is valid for a period of 6 months from the date of issue.



15) What are the list of documents required for material procured from private sources?

**DOCUMENTATION FOR MATERIAL PROCURED FROM PRIVATE SOURCES**

State	Uttar Pradesh	Haryana	Punjab	Rajasthan
<b>Sales Document</b>	Sales Invoice of immediate supplier	Sales Invoice of immediate supplier	Sales Invoice of immediate supplier	Sales Invoice of immediate supplier
<b>Tax Documentation</b>	Vat or Sales Tax document	Vat/ Sales Tax document	Vat/ Sales Tax document	Vat/ Sales Tax document
<b>Weight Details</b>	Weighment bridge slip	Weighment bridge slip	Weighment bridge slip	Weighment bridge slip
<b>Transit Documentation</b>	Transit Permit and Ravanna	TP Exemption Certificate for the current year, with the name of the supplier on the letterhead of the forest department & signature & stamp of the signing authority, Except for the areas covered in Section 4 and 5 of PLPA ,1900.	TP Exemption Certificate for the current year, with the name of the supplier on the letterhead of the forest department & signature & stamp of the signing authority, except for Pathankot, Ropar, Mohali, Hoshiarpur and Nawashahar as proper Transit permits are issued in these areas	TP Exemption Certificate for the current year, with the name of the supplier on the letterhead of the forest department & signature & stamp of the signing authority, except in districts Bikaner and Jaisalmer and Some parts of Districts of Hanumangarh and Jodhpur where proper TPs are issued.
<b>Source of Origin Documentation</b>	1-Forest auction Note; or 2-Sales invoice of forest department; 3- Social forestry sales invoice 4-Cutting permit issued by the forest department, 5- Mandi Samiti (Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee) receipt & Gate Pass 6- Sawmill's invoice, Licence & sawmill record(register) attested by the forest department.	1-Sawmill's invoice, Licence & sawmill record(register) attested by the forest department 2-Attested Khasra/ field, details indicating the location from where the tree was removed 3- Mandi Samiti (Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee) receipt/ Gate Pass.	1- Sawmill's invoice, Licence & sawmill record(register) attested by the forest department 2-Attested Khasra/ field, details indicating the location from where the tree was removed 3- Mandi Samiti (Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee) receipt/ Gate Pass.	1- Sawmill's invoice, Licence & sawmill record(register) attested by the forest department 2-Attested Khasra/ field, details indicating the location from where the tree was removed 3- Mandi Samiti (Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee) receipt/ Gate Pass.