



SCIENTIFIC TRANSFERS UNDER CITES

CITES has an exemption for “non-commercial loan, donation or exchange between scientists or scientific institutions registered by a Management Authority.” This exemption applies to “herbarium specimens, other preserved, dried or embedded museum specimens, and live plant material.” Scientific transfers under this exemption must carry a label issued or approved by a Management Authority.

Requirements

In order for a consignment of scientific samples to qualify for the exemption:

1. Both scientific institutions must be registered with the CITES Secretariat. To find out whether the institutions are registered, please check the CITES website: www.cites.org. On the homepage, under “Resources”, click on “CITES registers”, then select “Register of scientific institutions”. There is a list of countries on the left, and once you select the destination country, it will list the registered institutions.
2. The specimens must be covered by the exemption.

Specimens that are covered	Specimens that are not covered
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • herbarium specimens (e.g. dried or pressed plants and flowers) • preserved, dried or embedded specimens (e.g. microscope slides or specimens preserved in alcohol, taxidermy specimens, or tanned skins) • frozen specimens (e.g. frozen tissue samples) • live plant material (e.g. whole plants or specimens collected in the field) • animal DNA derived from preserved, dried or embedded museum specimens or plant DNA derived from live plants, herbarium specimens or preserved, dried or embedded museum specimens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • blood • sera • semen

How the system works

While both scientific institutions must be registered, it is the institution in the exporting country that must complete the labels to export the specimens. If your institution is registered with the New Zealand CITES Management Authority, it should have some of these labels.

At the end of each year, a report of all scientific transfers that have taken place must be compiled and reported to the New Zealand CITES Management Authority (Department of Conservation).

How to register

Please contact the New Zealand CITES Management Authority at the Department of Conservation National Office in Wellington (see address below).