



NOTICE TO THE WILDLIFE IMPORT/EXPORT COMMUNITY



March 15, 2013

Subject: Update on Overtime Clearances

Background: On March 11, 2013, we notified the trade of the effects of sequester on overtime clearances for wildlife imports and exports. We indicated that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would not inspect or clear any wildlife shipment on overtime hours as of that date.

Using overtime, which is funded by the importers and exporters, we will continue to inspect and clear shipments. Reductions required by sequestration will require staffing cut backs and reductions in other spending areas. Requests for overtime inspection services will be accommodated to the maximum extent possible in order to protect wildlife and reduce the burden on the trade.

The hiring freeze that was noted previously in our March 11, 2013, public bulletin remains in effect. As the Service works to implement the spending reductions required by sequestration, we will continue to update the trade on any additional effects on port operations.

Action: Effective immediately, the Service wildlife inspection offices will be authorized to perform overtime inspections when personnel are available to do so.

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