

New CITES Regulations For All Rosewood Species

A new regulation takes effect on January 2, 2017 that calls for documentation when shipping instruments internationally that contain any amount of *any kind* of rosewood or certain types of bubinga.

It does not apply to instruments shipped *within* the borders of your country or instruments carried for personal use while traveling internationally [unless they contain more than 22 lbs. (10 kg) of the regulated woods].

This is a developing story, with details emerging as government agencies figure out how to create processes around the new requirements. To what degree they are enforced remains to be seen.

Here's what we know so far.

The New Regulation on Rosewood and Bubinga

The Convention of International Trade of Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna (CITES) held a conference from September 24 - October 4 this year in Johannesburg, South Africa where it was decided that all species of **rosewood** under the genus *Dalbergia* and three **bubinga** species (*Guibourtia demeusei*, *Guibourtia pellegriniana*, and *Guibourtia tessmannii*) will be protected under CITES Appendix II.

Kosso - sometimes called African rosewood (*Pterocarpus erinaceus*) - will also be protected.

While Brazilian Rosewood is currently under CITES protection (those laws will stay in place), this move places all the other nearly 300 species of rosewood under similar regulation.

This includes the East Indian rosewood and Honduran rosewood - as well as woods like cocobolo (*Dalbergia retusa*) and African blackwood (*Dalbergia melanoxylon*) - that are widely used in the manufacturing of stringed instruments, marimbas and some woodwinds.

What This Means

For manufacturers:

When importing any species of *Dalbergia* or the other woods mentioned, there must be an accompanying CITES certificate from the country it came from if it arrives after January 2, 2017.

Manufacturers who currently have stockpiles of the newly regulated wood must document their inventory and apply for pre-convention certificates.

For dealers and sellers:

When shipping musical instruments that include any amount (i.e. fingerboard, back, sides, binding) of *Dalbergia* or the other newly regulated woods out of your country as part of a commercial transaction, each one must be accompanied by a CITES re-export certificate.

Even if the instrument was made with *Dalbergia* or the other regulated woods that were acquired before January 2, 2017 - such as a used or vintage instrument - it still must be accompanied by a CITES certificate and marked pre-convention when shipping internationally.

For example, a seller in Nashville looking to ship her 2013 Martin 000-28 with East Indian rosewood back and sides to a buyer in Canada must apply for a re-export certificate, pay the application fee, receive the certificate, and include that document with the guitar when shipping.

Licensing fee of at least \$100.00 will be applied by CITES and will take 3 months or more to be issued. Shipment of products can not be made until a license is obtained.