

ENCOM Guidance on Prohibited Carriage of Wildlife and Related Products by Passengers

The IATA Environment Committee has agreed to develop and promulgate guidance on the **Prohibited Carriage of Wildlife and Related Products by Passengers**.

The guidance provides a method for informing passengers that restrictions may be placed on the carriage of wildlife and related products in order to raise passenger awareness and mitigate the risks associated with such carriage.

SECTION 1 — GENERAL

For the purposes of this Guidance the term ‘wildlife’ refers to any animal or plant, whether alive or dead. The term “related product” refers to any part of an animal or plant, or any product derived from an animal or plant.

For the purposes of this Guidance the term ‘competent authority’ refers to any person or organization at the point of departure and/or point of arrival that has been designated the legal authority to implement, monitor, and/or enforce legislation related to the transit of wildlife and related products (e.g. border agencies).

For the purposes of this Guidance the term ‘restricted’ does not include considerations of restrictions on the export, transit or import of wildlife and related products imposed for revenue raising purposes (e.g. sales tax, customs duty). Furthermore, the Guidance does not apply to the carriage of wildlife and related products as cargo.

SECTION 2 — INFORMING PASSENGERS ABOUT THE PROHIBITED CARRIAGE OF WILDLIFE, PROTECTED SPECIES AND RELATED PRODUCTS

It is recommended that Members raise awareness among passengers and staff concerning the prohibited carriage of wildlife and related products and potential impacts on flight safety, the spread of human, animal, and plant diseases, and biodiversity.

What do we communicate?

- The import, transit and/or export of wildlife may be subject to restrictions by competent authorities.
- The carriage of wildlife may be subject to restrictions by the airline operator.
- No animals may be carried in checked baggage, hand luggage, or on the passenger’s person without expressed consent from the airline operator.

Recommended communications:

- Passengers carrying illegal wildlife, protected species, and/or related products may be subject to fines and/or imprisonment at the point of departure and/or the point of arrival.
- Uncontrolled wildlife in the cabin or in checked baggage can compromise cabin and flight safety.
- Prohibited carriage of wildlife, protected species, and/or related products may represent a risk to human, animal, and plant health.
- The introduction of invasive species or illegal trade in protected species can have severe impacts on biodiversity and the health of our natural environment.

Members are encouraged to inform passengers that the transport of wildlife and/or related products may be prohibited or restricted. The information may be provided on the airlines' websites together with information on baggage allowances and restricted items.

For passengers travelling on routes where it is deemed that there is an increased risk of the prohibited carriage of wildlife and/or related products, Members may also inform passengers during the check-in process, whether completed at the airport or remotely.

SECTION 3 — RECOMMENDED COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

Possible External Communication Channels

Members may inform passengers using appropriate communication channels, including, but not limited to:

- Airline websites
- Timetables
- Tickets and/or printed itinerary
- Ticket envelopes or stuffers
- Ticket/check-in counter signs
- Inflight literature
- Inflight entertainment systems (e.g. video)
- Brochures
- Leaflets
- Frequent Flyer mailings
- Airport Information Posters
- Flight Information Display Systems (FIDS)
- Airport Information Channel

Possible Internal Communication Channels

In order to facilitate the provision of information to passengers, airlines may want to consider informing their customer service and reservations agents through the following means, as they deem appropriate:

- Through questions and answers (frequently asked questions)
- Briefings
- Staff publications
- Standard Training aids (staff bulletins, pocket guides, manuals, etc.)
- Intranet

SECTION 4 – COLLABORATING WITH INDUSTRY PARTNERS

Members may choose to engage with competent authorities, airport authorities and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to help reinforce the awareness campaign at various stages in the passenger journey.