What is an export permit?

In some countries, illegal trade in wild animals and their products has practically exterminated some species and is threatening others. For this reason, governments at all levels are taking steps to put an end to poaching. It is important to know that if you do not have the required export permit, authorities in Nunavut and other jurisdictions have no way of knowing if the animal was obtained legally.

It is an offense to remove wildlife or wildlife parts, other than a manufactured product to a place outside Nunavut unless you obtain a Wildlife Export Permit. To export parts of marine mammals you are required to obtain a Marine Mammal Transportation License. These permits must be obtained prior to leaving Nunavut and will not be issued after the items have been exported.

For certain species of wildlife or marine mammals you may also require a C.I.T.E.S. Export Permit if your destination is outside Canada. This permit must be obtained prior to the item leaving the country.

Transportation of Fish

No permit is required to transport fish out of Nunavut providing the fish was lawfully harvested. If you have received or purchased fish please ensure to obtain a receipt.

A receipt should include:

- Hunter/fisherman’s name
- License number if applicable
- Date of transaction
- Species and quantity

Laws of Other Jurisdictions

Some countries, including the United States, have restrictions or prohibitions on the import of some species including: polar bear, seals and whales. This includes manufactured products such as crafts and jewelry.

Some Canadian provinces may have restrictions on the import or possession of certain products.

It is the responsibility of the exporter to be aware of any restrictions that may apply in another jurisdiction or country.

For more information, contact:

Department of Environment:

Phone (867) 975-7700
Fax (867) 975-7742
Marine Mammal Transportation License

A federal Marine Mammal Transportation License (MMTL) is needed for any and all parts of marine mammals leaving Nunavut. Manufactured products and artwork are not exempt from this requirement.

Marine mammals include:
- Seals
- Walrus
- Whales

*Polar Bears are not considered marine mammals under the Fisheries Act.

If you obtain a narwhal tusk, a Marine Mammal Tag must be attached to it. This tag indicates that the tusk was legally taken and it must stay with the tusk at all times. The tag must accompany the tusk when you apply for a Marine Mammal Transportation License.

The permit is valid only to export from Nunavut to other parts of Canada. It is free and can be obtained from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans or from a Wildlife Officer in most communities. Ensure that you present the marine mammal parts when you apply for the MMTL.

If your final destination is outside of Canada, ensure that you refer to the C.I.T.E.S. Export Permit section of this brochure.

____________________________

C.I.T.E.S. Export Permit

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (C.I.T.E.S.) was established to control the import and export between the signatory nations of species considered to be endangered or threatened.

The C.I.T.E.S. permit is required for all parts of these species- including manufactured products, being taken out of Canada. A C.I.T.E.S. permit must be obtained to export such items as: a mounted polar bear hide, raw or carved narwhal or walrus tusks, a whale bone carving, or a paka with wolf fur around the hood.

Since C.I.T.E.S. regulates the export of wildlife from Canada rather than Nunavut, in addition to the C.I.T.E.S. permit, you may need a Wildlife Export Permit, or a Marine Mammal Transportation License.

There is no fee for C.I.T.E.S. Export Permits. C.I.T.E.S. Export Permits for birds and terrestrial mammals can be obtained at the Wildlife Office in Iqaluit. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans issues C.I.T.E.S. permits for Marine Mammals.

Wildlife Export Permit

You will need a Wildlife Export permit if you wish to export:
- Legally killed game
- A gift of meat from a hunter
- Legally purchased meat
- Untanned furs and raw hides
- Ducks or geese
- Antlers, bones, teeth, or any other part of an animal

Wildlife export permits can be obtained from the local Wildlife Officer in most communities. There is no fee. Ensure that you take the wildlife parts that you intend to export to the Wildlife Officer when you apply for your permit. The regulations require that the permit contain the following information: the species and parts being exported, the quantity, the hunter’s name and license number, and where the wildlife originated. The permit is not valid until it is signed by the holder and is not transferable to another person.

In addition to a Wildlife Export Permit, certification is required before taking some species, including any parts of the animal, out of Nunavut. Species that require certification, unless they were killed under the authority of a license, are: birds of prey, grizzly bears, polar bears, and muskox.

Wildlife used in manufactured products do not require a Wildlife Export Permit. A manufactured product means wildlife that was prepared for: a tanning process, a taxidermy process, use in a garment, or an article to be sold. Mukluks, mounted and tanned hides, and caribou antler carvings are all examples of items which do not require a Wildlife Export Permit to be removed from Nunavut. However, manufactured products containing marine mammal parts require a Marine Mammal Transportation License before they can be removed from Nunavut, and manufactured products containing endangered or threatened species require a C.I.T.E.S. Export Permit before being taken out of Canada.

A separate license is necessary to export live wildlife.