

## Lacey Act Guidance Document

The United States Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) recently published a guidance document which outlines the import declaration requirements and enforcement schedule of the Lacey Act. Phase-in of enforcement of the required plant import declarations is currently under way. On April 1, 2009, the CBP began accepting the electronic submission of the required data elements, and enforcement began May 1, 2009, for specific product categories. The enforcement phase-in is scheduled to be completed for all applicable imports by September 30, 2010.

The Lacey Act combats trafficking in “illegal” wildlife, fish, and plants. The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 amended the Lacey Act by expanding its protection to a broader range of plants and plant products and requiring that importers submit a declaration at the time of importation for certain plants and plant products. Under the amended Lacey Act, importers are required to submit a declaration which contains, among other things, the scientific name of the plant, value of the importation, quantity of the plant, and name of the country from which the plant was harvested.

**Link to:** [Guidance on the Lacey Act Declaration](#)

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