

## European regulations when buying, selling or exchanging snakes

The European Union regulates the trade in animals and plants and these regulations are based on the CITES lists. The original **Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97 of 9 December 1996 on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein** has been in force since December 9, 1996. When necessary, this regulation is always adapted by amendments, the most recent version of which is **Commission Regulation (EU) 2019/2117 of 29 November 2019**.

It can be downloaded in all EU languages from the EUR-Lex website: [eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:01997R0338-20200101](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:01997R0338-20200101)

This regulation also contains an updated overview of Annexes A, B, C and D.

The species that are included in CITES and also other species that are not covered by CITES, but that the European Commission wants to protect, are classified in 4 EU Annexes A, B, C and D (instead of 3 appendices at CITES).

**Annex A** contains all CITES Appendix I species. A number of Appendix II species have also been added. In addition, species can be added that are protected by other European directives and that are not necessarily CITES species.

**Annex B** contains most of the CITES Appendix II species, if not already listed in Annex A.

**Annex C** contains most of the CITES Appendix III species, if not already listed in Annex A or B.

**Annex D** contains the species, not listed in Annex A, B or C, whose imports into the European Community are monitored.

### Documents you need if you want to buy or sell Annex A or Annex B species

#### ***EC certificate (CITES document)***

- all Annex A species.
- Annex B species whose legal origin cannot be proven.

In general it will not be possible to bring these animals to the Snake Day because all necessary documents and formalities from the seller and the buyer must have taken place before the transfer of the animal takes place.

#### ***Declaration of transfer***

- Annex B species whose legal origin can be proven.

A transfer declaration contains the names and addresses of the seller and of the buyer, description of the animal (scientific name, characteristics, sex, date of birth (for captive-bred animals), the import certificate number (for wild-caught animals), place and date of transfer and the signatures of the seller and of the buyer. If it is a wild-caught animal, it is recommended to also attach a copy of the original import certificate.

#### **Additional requirements**

Since mid-December 2019, additional requirements apply to the transfer of Annex B animals. When selling, you no longer only have to be able to prove the origin of the animal itself, but also the origin of the parents of that animal. Especially for the boas, pythons and cobras, this will cause problems for many keepers, because for most animals there is currently only a transfer statement from the animal itself. It is therefore recommended that from now on, when buying, selling or exchanging, use a modified form for every transfer of Annex B animals.

If you do not have such a legal declaration of origin for the parent animals, it is recommended that you contact the seller / breeder of the animal as soon as possible, so that he can still issue such a declaration.

Blank declarations of transfer are available via our website [www.snakesociety.nl](http://www.snakesociety.nl) under the Snake Day tab. There you will find a Dutch and an English form as well as an overview of the snakes that are on Annexes A, B, C and D.