IPCI FRANCE EUROPE
International Pernambuco Conservation Initiative

MUSICIANS AND PERNAMBUCO BOWS

CSFI
AU SERVICE DE LA MUSIQUE DEPUIS 1890

New CITES rules effective from 5 March 2026

09/206

Please check the accuracy of the information contained in this document with the CITES authorities in your respective countries.

Information regarding crossing EU borders with bows

1 TRAVELLING WITH YOUR BOW FOR NON-COMMERCIAL PURPOSES

Within the European Union

- **No CITES certificate required**

Outside the European Union

- To travel outside the EU for **non-commercial purposes: No certificate is required.**
- Please ensure you can provide a valid reason for carrying your bow, which must fall into one of the following eight categories:
  - paid or unpaid performance, personal use, exhibition, loan, competition, for educational, evaluation or repair purposes.

2 SELLING OR BUYING A BOW

Within the European Union

- **No CITES certificate required** as it is listed in EU Annex B (equivalent to CITES Appendix II)

However, the seller must prove that the pernambuco was harvested before 13 September 2007, by means of any authentic document or proof of purchase dating from before 2007.

Example: EU ↔ Spain / Italy / Belgium = **no CITES document (Intra-EU)**

Outside the European Union

For the Seller:

- **CITES re-export certification is MANDATORY**

For the Buyer:

- Import permit mandatory in certain cases.

Example: France ↔ United Kingdom / Switzerland / Japan / USA = **CITES re-export certificate mandatory**

3 ESSENTIAL DOCUMENTS for applying for a CITES certificate

- Invoice or any other document proving that the bow was in your possession prior to 5 March 2026
- Declaration of materials
- Proof of age (certificate of authenticity)

"Even if you are not selling your bow today, it is strongly recommended that you gather these documents now."

4 "APPENDIX I" MATERIALS

Elephant ivory

Tortoiseshell

Whale bone

Your bow may also contain other listed species, for which a CITES permit is required, and which are subject to stricter regulations than Pernambuco wood. ***Please check with your bow maker or luthier.***

5 UPCOMING CHANGES

Further changes are also expected at the next CITES COP in 2028.

https://www.ipci-france-europe.org/fr