



CLARK-ESPOSITO
LAW FIRM, P.C.

U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE ON YOUR TAIL?



**We Are Determined To Help You.
Give Our Office A Call Today!**

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BUSTED BY THE U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE?

If you're reading this you've probably had your goods seized or detained by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) or U.S. Customs & Border Protection (CBP).

Ask Yourself These 5 Questions

If you are facing detainment or seizure of your goods, there are a few questions you should be asking yourself...





DID YOU KNOW?

Given what you know about the shipment, can you honestly say that you had no idea that your imported or exported merchandise was some sort of protected fish, wildlife, or plant?

Remember, the government never views ignorance of the law as an excuse. So, if an importer or exporter has a history of importing or exporting snakeskin shoes and ostrich handbags, it is expected that they knew that there could be an issue that they should have looked into in terms of the status of the protection of this wildlife. To the extent they didn't have any idea, the government would be unlikely to believe them as it's common knowledge that most business owners conduct some type of due diligence in order to protect themselves and protect their business. So why wouldn't they have done the same?





DO YOU HAVE A BUYER?

Do you have a buyer waiting for your merchandise to arrive?

If so, then you need to recognize that there will be delays, typically at least 30 days before a decision will be made. Therefore, you need to notify that party waiting for the delivery that there are delays.





PERMITS & LICENSES?

Did you obtain the permits or licenses which were needed?

Part of the burden of shipping or receiving regulated products is that it's critical to ensure you have "dotted all of your i's and crossed all of your t's." Was the license still valid? Did the license already expire? Did you ship it to one of the designated ports? Was everything done correctly as far as you know?





ANY NEW PARTIES?

Were there any new parties in your supply chain?

If there was, maybe there was something that needed to be done which had not been done, such as a last-minute change which led to the goods being routed to a different port than the designated one.





DO YOU HAVE THE TIME?

Do you have time to handle this yourself or do you feel like you need an expert to help take you through this?

The regulations around protected wildlife are massive. Even if you think you have the time to handle this, do you have the capability to do so? Can you afford to lose the shipment by opting not to get help on this? These are the questions you should be asking yourself.





REMEMBER...

It will take time for you to identify an expert in time for them to onboard you. With the 30 day clock ticking for FWS or CBP to come to a decision on your matter, time is of the essence. So if there's one piece of advice we can give you, it would be to make a decision to get help ASAP.

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ABOUT US

Your business isn't one-dimensional. Why should your law firm be? We listen carefully to clients to ensure our understanding of the legal issues at hand, the factual context in which they exist, and any limitations that might impact a chosen strategy. We are able to craft customized solutions and educate clients on the benefits and drawbacks of a given approach, equipping them with common sense choices and cost effective business solutions.

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