



<http://www.natsca.org>

## The Biology Curator

---

Title: Important - New EC Regulation Affecting Taxidermy

Author(s): Hallett, S. & Pickering, J.

Source: Hallett, S. & Pickering, J. (1997). Important - New EC Regulation Affecting Taxidermy. *The Biology Curator*, 10, 5 - 6.

URL: <http://www.natsca.org/article/457>

---

NatSCA supports open access publication as part of its mission is to promote and support natural science collections. NatSCA uses the Creative Commons Attribution License (CCAL) <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.5/> for all works we publish. Under CCAL authors retain ownership of the copyright for their article, but authors allow anyone to download, reuse, reprint, modify, distribute, and/or copy articles in NatSCA publications, so long as the original authors and source are cited.

### Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Gary Brown, Malgorzata Atkinson and April Lahti for recording and computerising the data for this project. Also Rob Waller, John Simmons and Julian Carter for discussions on fluid collections.

### References

- Boase, N.A. & Waller, R.R., 1994 The effect of propylene glycol on ethanol concentrations determined by density measurement. *Collection Forum* 10 (2) : 41-49.
- Cato, P.S., 1990 Characteristics of a collection of fluid-preserved mammals and implications for collection management. *Collection Forum* 6(2) : 53-64
- Clark, P.F., 1992 Ground glass stoppered jars for fluid collections. Pp 221-3 in *Storage of Natural History Collections : Ideas and Practical Solutions*. C.L. Rose & A.R. de Torres eds. Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections. 346 pp.
- Horie, C.V., (ed.) 1989 Conservation of natural history specimens : Spirit collections. The Manchester Museum and Department of Environmental Biology, University of Manchester, 115pp.
- Horie, C.V., 1994 Environmental control for spirit specimens. *Biology Curators Group Newsletter* 6(4) : 43-44.
- Lincoln, R.J., 1989 Storage containers for spirit collections. Pp 53-63 in *Conservation of natural history specimens : Spirit collections*. C.V. Horie (ed.) The Manchester Museum and Department of Environmental Biology, University of Manchester, 115pp.
- Moore, S.J., 1989 Conservation of spirit specimens. Pp 65-94 in *Conservation of natural history specimens : Spirit collections*. C.V. Horie (ed.) The Manchester Museum and Department of Environmental Biology, University of Manchester, 115pp.
- Moore, S.J., 1994 What fluid is in this bottle? *Biology Curators Group Newsletter* 6(4) : 44-45.
- Museums & Galleries Commission, 1992 Standards in the Museum Care of Biological Collections. MGC, London. 55pp.
- Palmer, L.F., 1996 Assessing preservation fluids in a wet collections : How important is container style? p.14 in SPNHC 11th Annual Meeting, June 12-15 1996 Program & Abstracts, 22pp.
- Simmons, J.E., 1991 Conservation problems of fluid-preserved collections. Pp 69-89 in *Natural History Museum Directions for Growth* ed. P.S. Cato & C. Jones. Texas Tech University Press. 252pp.
- Simmons, J.E. and Waller, R.R., 1994 Assessment of a fluid preserved herpetological collection. Pp. 11-15 in Snyder, A.M. (ed.) *ASIH Workshop on Collection Care and Maintenance Issues*, 20 pp.
- Stoddart, R.W., 1989 Fixatives and preservatives : their effects on tissue. Pp 1-26 in *Conservation of natural history specimens : Spirit collections*. C.V. Horie (ed.) The Manchester Museum and Department of Environmental Biology, University of Manchester, 115pp.

### Suppliers

- DMA 35 Digital Density Meter  
Paar Scientific Ltd. 594 Kingston Road, Raynes Park, London. SW20 8DN. Tel : 0181 540 8553.
- Ethanol Concentration Conversion Programme  
Tom Strang, Canadian Conservation Institute, 1030 Innes Road. Ottawa, ON. K1A 0C8.

## IMPORTANT - NEW EC REGULATION AFFECTING TAXIDERMISTRY

On 1st June 1997 the **Endangered Species (Import and Export) Act 1976** and **EC Regulations 3626/82 and 3418/83** were superseded by **EC regulation 338/97**. This new regulation is likely to affect most museums with natural history specimens.

The spirit of regulation 338/97 is : *'to protect species of wild fauna and flora and to guarantee their conservation by regulating trade therein'*.

We have, on behalf of BCG, been talking to the DoE about how the new regulation affects museums. Firstly it should be noted that the species covered by the regulations includes foreign species covered by CITES but also many European birds of prey and owls. Secondly it should be noted that it relates to material set up after 1947. So old taxidermy is not affected. The legislation basically covers the import and export of such specimens and also *"the purchase, offer to purchase, acquisition for commercial purposes, display to the public for commercial purposes, use for commercial gain and sale, keeping for sale, offering for sale or transporting for sale"*. Each individual specimen used in any of these ways needs an individual licence. A possible scenario for being in breach of this regulation would be the setting up of, say a barn owl, on display where the Museum charges admission. Also since *sale* includes hire, the loan of a specimen for which a charge is made e.g. school loans.

However it is possible for *"scientific institutions"* to register with the DoE to be exempt from the legislation. The DoE can issue a one-off certificate, covering all species, to a Museum which is involved in research and/or education which *"is aimed at the preservation and conservation of the species"*. Currently BCG are working with the DoE to try and see if MGC Registration can provide a short-cut to the provision of such a certificate and avoid long, tedious paperwork. In addition those institutions which regularly loan and/or exchange specimens for scientific research can apply for accreditation to use the new labelling system for such movement of specimens. This is likely to apply only to those scientific institutions already registered with the DoE (currently about 17), and other national and university museums.

The DoE are producing an advice sheet for museums which may be affected by this legislation. This will be sent



to members as soon as it is available. Below is a copy of a letter to the BCG Chair which states the current position. So at the moment don't panic! General exemptions for all museums are in place and you will be informed before they run out!

For more information or application forms for permits or certificates contact the CITES enquiries desk on 0117 987 8749. We are hoping a representative of the Department will come and speak at the BCG AGM in Edinburgh in April 1998.

Sam Hallett  
BCG Committee, Bristol Museum

Jane Pickering  
BCG Chair

### LETTER TO BCG

**Department of the  
Environment, Transport  
and the Regions**

Bob Ford  
Wildlife Licensing and  
Registration  
Ref 8/07  
Tollgate House  
Houlton Street  
Bristol BS6 5AR

Dear Ms Pickering

#### **EC REGULATION 338/97 - SALE AND DISPLAY OF MUSEUM SPECIMENS**

1. I refer to your letter of 3 September to my colleague Ms Middleton about the above, which has been passed to me for reply.

2. As you may be aware, the sale of specimens listed in Annex A of the above Regulation is strictly controlled and museums will need an exemption from this Department if they wish to use or display such specimens for commercial purposes. However, special derogations from these prohibitions may be granted to such institutions where such specimens are being used for research or education purposes aimed at the conservation or preservation of the species concerned. Provision may also be made for the movement between certain registered scientists or institutions of non commercial loans, donations, and exchanges of herbarium specimens, preserved dried, or embedded museum specimens and live plant material for scientific study, using a special labelling system. The sale, etc of worked items acquired before 1 June 1947 is covered by a Community-wide derogation.

3. For the moment the commercial display of museum or herbarium specimens is covered by two general exemptions (GEX/18 and 19) which expire at the end of 1998. However, these will be reviewed at the end of this year and we will be writing to all the major institutions advising them what they need to do to apply for a certificate under these Regulations. Your assistance in forwarding this information to your members would therefore be much appreciated.

4. Detailed guidance on these matters is currently being prepared and I will forward this to you for information as soon as it is available. In the meantime if you have any further queries on this matter please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely  
R A Ford  
Global Wildlife Division

### Footnote

The DOE have agreed that Registration will serve as a means of identifying museums able to hold exemption certificates . . . thank heavens . . . and further details will be published soon! So definitely do not panic.

Jane Pickering

### Acquisition and Conservation Grants

What do a fossil starfish in York, an early geological map of the British Isles in Cornwall and a collection of lepidoptera in Luton have in common? The answer is that all three have benefited from the support of the MGC/Science Museum PRISM Grant Fund. PRISM can offer grants of up to £20,000 towards the cost of acquiring and/or conserving all kinds of industrial and scientific material, including biological, geological and palaeontological specimens, as well as archives and rare books.

The Fund is keen to encourage more applications from natural history collections, particularly for conservation projects. PRISM covers the whole of England and Wales. Museums that are registered with the Museums and Galleries Commission are automatically eligible for the Fund. Applications from other organisations, such as charitable trusts engaged in the preservation of historic material, record offices and archives can also be considered.

If you would like more details of the Fund, or if you think you have a project which would be eligible for support, please contact the Fund Manager, Simon Chaplin, or the Assistant Manager, Sam Evans, on 0171 938 8005, by email at [s.chaplin@nmsi.ac.uk](mailto:s.chaplin@nmsi.ac.uk), or by post at the following address:

MGC/Science Museum PRISM Fund  
Science Museum  
Exhibition Road  
London SW7 2DD