

# VINCE.

900 N. CAHUENGA BLVD, LOS ANGELES, CA 90038 TEL (323)761-6010 FAX (323)936-7354

## FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE (FWS) REQUIREMENTS

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) regulates the importation and exportation of animal products in and out of the United States. As an importer, V Opco, LLC, formerly known as Vince, LLC, (“Vince”), is held to very strict standards by these government agencies.

***Failure by the Company’s supplier or agent to comply with FWS will result in the delay of clearance of goods into the U.S. and/or delay in payment to the vendor. Any fines and penalties issued by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and state level agencies against the Company can be traced back to the supplier or agent. If negligence is determined, the associated fines or penalties will be passed to the associated supplier or agent.***

Therefore, it is extremely important that all shipments containing any aviary, reptilian, mammalian, or marine life product be disclosed to the company at the time of purchase order placement. Clear and accurate identification of the species information on the HTS Classification Worksheet is critical in meeting these strict regulatory guidelines.

### **TYPES OF ANIMALS SUBJECT TO FISH & WILDLIFE REVIEW**

Common items subject to U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service review (includes, but not limited to):

- Sweaters containing any amount of yak hair.
- Fur coats or coats with fur trim of fox, coyote, raccoon, and mink.
- Garments with buttons of shell or horn.
- Handbags of alligator, crocodile, and snake.

### **FINE ANIMAL HAIR**

All products containing ANY amount of fine animal hair (including trims and linings) may be subject to Fish & Wildlife review. “Fine animal hair” includes, but are not limited to, the hair of alpaca, llama, vicuna, camel (including dromedary), yak, Angora, Tibetan, Kashmir or similar goats (but not common goats), rabbit (including Angora rabbit), hare, beaver, nutria or muskrat.

*All fine animal hair products should be sourced from domesticated animals (i.e. cattle raised) and not from the wild. Supplier must confirm the scientific name of the animal and the source, whether wild caught or domestic.*

### **FUR SKIN**

All products containing ANY amount fur skin (including trims and linings) may be subject to Fish & Wildlife review. “Fur skin” includes, but are not limited to, mink, lamb, fox, hare, rabbit, beaver, muskrat, nutria, lynx, marten, sable, fisher, raccoon, or seal.

*All fur skin products should be sourced from domesticated animals (i.e. cattle raised) and not from the wild. Supplier must confirm the scientific name of the animal and the source, whether wild caught or domestic.*

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## **SHELL AND HORN PRODUCTS**

All products made with shell parts or parts of horn (ie. buttons) will require FWS clearance.

*For shipments with shells of Philippines origin, a copy of the Bureau of Aquatic Fisheries Certificate or Commodity Clearance Form and an Explanation Letter is required for proper FWS clearance. Please make sure these documents accompany with the shipping documents.*

## **PRODUCTS OF FEATHERS (NON-DOMESTICATED)**

Products containing ANY amount of feathers from **non-domesticated** and **migratory birds** are subject to Fish & Wildlife review.

*The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) makes it illegal for anyone to take, possess, import, export, transport, sell, purchase, barter, or offer for sale, purchase, or barter, any migratory bird, or the parts, nests, or eggs of such a bird except under the terms of a valid permit issued pursuant to Federal regulations.*

If you are a vendor that utilizes any part of a bird in a commodity sold to the company it will be important to ensure that the species does not fall subject to the Migratory Bird Act. To determine if the species in your commodities is subject to the Migratory Bird Act, refer to the following link: [MBTA Protected Species List](#)

## **CITES**

The purpose for CITES is to protect endangered species by regulating and monitoring the international trade of certain protected species. Protected species are organized into three categories according to their level of threat.

- APPENDIX I:** International trade is prohibited
- APPENDIX II:** Commercial trade is allowed but strictly regulated
- APPENDIX III:** Includes controlled species, where the species is protected within its home state

Any manufacturer utilizing a fish or wildlife component in their product must ensure that proper documentation is obtained from the wildlife authorities in the exporting country. Suppliers are required to research the fish or wildlife component by visiting the [CITES website](#) for the [list of species](#) protected by CITES, as well as reviewing the attached [document](#) for import/export requirements.

***If the Company imports any products that fall under Appendices II and III, an original CITES Certificate issued by the country of production must be obtained PRIOR to export from origin. The supplier should contact the Company's Logistics & Compliance team with the species name and country of origin to determine whether a CITES Certificate is required PRIOR to export.***

## **DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS**

***The following information is required on the HTS Classification Worksheet and commercial invoice for ALL SHIPMENTS that contain any amount of fine animal hair, fur skin, and/or shell products:***

- Common name
- Scientific name (Genus, Species)
- Origin of wildlife

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- Source of wildlife (Domesticated or Wild)
- Cost Breakdown of the Fish & Wildlife item (example: number of shell buttons per item and value of shell material per piece)
- Quantity (for buttons, list the total number of buttons used)
- List the carton number(s) containing products subject to FWS

It is the vendor's responsibility to provide the above information on the HTS Classification Worksheet and the commercial invoice. Additionally, the vendor must not source product from an open market; the source must be reputable and the vendor must be able to provide documentation in support of wildlife, if necessary.

## **CONTACTS**

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