



Alliance Guidance for Letters of Invitation

Re: Non-commercial International Travel with Pernambuco Bows

New international environmental regulations are now in effect—as of March 5, 2026. It is possible for musicians, teachers, students, makers, dealers, and collectors to travel internationally or ship their Pernambuco bows without permits as long as the bows are not for sale *and* are returned to their home country. This would include bows traveling to and from events (music education programs, including music camps), exhibitions, and competitions.

The Alliance (International Alliance of Violin and Bow Makers for Endangered Species) strongly recommends that organizers send a **letter of invitation** to all participants who might be bringing or shipping bows across international borders to your organization's event. This letter of invitation, which includes all event details, might be needed at the border to justify travel and to verify that the bows are traveling for **non-commercial purposes**, exempt from international permit requirements.

The Alliance also strongly recommends that all attendees have their bow expert provide them with a **document of bow materials** verifying the pre-2007 status of their pernambuco. This might be important to show if needed at the border and you might decide that it is mandatory for participation in your organization's event.

In order to make this process as easy for you as possible, the Alliance has created a fillable form (continue to the next page) to be used as a Letter of Invitation. In our form, we've included instructions to the attendees regarding all of the above concerns. Note that you can even add your logo in the upper-right-hand corner if you wish.

Questions? Email vicepresident@alliance-international.org

Dear

We are pleased to welcome you to the upcoming event which I have detailed below. We also wish to inform you of how to be prepared for your upcoming international travel to meet new environmental regulations designed to protect Pernambuco, the most common wood used in the making of stringed instrument bows.

EVENT:

HOST ORGANIZATION:

EVENT LOCATION:

DATES:

**Note to attendee: This event is a strictly non-commercial event
(no international bow sales or purchases without permits, in compliance with CITES regulations).**

1. **Get a *Document of Bow Materials*** as soon as possible (sample form: alliance-international.org/documentation-of-bow-materials) for your bow from your bow expert.
2. **Make copies** of all travel documents (leave the originals at home!), including Document of Bow Materials, this invitation, and all other event information. Keep these in your case and only show them if problems arise. Similarly, if shipping, share **copies** of all documentation with shipper, and include **copies** in shipping box. *Be prepared!*
3. **Take action.** Pernambuco is an endangered species endemic to Brazil. This is a critical time for *all* music stakeholders to play their role in pernambuco conservation, including staying up-to-date on international environmental regulations.