



## Alliance Guidance for Musician Travel

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### Musicians: International Travel with Pernambuco Bows | May 2026

New CITES regulations are now in effect for Pernambuco bows, new and old—as of March 5, 2026. It is still possible for musicians to travel internationally with their Pernambuco bows without needing permits “for the purpose of paid and unpaid performance, personal use, display, loan, competition, teaching, appraisal or repair, provided that this does not change the ownership and that such transport is not for sale, transfer or disposal of the specimen outside of the owner’s usual country of residence.” However, if a musician intends to buy or sell a bow internationally, now, CITES permits will be required.

As the CITES policy is being rolled out for all of us, including customs agents, we strongly recommend—for the safety of your bows and to avoid potential delays at the border—that you bring with you information about your bows and about your travel plans.

### What documents are needed?

1. Get a **Document of Bow Materials from your bow expert** in advance of your trip. This document is helpful in verifying that you are the owner of those specific bows and that the bows that leave the country are the same bows that return. This information shows compliance with the new CITES regulations. [[alliance-international.org/documentation-of-bow-materials](https://alliance-international.org/documentation-of-bow-materials)]
2. Get a **Letter of Invitation** in advance of your trip from the venue or organization which includes all event details (dates, locations, contracts, emails, etc.) that might be needed at the border to justify travel and to verify that the bows are traveling for non-commercial purposes, exempt from CITES permit requirements. [[alliance-international.org/letter-of-invitation](https://alliance-international.org/letter-of-invitation)]

**Keep copies of these documents in your instrument case and only show them if problems arise.  
*Be prepared!***

**Questions?** Email [vicepresident@alliance-international.org](mailto:vicepresident@alliance-international.org)

Musicians have a unique role to play in educating the greater musical community about the environmental threat to Pernambuco. Thank you for honoring both the importance of complying with CITES regulations that monitor international trade and the need to mobilize for the conservation of the species. Thank you for your cooperation.