

Trade in seal products



European Commission, DG ENV.F.3

The Basic Regulation

[Regulation \(EC\) No 1007/2009](#) on Trade in Seal Products, as amended by [Regulation \(EU\) 2015/1775](#), prohibits the placing of seal products on the EU market, with two exceptions:

- The “Inuit or other indigenous communities” exception allows the placing, provided several conditions are fulfilled and the seal products are accompanied by an official document attesting their origin.
- An occasional import of seal products is allowed for the personal use of travellers or their families.

The Implementing Regulation

[Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2015/1850](#) provides for:

- The requirements for importing seal products for the personal use of travellers or their families.
- The recognition of government bodies to certify compliance with the "Inuit or other indigenous communities" exception, and to issue attesting documents. Three bodies have been recognised by the Commission so far: in [Greenland](#), [Nunavut](#) (Canada) and the [Northwest Territories of Canada](#).
- The designation of competent authorities in the EU Member States.

Some remarks

- With the amendment to the Regulation of 2015, Member States are still allowed to hunt seals for the sustainable management of their marine resources, but the resulting products cannot be placed on the EU market anymore.
- The processing of seal products in the EU and re-export of the processed goods outside the EU is not banned under Regulation (EC) 1007/2009.
- Member States who have communities who hunt seals for their subsistence are entitled to apply the first exception.

The Seal Pups Directive

[Council Directive 89/370/EEC](#) outlines measures for EU Member States to prohibit imports of products from pups of harp and hooded seals. It does not apply to products from Inuit or other indigenous communities.

Recent developments

- [Commission Report COM\(2023\)633](#) on the implementation of the Seals Regulation for the period 2019-2022 has been adopted on 19 October 2023.
- In 2024, the Commission will launch an evaluation of the EU Seal Regime, starting with a public consultation, targeted consultations with the EU Member States (mainly those around the Baltic Sea) and other stakeholders, and a call for scientific evidence. Based on the evaluation findings, the Commission will consider whether further measures are needed.
- Up-to-date information is available on our webpage [Trade in Seal Products webpage on EUROPA](#).



Thank you!

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