Implementation of the HTS in the EU

Leg hold Trap Regulation -91

Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards between the EC, Canada and Russia, Agreed Minute with the USA
Council Regulation (EEC) No 3254/91

prohibits both the use of leg hold traps in the Community and the introduction into the Community of pelts and manufactured goods of certain wild animal species originating in countries which catch them by means of leg hold traps or trapping methods which do not meet international humane trapping standards.
Article 1

Leghold trap means a device designed to restrain or capture an animal by means of jaws which close tightly upon one or more of the animal's limbs, thereby preventing withdrawal of the limb or limbs from the trap.
Use of LHT in the EU and Importation

Use of leghold traps in the Community shall be prohibited by 1 January 1995 at the latest.

Introduction into the Community of the pelts and goods of the animal species listed in Annex I shall be prohibited as of 1 January 1995
Animal species listed

Beaver: *Castor canadensis*, Otter: *Lutra canadensis*
Coyote: *Canis latrans*, Wolf: *Canis lupus*
Lynx: *Lynx canadensis*, Bobcat: *Felis rufus*
Sable: *Martes zibellina*, Raccoon: *Procyon lotor*
Musk rat: *Ondatra zibethicus*,
Fisher: *Martes pennanti*, Badger: *Taxidea taxus*,
Marten: *Martes americana*, Ermine: *Mustela erminea*
Exemption from prohibition

• Pelts originate
  – in a country with adequate administrative or legislative provisions to prohibit the use of leg hold traps
  – in a country where the trapping methods used for the species listed in Annex I meet internationally agreed humane tapping standards
Implementation

- The Regulation is completed by a Commission Decision listing those countries from which pelts and goods can be accepted, as last amended by Commission Decision (98/596/EC).
Reasons for an agreement on HTS

- ISO had started to develop standards on humane trapping
- Speed up the identification of humane trapping standards
- To avoid trade disputes with the major fur exporting countries
1998 Agreement  AIHTS

on international humane trapping
standards between the EC, Canada and
the Russian Federation

concluded by Council Decision 98/142/EC

Agreed Minute with the USA on the same subject
Objectives of the AIHTS

• to establish standards on human trapping methods

• to improve communication and cooperation between the Parties for the implementation and development of these standards

• to facilitate trade between the Parties
Humane Trapping Methods

Humane trapping methods means the traps certified by competent authorities that are in conformity with the humane trapping standards and used in the setting conditions specified by the manufacturers.
Article 7
Commitment of the Parties

- Certification of traps in accordance with Standards
- Prohibition of use of traps not certified in accordance with the Standards
- Manufacturers to identify certified traps and provide instructions for handling
Article 8
Implementation of Standards

• Appropriate processes in place for
  ✔ granting or removing permission
  ✔ enforcing legislation

• Training

• Trap testing guidelines - domestic certification processes
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Animal species concerned</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Coyote</td>
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<td>Otter E</td>
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<td>Otter NA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pine marten</td>
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Killing Traps

- Time limit to loss of corneal and palpebral reflex
  - 45 seconds: Mustela erminea
  - 120 seconds: Martes americana, Martes zibellina, Martes martes
  - 300 seconds: All other species listed

- This time limit will be reviewed with the aim to adapt the time limit requirement on a species-by-species basis, with a view to lowering the 300 seconds time limit to 180 seconds, and to define a time-frame for implementation.
Restraining traps

In the evaluation of whether trapping method meets HTS the welfare of the trapped animal must be assessed using parameters which must include indicators of behaviour and injury.
Final provisions

• Article 14 of the Agreement establishes the Joint Management Committee comprising representatives of the Parties, may consider any matters relating to this Agreement and may propose amendments to it.

• According to Article 17, the Agreement is not self-executing and therefore, each Party must implement the commitments and obligations arising from this Agreement in accordance with its internal procedures.
Implementation of HTS in the EU

- Scientific study on HTS
- Identification of HTS
- A proposal