

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

legehold 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 trapping 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)

Commission Regulation (EC) No 35/97 lays down provisions on the certification of pelts and goods covered by Council Regulation 3254/91.

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

Animal species concerned

Coyote

Fischer

Raccoon

Lynx E

Badger E

Raccoon dog

Beaver NA

Marten

Sable

Badger NA

Otter E

Pine marten

Bobcat

Muskrat

Ermine

Lynx NA

Wolf

Beaver E

Otter NA

Killing Traps

Time limit to loss of corneal and palpebral reflex

45 seconds	<i>Mustela erminea</i>
120 seconds	<i>Martes americana</i> , <i>Martes zibellina</i> , <i>Martes martes</i>
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