



The **United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA)** includes comprehensive environmental provisions that **aim to protect the environment and the economy** by strengthening the enforcement of environmental laws in U.S., Mexico, and Canada. CBP plays a critical role in enforcing the Environment Chapter, Chapter 24, of the Agreement.



USMCA Chapter 24

▶ **USMCA Chapter 24** addresses environmental issues like **illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, illegal logging, wildlife trafficking, air pollution, and marine litter**, which threaten the environment as well as local and international economies.

▶ **CBP's authority to enforce environmental laws as a part of the USMCA is directly tied to seven key multilateral environmental agreements** included in the Agreement including but not limited to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. The agency also leverages environmental legislation like the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the Lacey Act, which all help to protect vulnerable ecosystems, flora, and fauna as well as local and international communities who rely on these critical natural resources.

Monitoring and Enforcement Mechanisms

- ▶ CBP is one of 11 government agencies involved in the **Interagency Environment Committee for Monitoring and Enforcement**, which implements, monitors, and enforces these environmental agreements.
- ▶ The **Customs Verification Agreement** is a separate agreement between the **U.S. and Mexico regarding specific shipments of fish, timber, and wildlife (including live) products**. It allows the parties to request information and verify whether an importer has provided accurate and adequate documentation demonstrating shipment legality.
- ▶ **Submission on Enforcement Matters:** If you have reasons to believe that an environmental law is not being effectively enforced by Canada, Mexico, or the U.S. assertions can be filed through the [Secretariat of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation](#), in accordance with Article 24.27 of the USMCA. The USMCA Environment Chapter encourages public participation.



CBP Goals

GOAL 1

Improve CBP's enforcement tools and enhance collaboration among CBP and partner agencies to produce and utilize intelligence and data that will effectively target high-risk shipments for inspections and entities for verifications.

GOAL 2

Expand U.S. border enforcement capacity to implement environmental obligations of the USMCA, specifically concerning but not limited to illegal logging and associated trade and illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing.

GOAL 3

Expand CBP's engagement with the trade community to ensure compliance with U.S. laws and regulations associated with the environmental obligations under USMCA, facilitate legitimate imports, and effectively manage risks and enforcement resources.



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