

Publishing a Permit or its Equivalent Constituting an Internationally Recognized Certificate of Compliance (IRCC)

Introduction to the Access and Benefit-Sharing Clearing-House (ABSCH)

The Access and Benefit-Sharing Clearing-House (ABSCH) (<http://absch.cbd.int>) is a platform for sharing information related to access and benefit-sharing in order to enhance legal certainty and transparency on procedures for access and benefit-sharing, and for monitoring the utilization of genetic resources along the value chain, including through the internationally recognized certificate of compliance. In particular, it provides access to the information made available by each Party relevant to the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. For additional information you are invited to read the “About the ABSCH” (<http://absch.cbd.int/about>) section on the ABSCH website.

Minimum Requirements

- Please ensure you are using the latest version of a popular internet browser, such as: Chrome, Firefox or Internet Explorer 9+.
- To submit records you will need to have a [CBD Account](#).
- To publish national records you will need a CBD Account, as well as the appropriate permissions to access and publish information on behalf of your Government.
- Please ensure you are following the latest version of this guide. Download the latest version here: <https://absch.cbd.int/help/guides>

Getting help

The CBD Secretariat is available to provide technical support, answer any questions, and receive feedback on the use of the ABSCH. Contact us by email at absch@cbd.int or via the live chat service available on the ABSCH website for immediate technical support.

Introduction to the Internationally Recognized Certificate of Compliance (IRCC)

In accordance with [Article 6, paragraph 3\(e\)](#), of the Nagoya Protocol, Parties that require prior informed consent (PIC) must provide for the issuance of a permit or equivalent at the time of access. The permit or its equivalent issued must also be made available to the ABSCH in order to constitute an internationally recognized certificate of compliance (IRCC) ([Article 17, paragraph 2](#)).

[Article 17, paragraph 3](#), further establishes that the IRCC shall serve as evidence that the genetic resource which it covers has been accessed in accordance with prior informed consent (PIC) and that mutually agreed terms (MAT) have been established, as required by the domestic access and benefit-sharing legislation or regulatory requirements of the Party providing prior informed consent.

The Protocol also provides that the IRCC shall contain the following minimum information, when it is not confidential: issuing authority, date, provider, unique identifier of the certificate, the person or entity to whom prior informed consent was granted, subject-matter or genetic resources covered by the certificate, confirmation that MAT were established, confirmation that PIC was obtained, and commercial and/or non-commercial use.

The IRCC plays a key role in enhancing transparency and monitoring the utilization of genetic resources along the value chain (research, development, innovation, pre-commercialization or commercialization). The IRCC helps by providing solutions to problems that can arise when utilization takes place outside of the provider’s country.

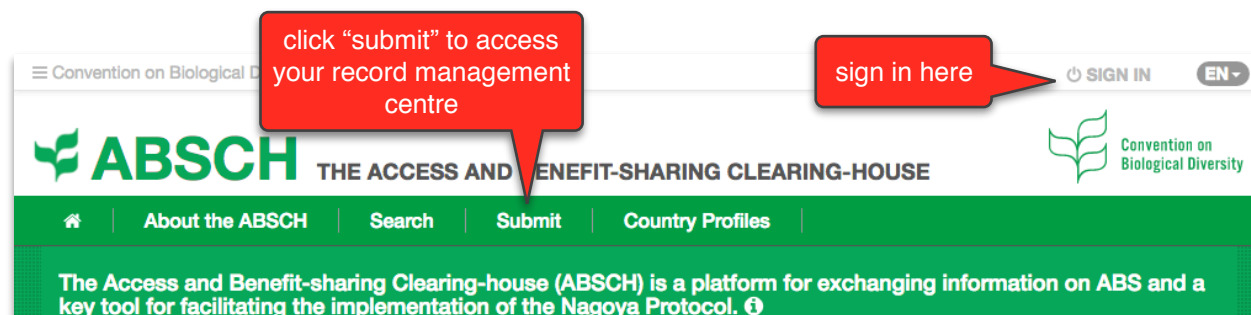
Some ways the IRCC can help when utilization takes place outside of the provider’s country

| Problem | Solution |
|---|--|
| Permits or their equivalents issued by countries can come in different formats and in different languages. These differences can make it difficult when used as evidence of compliance with the country providing the genetic resource outside of the provider’s country. | A permit or its equivalent is entered into the ABSCH through a standardized format and in one or more of the six official languages of the United Nations. Once a permit or its equivalent is published on the ABSCH an IRCC is immediately generated and available online. |
| Permits or their equivalents may contain confidential information and therefore can be problematic to share. | The IRCC is a representation of the permit or its equivalent at the international level. It creates a standardized and transparent way for provider countries to provide to users with evidence that the genetic resource that it covers has been accessed in accordance with PIC and that MAT has been established in compliance with the domestic requirements of the provider country without giving away confidential information. |

Publishing a Permit or its Equivalent Constituting an Internationally Recognized Certificate of Compliance (IRCC)

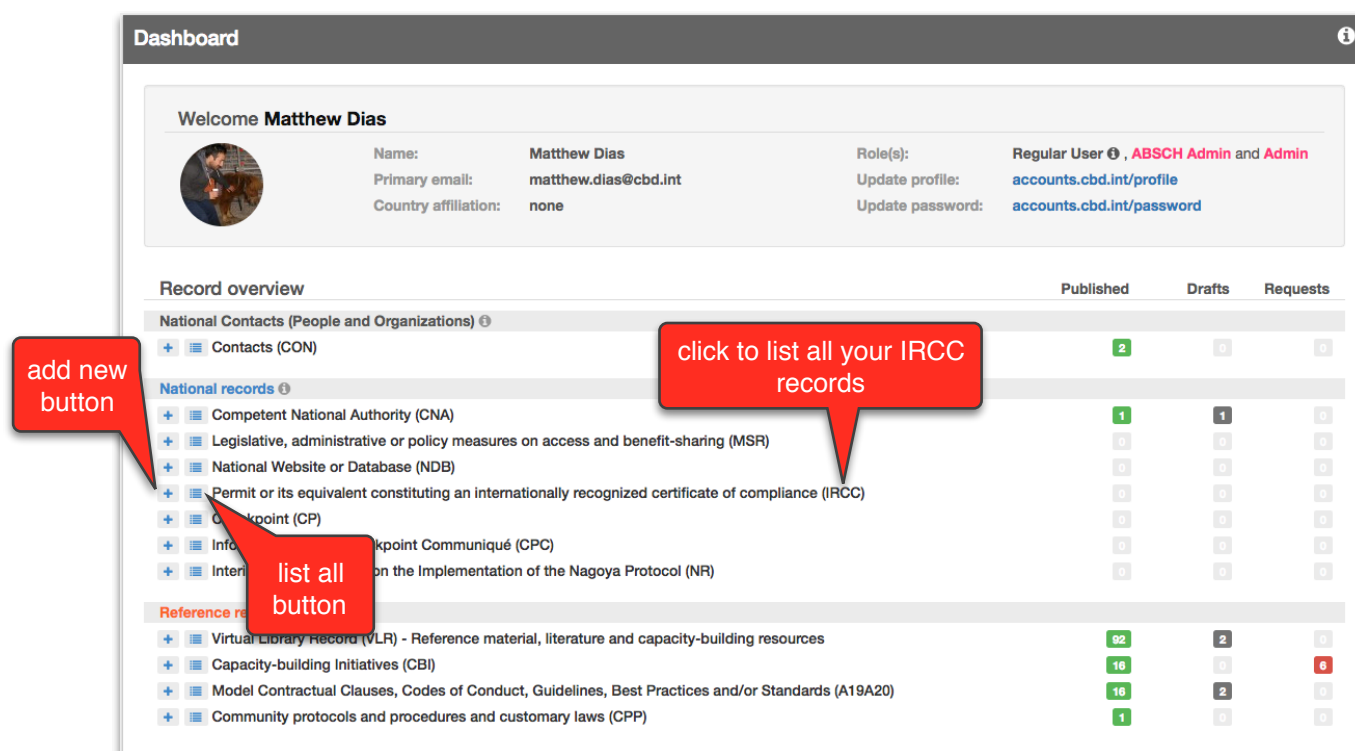
Step 1: Sign in to the ABSCH

Open an up-to-date and current version of your favourite internet browser and go to <http://absch.cbd.int>. To sign in, click the “SIGN IN” button located at the very top right corner of any page, and enter your email and password. For help creating an account, please refer to the guide: [Creating and managing your CBD Account](#).



Step 2: Go to your record management centre

Once signed in, click on “Submit” in the main navigation bar to open the record management centre. The dashboard provides an overview of all national records for your country. To submit information on a permit or equivalent click on “Permit or its equivalent constituting an internationally recognized certificate of compliance (IRCC)” link to load the list page displaying all IRCC records.



Step 3: Fill out the form

From the page listing your IRCC records, to add a new record, click on the “[Add New](#)” button located in the top right corner of the panel. This will open a new submission form. To edit an existing record click the edit button associated with the record you want to edit.

Permit or its equivalent constituting an internationally recognized certificate of compliance (IRCC)

add new

Refresh Add New

| Title | Last published | Last updated | Status | 10 Record(s) |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------|--------------|
| ASDF8888 ABSCHDEV-IRCC-CY-208325-2 DRAFT | Stami Zafiriou 24 Nov 2016 10:58 | Stamatia Zafiriou 29 Nov 2016 11:32 | Published Draft | |
| ASDF8888 ABSCHDEV-IRCC-CY-208322-1 | Stami Zafiriou 23 Nov 2016 14:25 | | | |
| MX RegSim 01-2016 ABSCHDEV-IRCC-MX-207596-2 | Matthew Dias 12 Aug 2016 11:29 | | | |
| MX RegSim 01-2016 ABSCHDEV-IRCC-MX-207582-2 | Matthew Dias 11 Aug 2016 14:18 | Matthew Dias 11 Aug 2016 14:18 | Published | |
| MX RegSim 01-2016 ABSCHDEV-IRCC-MX-207532-2 | Matthew Dias 11 Aug 2016 14:14 | Matthew Dias 11 Aug 2016 14:14 | Published | |

use these button to copy, edit or revoke an existing record

IRCC and confidential information

Article 17, paragraph 4, of the Nagoya Protocol provides that the IRCC shall contain certain minimum information, when it is not confidential. Following this provision, the common format for the IRCC requires mandatory minimum information along with the possibility to identify some of these fields as confidential. The mandatory information that may be confidential is:

- the provider;
- the person or entity to whom prior informed consent (PIC) was granted;
- the subject-matter or genetic resources covered by the permit or its equivalent; and
- whether the permit or its equivalent covers commercial and/or non-commercial use.

The mandatory information that cannot be confidential is: the issuing authority, the date of issuance, the unique identifier, and confirmation that PIC was granted and that MAT was established.

Responsibilities of the Publishing Authority (PA)

The ABSCH does not host any confidential information and all information published in the ABSCH is publicly available and can be accessed by the general public. Therefore, the PA plays an important role in ensuring that no confidential information is published in the ABSCH.

The PA is responsible for:

- Authorizing the publication of all national records registered in the ABSCH;
- Ensuring that the information made available on the ABSCH is complete, relevant and kept up-to-date;
- Ensuring that no confidential information is published in the ABSCH; and
- Managing the designation of the national authorized users (NAUs).

Section: General information and issuing authority.

click for more information on how to complete the form

EN -

English -

Close

Save Draft

Publish

SUBMISSION FORM

REVIEW

General information

Country *

Cyprus

click review to check for missing information

add or change the language of submission form

Country cannot be changed.

Links to other internationally recognized certificate(s) of compliance (IRCC) that relate(s) to this permit

Sometimes a permit can be related to other previously issued permits, for instance to a permit for accessing a soil sample. Depending on the MAT, it is possible that some countries decide to issue specific permits for subsequently identified genetic resources from the taken soil sample. For such cases, the ABS Clearing-House offers the possibility to link different IRCCs together. IRCCs linked through this mechanism will be displayed together and thus facilitate tracking of the IRCCs.

+ Add record(s)

No records have been linked.

Issuing Authority

Competent national authority (CNA) responsible for issuing this permit or its equivalent *

+ Add record

No records have been linked.

Only published records can be linked. If the CNA is not yet published, you can save this draft and come back to link the CNA after it is published.

an asterisk (*) indicates a mandatory field

Section: Details of the permit or its equivalent

Details of the permit or its equivalent

Reference number of the permit or its equivalent *

This field will also appear as the title of this record.

EN

The reference number of the permit or its equivalent will also appear as the title of the record. Providing the reference number of the original permit or its equivalent can help to locate the permit equivalent, if ever needed.

Additional national references or identifiers

Please provide information on any national identifiers that may aid users to search and retrieve information related to the permit or its equivalent.

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Entering an expiry date is optional, however, when applicable, the publishing authority will receive a notification two months before the permit expires inviting them to verify the record and take any appropriate action.

Date of issuance of the permit or its equivalent *

This field refers to the date of issuance of the national permit. This information is mandatory and key to ensure legal certainty regarding the right of the user to utilize the genetic resource covered by the permit.

YYYY-MM-DD

Date of expiry of the permit or its equivalent

Two months before the permit expires, an email is sent to the CNA alerting of the date of expiry of the IRCC. After the date of expiry of the permit, the IRCC constituted from that information will be marked as expired.

YYYY-MM-DD

Section: Prior Informed Consent (PIC) Information

Prior Informed Consent (PIC) Information

☐ This information is confidential

Click the checkbox to indicate when mandatory information is confidential.

The provider *

Please provide the name and contact details of the person or entity that holds the right to grant access to the genetic resources in accordance with domestic legislation.

+ Add record(s)

No records have been linked.

Only published records will be available to be added or linked.

Confirmation that prior informed consent (PIC) was obtained or granted *

If PIC has not been obtained or granted, this record cannot be posted in the ABS Clearing-House and, therefore, the internationally recognized certificate of compliance will not be issued.

Yes

Click 'Yes' if PIC was obtained or granted. Confirmation that PIC was granted is necessary before it is possible to publish the record and generate the IRCC.

Additional information about the prior informed consent (PIC)

If applicable, please provide any additional information about the prior informed consent (PIC). Detailed information may be provided in an attached document

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Additional information about the prior informed consent (PIC) - Documents

If applicable, please provide the link or upload the documents.

+ Add link

+ Add file

☐ This information is confidential

Person or entity to whom prior informed consent (PIC) was granted *

Please provide the name and contact details of the person or entity to whom prior informed consent was granted. If the information is marked as confidential that person will not be able to receive the courtesy copy of the IRCC or the CPC.

+ Add record(s)

No records have been linked.

When information such as 'the provider' or 'the person or entity to whom PIC was granted' is marked as confidential they will not automatically receive a copy of the IRCC generated by the ABSCH when the information is published.

Section: Mutually Agreed Terms (MAT) Information

It is important to include in the form conditions included in the MAT that you consider relevant to assist in the monitoring of the utilization of the genetic resource. For example sometimes access to genetic resources could be granted only for specified uses (e.g., for medical use), or on the contrary access could be granted for multiple uses but with specific restrictions applying (e.g., restriction to obtain intellectual property rights).

Mutually Agreed Terms (MAT) Information

Confirmation that mutually agreed terms (MAT) were established *

If no mutually agreed terms (MAT) have been established, this record cannot be published in the ABS Clearing-House and, therefore, an internationally recognized certificate of compliance can not be issued.

Click 'Yes' if MAT was established. This confirmation is necessary before it is possible to publish the record and generate the IRCC.

Additional information about the mutually agreed terms (MAT) - Information

If applicable, please provide any information about the MAT. For example, this may include information on conditions for access and for benefit-sharing and other relevant information included in the MAT. Detailed information may be provided in an attached document.

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Additional information can help verify or monitor if the utilization along the value chain taking place is in accordance with the terms agreed. Therefore it is important to provide a clear and concise summary of information in this section.

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Additional information about the mutually agreed terms (MAT) - Documents

If applicable, please provide the link or upload the documents.

Section: Subject-matter or genetic resource

Subject-matter or genetic resource

☐ This information is confidential

Subject-matter or genetic resources covered by the permit or its equivalent *

Please provide information on the subject matter or genetic resources covered by the permit. This could include biota at any taxonomic rank, which may carry a taxonomic name. It may also include a locality of collection of the material. It may also be possible to identify the genetic resource through reference to a voucher specimen or field notes held in an identified archive or collection.

B I [List Icon] [List Icon] C ↺ ↻

Information on the subject matter can be confidential. However, information is submitted in a free text box allowing the user the flexibility to provide some information without giving away any confidential information. Any information entered here should be clear and concise.

EN

Additional subject matter or genetic resource information

Providing details about the subject matter or genetic resource covered by the permit or its equivalent can provide additional legal certainty.

Specimen data

Link to a voucher specimen held in an appropriate facility

Add link

Taxonomy

Link to record in external taxonomy database, e.g. GBIF, Catalogue of Life

Add link

Geographic coordinates

Limited to .geojson files (<http://www.geojson.org/>)

Add file

Keywords to describe the subject-matter or genetic resource(s) covered by the permit or its equivalent

The collection of this information is important for facilitating harmonized searches throughout the records. Please select all relevant keywords that could assist in describing the subject-matter or genetic resource(s) covered by the permit or its equivalent.

Nothing selected... ▾

These keywords will help tag the record with the correct information for improved results when searching

Section: Information on the utilization of the genetic resource(s)

Where a permit or its equivalent establish conditions or restrictions regarding the transfer of the permit or rights over the genetic resources to a third party, it will help to make this information available on the IRCC to be able to help monitor the utilization of the genetic resources.

Information on the utilization of the genetic resource(s)

The information included in this section of the IRCC is meant to allow anyone verifying that the use of the genetic resource at any stage of research, development, innovation, pre-commercialization or commercialization is done in accordance with the conditions of use of PIC and MAT.

☐ This information is confidential

Click the checkbox to indicate when mandatory information is confidential.

Indicate if the permit or its equivalent covers commercial and/or non-commercial use *
 Nothing selected...

Additional information about the specified uses covered by the permit or its equivalent or use restrictions

Access can be granted only for specified uses (e.g. for medical use), or on the contrary access could be granted for multiple uses but with specific restrictions applying (e.g. restriction to obtain intellectual property rights). If applicable, please provide any additional information about the specific uses or any use restrictions covered by the permit or its equivalent.

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It is important to provide concise summary of information in these sections, as they can help with the verification and monitoring. Please remember that information submitted to the ABSCH will be made public, and therefore, confidential information should not be submitted.

EN

Conditions for third party transfer

Where a permit or its equivalent establish conditions or restrictions regarding the transfer to a third party, it will help to make this information available through the ABS Clearing-House in order to monitor the utilization of genetic resources and enhance legal certainty.

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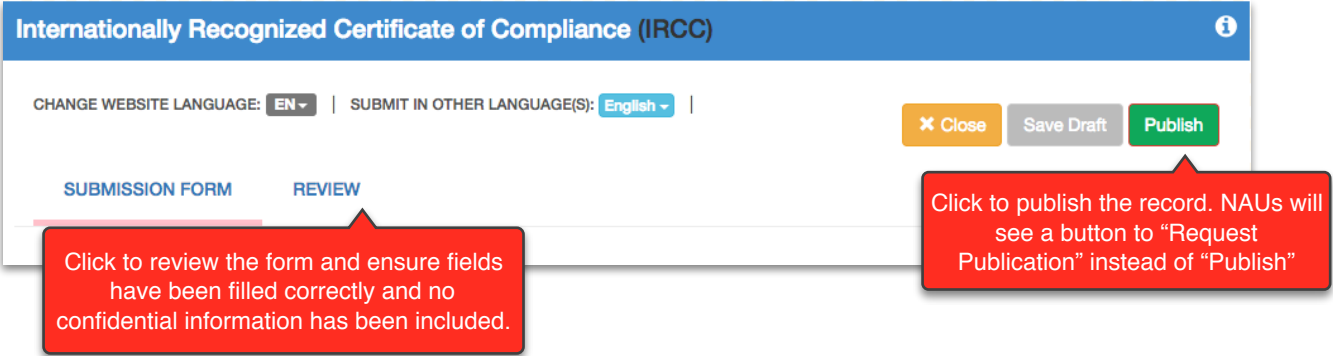
EN

Section: Documentation

In the remaining section on documentation you may attach a copy of the permit or its equivalent and any additional useful information.

Step 4: Submitting the information for publication

Once you have filled the form, nationally authorized users (NAUs) can click “Request Publication” to send a request to the publishing authority to verify and approve publication of the record. If you are the publishing authority, then you can click on “Publish” to directly publish the record in the ABSCH. Please remember to review the record prior to its publication to ensure that no confidential information has been included.



Once this information is published in the ABSCH, an IRCC is constituted. The ABSCH will then send a courtesy copy of the internationally recognized certificate by email to:

- The national focal point (NFP) and the competent national authority/ies (CNA) of the country responsible for issuing the permit or its equivalent;
- The provider, if this information is not confidential; and
- The person or entity to whom prior informed consent was granted, if this information is not confidential.

Step 5: Updating or revoking an IRCC

Each IRCC is meant to be kept in-sync with the permit or equivalent it represents. If the information in the national permit or equivalent changes, this change should also be reflected in the IRCC. IRCCs can either be updated or revoked. For transparency and traceability, an IRCC cannot be deleted only revoked or cancelled. Each time an IRCC is changed a copy of the previous record is archived in an amendment history that is included with the record.

| Permit or its equivalent constituting an internationally recognized certificate of compliance (IRCC) | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------|--|--|
| <div><div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All 10</div><div><input type="checkbox"/> Requests 0</div><div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Published 10</div><div><input type="checkbox"/> Drafts 1</div><div>Keyword</div></div> <div><div>Refresh</div><div>Add New</div></div> | | | | | |
| Title | Last published | Last updated | Status | 10 Record(s) | |
| ASDF8888 ABSCHDEV-IRCC-CY-208325-2 DRAFT | Stami Zafiriou 24 Nov 2016 10:58 | Stamatia Zafiriou 29 Nov 2016 11:32 | Published Draft | <div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> | |
| ASDF8888 ABSCHDEV-IRCC-CY-208322-1 | Stami Zafiriou 23 Nov 2016 14:25 | | | <div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> | |
| MX RegSim 01-2016 ABSCHDEV-IRCC-MX-207596-2 | Matthew Dias 12 Aug 2016 11:29 | | | <div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> | |
| MX RegSim 01-2016 ABSCHDEV-IRCC-MX-207582-2 | Matthew Dias 11 Aug 2016 14:18 | Matthew Dias 11 Aug 2016 14:18 | Published | <div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> | |
| MX RegSim 01-2016 ABSCHDEV-IRCC-MX-207532-2 | Matthew Dias 11 Aug 2016 14:14 | Matthew Dias 11 Aug 2016 14:14 | Published | <div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> | |

When editing or updating an IRCC you will need to provide a summary of the reason for the amendment. With a view to ensuring transparency and traceability, the ABSCH will keep previous versions of IRCCs in an archived format. Archived or previous versions are no longer valid.

Internationally Recognized Certificate of Compliance (IRCC)

CHANGE WEBSITE LANGUAGE: EN | SUBMIT IN OTHER LANGUAGE(S): English |

Close

Save Draft

Publish

SUBMISSION FORM

REVIEW

Amendment intent

Please note that by amending a published internationally recognized certificate of compliance (IRCC) a new IRCC will be constituted and the old IRCC will no longer be valid.

Provide a summary of the reason for the update of the record *

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EN

General information

Country *

When viewing an older version of an IRCC, it will be displayed with warning and a link to the latest version, see an example below.

This document has been updated. This is not the latest published version. [Click here to view the latest version of the record.](#)

PERMIT OR ITS EQUIVALENT CONSTITUTING AN INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE (IRCC)

THIS CERTIFICATE HAS BEEN UPDATED. A NEW VERSION HAS BEEN CONSTITUTED AND THIS VERSION IS NO LONGER VALID.

See amendment history for more information.

General information

Country

India

PARTY TO THE NAGOYA PROTOCOL

SIGNATORY

ENTRY INTO FORCE: 12 OCT 2014

When revoking or cancelling a published IRCC you will be asked to provide a summary of the reason for this change.

Confirm change to the following record(s)

PUBLISHED RECORD

Published Internationally Recognized Certificates of Compliance (IRCC) records can only be revoked. A revoked IRCC will no longer be valid and will remain published in the ABSCH for traceability and transparency. Revoked IRCCs will be clearly marked as revoked in the search and display of the record.

Title: national permit number 55555

Unique ID: ABSCHTRG-IRCC-JM-207368

Summary:

English

EN

Provide a summary of the reason for revoking this IRCC

Revoke this IRCC

Cancel

Click to revoke the IRCC

Must provide reason for revoking the IRCC

When an IRCC is revoked or cancelled it is clearly identified, when viewing the record, as being no longer valid.

PERMIT OR ITS EQUIVALENT CONSTITUTING AN INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE (IRCC)

THIS CERTIFICATE HAS BEEN REVOKED AND IS NO LONGER VALID

See amendment history for more information.

General information

Country

Holy See

Download

NON-PARTY

Examining the details of the IRCC, in the section on amendment history, you will be able to see all the changes that have been made to this record. The amendment history is located at the bottom of each IRCC record. You may click on the version's unique identifier to view its complete details.

| Amendment history | | |
|---|-----------|----------------------|
| Unique Identifier | Status | Date |
| ABSCHTRG-IRCC-VA-207642-3 | REVOKED | on 22 Sep 2016 15:19 |
| ABSCHTRG-IRCC-VA-207642-2 | NOT VALID | on 22 Aug 2016 11:08 |
| ABSCHTRG-IRCC-VA-207642-1 | NOT VALID | on 22 Aug 2016 11:05 |
| ABSCHTRG-IRCC-VA-207642-3 22 SEP 2016 | | Report record |

Thank you for following this guide. Was it helpful? Please send us your comments.

The CBD Secretariat is available to provide technical support, answer any questions, and receive feedback on the use of the ABS Clearing-House. Contact us by email at absch@cbd.int or via the live chat service available on the ABSCH website for immediate technical support.