

SARA Authorization Triggers for Critical Habitat Interdepartmental Program (CHIP) funding

CHIP project applicants must ensure compliance with the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) when undertaking any actions affecting species, their residences or habitat that are listed as threatened, endangered or extirpated under Schedule 1 of SARA. The CHIP Secretariat and CHIP review board thoroughly review CHIP project proposals to ensure permitting requirements are adhered to. This guidance document is to assist federal land managers in determining if a project could potentially require a SARA permit in order to be eligible for CHIP funding.

Activities likely to require a SARA authorization

Please be aware that a SARA authorization will be required for the following activities: killing, harming, harassing, capturing, taking, possessing or collecting an individual of a wildlife species that is listed as an extirpated species, an endangered species or a threatened species and damaging or destroying the residence or critical habitat of one or more individuals of a wildlife species that is listed as an endangered species or a threatened species. An authorization will also be required to possess, buy, sell or trade any part or derivative of an individual listed on Schedule 1 of SARA.

Some examples of activities affecting individuals that require SARA authorizations include, but are not limited to, capturing, collecting or manipulating individuals (e.g. netting, trapping, taking measurements, tissue or blood samples, taking injured animals to rescue centres, egg salvage for captive rearing) and activities preventing/altering natural movement (e.g. installing exclusion fencing).

SARA authorizations are likely to be necessary for activities affecting critical habitat (CH) such as invasive species removal, land management or forestry activities in identified CH and residence (e.g. nest or den) destruction/disturbance.

In some situations (e.g. building a trail, repairing damaged infrastructure, etc.), it may be difficult to identify all species and the number of individuals that will be affected. In such circumstances, a best estimate should be provided.

General questions and answers on whether an activity will require a permit can be found [here](#).

Applying for a SARA permit

For more information, or to apply for a SARA permit, please consult the [SARA permits website](#).

Helpful contacts

If you are unsure if your activity is prohibited, please contact your [regional Environment and Climate Change Canada \(ECCC\) office](#).

Service Standards

Please also note that the Regulations specify that the competent minister must either issue a permit or notify the applicant that the permit has been refused within 90 days following the notification, in writing, that the application has been received. The 90-day timeline will be suspended if the information provided in the application does not facilitate a complete review. The suspension begins on the day that the applicant is informed in writing that additional information is required and ends on the day the competent minister receives all the required information. Applicants are urged to take these timelines into consideration when applying for SARA permits. You can find more information on SARA Permit Service Standards [here](#).

Thank you for taking the time to review authorization triggers under the *Species at Risk Act* and for verifying your project's specific potential permitting requirements.

The CHIP Secretariat on behalf of the Species at Risk Implementation Permitting team (ec.secretariatpihe-chipsecretariat.ec@canada.ca)