



Importing Personal Property Into

Canada

IMPORTING HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

DUTY-FREE ENTRY IS PERMITTED IF THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS ARE MET:

- The goods were owned and used by the owner in country of origin.
- If the shipper has lived abroad for more than one year, but less than 5 years, then the goods must have been in the owner's possession and use for at least 6 months.
- **Returning Canadian Residents** must have owned and used the goods for more than 6 months and no one item can exceed \$10,000 (Canadian dollars). (Duty and taxes will be assessed on items exceeding this limit).
- **Immigrants** must be moving to Canada with the intention of taking of residence for more than 12 months.
- **Former Residents** who have resided abroad for at least 5 years may import used goods.
- **Settlers** must be moving to Canada for the first time, obtaining a residence for more than 12 months, and intend to be employed in Canada for more than 36 months. Those coming to Canada for the purpose of studying at an institution or an employee of the Government of the United States performing pre-clearance activities are **not** considered Settlers. Settlers may import duty-free personal and household effects.

Notes:

- A classification for customs clearance is not always the same as for immigration.
- The shipper and/or spouse must be present at Customs clearance.
- All shipments are subject to inspection by Customs.
- Goods imported into Canada must not be sold until a year has passed since their entry into Canada.
- All duties / taxes must be paid to be released from customs.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

- ✓ Passport or Birth Certificate for each family member
- ✓ Work Permit, if applicable, accompanied by a Letter of Undertaking from employer.
- ✓ Two detailed, valued (in Canadian dollars) inventories in French or English stating make, model and serial number of appliances and electronics. The first list will accompany goods being imported with the shipper and the second list should be "goods to follow."
- ✓ Marriage License, if spouse has different name
- ✓ Visa, if applicable
- ✓ Customs Manifest – Form A8A
- ✓ Importers Declaration for Customs
- ✓ Immigrations papers, if applicable
- ✓ For **Returning Canadian Citizens**:
 - ✓ Proof of Residency outside of Canada
 - ✓ Monthly statements, letter from employer, rent receipts, Income Tax, etc.
- ✓ Previous airport or US/Canada border papers.
- ✓ Bill of Lading

RESTRICTED/DUTIBALE ITEMS:

- Alcohol and tobacco products are restricted. Note that alcoholic beverages and tobacco products are prohibited from moving vans. You must meet the age requirements of the province. The duty-free allowances are as follows: 1.5 Liters of wine or any alcoholic beverage not exceeding 1.25 Liters; 200 cigarettes, 50 cigars or 400 grams of tobacco.
- Taxes and duties must be paid in advance if planning on shipping the contents of a bar or wine collection. Proof of payment must be presented at the time of customs clearance. Alcohol must be listed in detail including the type, size and quantity. Avoid

RESTRICTED/PROHIBITED ITEMS; IMPORTING FIREARMS AND MOTOR VEHICLES

shipping alcohol between October and April to avoid freezing.

RESTRICTED/DUTIBALE ITEMS

- Meat
- New items – receipts required
- Radio equipment
- Office equipment
- If an item's value exceeds \$10,000, it is dutiable.

PROHIBITED ITEMS:

- Weapons, firearms* (see page 2), ammunition, fireworks and explosives.
- Narcotic drugs
- Obscene material
- Animal products on the endangered species list.
- Some types of fruits and vegetables

IMPORTATION OF FIREARMS:

- If you plan to import firearms into Canada, a temporary license and permission to transport must be obtained. To do this you will need to complete a "Non-Resident Firearm Declaration" and then contact the Chief Firearms Officer. After moving to Canada, you will be required to obtain a "Possessions and Acquisition" or PAL license. You must also register your firearms with the province in which you will be residing. For further information contact the Canadian Firearms Centre (CFC) at 1-800-731-4000. Forms can be downloaded from their website: www.cfc.ccaf.gc.ca.
- The following is a list of prohibited weapons:
 - Semi-automatic weapons
 - Automatic weapons
 - Combat shotguns
 - Assault rifles
 - Carbines
 - Explosives, fireworks, ammunition
 - Combat crossbow
 - Push-dagger knives

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

- ✓ Original Firearms Acquisition Certificate
- ✓ Permit to Convey the firearm for registration purposes.

IMPORTATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES:

- Vehicles imported from the United States that are newer than 15 years old are handled through Transport Canada's Registrar of Imported Vehicles (RIV) Program. A list of cars which can be modified for importation can be downloaded from the RIV website: <http://www.riv.ca> or call 1-888-848-8240.
- The manufacturer should be contacted regarding the availability of parts and the cost entailed in meeting the modification requirements.
- **Returning Citizens** may import vehicles duty-free if they owned and used the vehicle for at least 6 months prior to importation. Vehicles over 15 years old are subject to different regulations and will require costly modifications.
- The "Statement of Compliance" label affixed by the manufacturer is required, unless the car was manufactured 15 or more years prior to importation.
- Vehicles must comply with the Canadian Motor Vehicle Safety and Emission regulations.
- Cars with a 1990 model year or newer must be retrofitted with the equivalent of the Canadian Daytime Running Light system.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

- ✓ Vehicle Import Form – Form 1, provided by Customs at time of entry.
- ✓ Form K-22
- ✓ Sales receipt
- ✓ Title documents
- ✓ Registration
- ✓ Proof of insurance
- ✓ Statement of compliance label
- ✓ Letter of "recall clearance" from manufacturer or dealer – this document is required to pass federal inspection.

IMPORTING MOTOR VEHICLES, PETS AND ANTIQUES

IMPORTATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES (CONTINUED)

Notes:

- All provinces of Canada will collect an RIV fee. To determine any additional fees / duties call the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency: 1-506-636-5064 (from outside Canada) or 1-800-461-9999 (from within Canada).
- Once the vehicle enters Canada you will receive a letter from the Registrar of Imported Vehicles (RIV) detailing what actions you need to take to bring the vehicle into compliance. There is a 45 day deadline in meeting these requirements.
- Canadian licensing can only happen after all required modifications are made and the vehicle passes the federal inspection

IMPORTATION OF PETS:

- Pet dogs from a rabies-free country more than 8 months old require a certificate from an official government veterinarian clearly identifying the dog, and indicating that rabies has not existed in the country of origin for 6 months before shipment, and the animal has been in the country of origin during this duration. This requirement is upheld for dogs returning to Canada. If the dog is from a country with rabies, then a valid rabies vaccination certificate must be issued, which clearly identifies the dog and the trade name, serial number and duration of validity of the vaccine. Dogs between the ages of 3 to 8 months of age and accompanied by their owners just require a rabies certificate. No documentation is necessary for dogs less than 3 months old. If the dog is unaccompanied by the owner, a detailed health certificate and a rabies vaccination certificate must be presented to customs. Assistance dogs are not restricted entry into Canada if accompanied by the user. Note that dogs imported from any

country other than the US will be subject to inspection fees.

- Cats from a rabies-free country require a certificate from an official government veterinarian clearly identifying the animal and stating that rabies has not existed in the country of origin for 6 months and the cat has been in the country during that time. If the cat is from a country with rabies, it must have a rabies certificate. Note that inspection fees are valid for cats imported from countries other than the US.
- Pet birds from the US must undergo a health inspection. The owners must sign a declaration stating the birds have been in their possession for 90-days prior to importation and during this time have not come into contact with other birds. Birds from countries other than the US require an Import Permit and must be quarantined.
- Turtles and tortoises require an **Import Permit**.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- ✓ International Health and Inoculation Certificate
- ✓ Veterinarian Certificate identifying the pet's breed, age, sex, coloring and distinguishing marks. Proof of rabies inoculation within the last 36 months.
- ✓ **Import Permit** for certain pets (see above).

IMPORTATION OF ANTIQUES:

- ✓ If the articles are over 100 years old and are not for resale they are duty-free.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

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- *Pet Imports*, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Animal Products, Animal Health and Production, <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/anima/heasan/import/petse.shtml>, May 2003.
 - Atlas Van Lines – Canada, <http://www.atlasvanlines.ca/usacana.html>, May 2003.
 - *Customs Topics, Immigrating or Settling in Canada*, <http://www.ccradrc.gc.ca/formspubs/topics/customs/immigrating-e.html>, March 2003.
 - *Plant Protections Requirements for Importations of House Plants Intended for Personal Use from the Continental United States (US) and Hawaii*, Canada Food Inspection Agency, March 2002, <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/plaveg/protect/dir/d-01-03e.shtml>.
 - *How to import a vehicle into Canada*, Registrar of Imported Vehicles, www.riv.ca, January 2002.

The information presented herein is based on customs data available at the time of printing and is frequently subject to change without notice. It is the responsibility of the owner or importer of the household goods to comply with the current customs restrictions, regulations, and duties of the country to which the goods are imported. We strongly advise customers to contact the consulate or embassy of the destination country for the most current information on customs regulations, restrictions and duties for importing household goods, personal effects and vehicles.