



Canada Border
Services Agency

Agence des services
frontaliers du Canada

Entering Canada to Study or Work



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Canada

At your service

The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) operates at about 1,370 service points across Canada and nearly 40 locations abroad. It employs 10,000 public servants who serve some 170,000 commercial importers and more than 98 million travellers each year.

The CBSA's role is to manage the nation's borders by administering and enforcing about 90 domestic laws that govern trade and travel, as well as international agreements and conventions.

CBSA officers are at Canada's entry points to help you when you arrive in Canada. We are committed to providing efficient and courteous service. At designated bilingual offices, we will provide service in the official language of your choice.

If you require more detailed information that is not provided in this pamphlet, please call the Border Information Service (BIS) line. The BIS telephone numbers can be found on page 12 of this pamphlet.

Is this pamphlet for you?

You will find the information in this pamphlet helpful if you are about to enter Canada to study or work for a period of not more than 36 months. You must produce documentation from Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC), such as a visa, a study permit or a work permit, prior to being given the benefits of a temporary residence in Canada. Generally, you have to contact a Canadian embassy or consulate to obtain these documents **before** you arrive in Canada.

In certain situations, citizens and permanent residents of the United States and residents of Greenland and Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon can apply for a permit at a CBSA office located at a port of entry. For more information, see the CIC Web site at www.cic.gc.ca.

This pamphlet **is not intended** for individuals who have applied for, or who have been granted, permanent resident status (landed immigrant) in Canada, or for those who will be working in Canada for more than 36 months. In such cases, see the pamphlet *Settling in Canada* (RC4151), available by calling the BIS or on our Web site at www.cbsa.gc.ca under "Publications and forms".

Should you change your immigration status with CIC after arriving in Canada, or decide to work for a period of time longer than 36 months, it is important that you notify the CBSA immediately, since this may affect your status for border services purposes. For example, a temporary resident who applies for permanent resident status (landed immigrant) is considered to be a settler for CBSA purposes and is no longer eligible to import goods on a temporary basis as a temporary resident.

Personal and household effects

When arriving in Canada for the first time, you can temporarily import your personal and household effects free of duty. These items include furniture, tableware, silverware, appliances, and motor vehicles. Though these goods are not normally subject to duties and taxes at the time of importation, the CBSA may require that you post a refundable deposit. The following conditions apply:

- The goods cannot be used by a resident of Canada;
- You are not permitted to sell or otherwise dispose of them in Canada; and
- You must take all non-consumable items with you when you leave the country at the end of your temporary residence.

As long as you are a temporary resident, your motor vehicle does not have to meet Transport Canada's safety and emission standards. However, a provincial safety test may be required if the vehicle registration has to be changed to the province of residence.

Alcohol and tobacco

If you meet the minimum age requirements established by the province or territory where you enter Canada, you can include limited quantities of alcoholic beverages and tobacco products in your personal entitlement. **These items must be in your possession when you enter Canada.**

Alcoholic beverages

You are allowed to import free of duty and taxes one of the following products:

- 1.5 litres (53 imperial ounces) of wine; **or**
- 1.14 litres (40 ounces) of liquor; **or**
- 1.14 litres (40 ounces) of wine and liquor; **or**
- 24 × 355 millilitres (12 ounces) cans or bottles (the equivalent of 8.5 litres) of beer or ale.

Note

“Cooler” products are classified according to the alcoholic beverage they contain. For example, beer coolers are considered to be beer; wine coolers are considered to be wine. Beer/wine products not exceeding 0.5% alcohol by volume are not considered to be alcoholic beverages.

Except in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut, you can bring in more than this free allowance of alcohol as long as the quantities are within the limit specified by the province or territory. However, the cost may be high, as you have to pay both CBSA assessments and provincial or territorial levies and taxes. If you plan to import more than the provincial or territorial limit, you must contact the provincial or territorial authority and get permission before you arrive in Canada.

Tobacco products

You are allowed to import, free of duty, **all** the following products:

- 200 cigarettes;
- 50 cigars or cigarillos;
- 200 tobacco sticks; **and**
- 200 grams (7 ounces) of manufactured tobacco.

Duties will be levied on excess quantities. In some cases, provincial or territorial limits and assessments may apply.

Currency and monetary instruments

All physical importations and exportations of currency and monetary instruments equal to or greater than CAN\$10,000 (or its equivalent in a foreign currency), must be reported to the CBSA at the time of your arrival in Canada or, prior to your departure from Canada. See the pamphlet *Crossing the Border With \$10,000 or More?* (RC4321) for additional information.

Firearms

Canada's firearms laws make the country safer for both residents and visitors. **Before** you attempt to import a firearm, it is recommended that you contact a chief firearms officer for more information.

The following requirements apply to the importation of firearms:

- You **must** be at least 18 years of age;
- You **can** import restricted and non-restricted firearms, provided all requirements are met.

- You **cannot** import prohibited firearms, or any prohibited weapons or devices, including silencers and replica firearms.

You must declare all weapons and firearms at the CBSA port of entry or they will be seized.

For more detailed information on importing a firearm into Canada, read the pamphlet called *Importing a Firearm or Weapon Into Canada* (RC4227) or call the BIS line at the numbers listed on page 12 of this publication.

For information about applying for a Canadian firearms licence or to obtain **in advance** an *Authorization to Transport* (Form 679 EF), contact:

Canada Firearms Centre
Ottawa ON K1A 1M6
Telephone: 1-800-731-4000 (toll-free in Canada
and the United States) (506) 624-5380
(from all other countries)
Facsimile: (613) 957-7325
Email: cfc-cafc@cfc-cafc.gc.ca
Web site: www.cfc-cafc.gc.ca

Explosives, fireworks, and ammunition

You require written authorization and permits to bring explosives, fireworks, and some types of ammunition into Canada. For more information, contact:

Explosives Regulatory Division
Natural Resources Canada
1431 Merivale Road
Ottawa ON K1A 0G1
Telephone: (613) 948-5200
Web site: www.nrcan.gc.ca

Animals

Since animals may harbour pests or diseases that are harmful to people, other animals, crops, and forests, CBSA assists the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and other government departments and agencies to control the entry of animals into Canada.

The CFIA is responsible for food health and safety, and for protecting Canada's agricultural and forestry industries from certain pests and diseases. It controls, restricts, and prohibits the entry into Canada of many plants, animals, and products made from them, including food. You need certificates or permits for some of these goods before you can import them.

You may import pet dogs and cats younger than three months old from the United States without submitting any documentation. However, these dogs and cats must be inspected by a CFIA officer, if they appear unhealthy on their arrival in Canada. Assistance dogs that are certified as guide, hearing or other service dog are not subject to any restrictions for importation where the person importing the dog is the user of the dog and accompanies the dog to Canada.

You may import pet dogs and cats from the United States that are older than three months if you provide a certificate issued by a licensed veterinarian that clearly identifies the animal by breed, age, sex, colour, and any distinguishing marks. The certificate must also show that the animal has been vaccinated against rabies within the last three years. Animal tags are not accepted in lieu of certificates.

For all other pets from the United States, and for pets of any kind from other countries, you should check with one of the CFIA Import Service Centres listed on page 9 of this publication **before** you import the animals.

Plants

Plants are potential carriers of insects or disease. For this reason, the CBSA assists the CFIA control the entry of plants, including earth, soil, sand, or any other related matter in which they are planted or packed.

Houseplants are defined as **plants commonly known and recognized as house plants, grown or intended to be grown indoors**. These do not include bonsai.

Houseplants from the continental United States entering Canada as part of a passenger's baggage or with household effects may enter without phytosanitary certificates or import permits.

All other plants from the United States may require a phytosanitary certificate from the United States Department of Agriculture and/or an import permit from CFIA.

To import plants from other countries of the world, you must have obtained an import permit from the CFIA, in advance. A phytosanitary certificate issued by the responsible authorities in the country of origin (plant protection/quarantine in the country of origin) may also be required.

You should check with the CFIA **before** you import plants from any country.

For more information, contact one of the following CFIA Import Service Centres:

Eastern Canada (Montréal)

Hours: 7:00 to 23:00 (Eastern Standard Time)
Telephone: 1-877-493-0468 (toll free in Canada and the United States) (514) 493-0468 (local calls and from all other countries)
Facsimile: (514) 493-4103

Central Canada (Toronto)

Hours: 7:00 to 24:00 (Eastern Standard Time)
Telephone: 1-800-835-4486 (toll free in Canada and the United States) (416) 661-3039 (local calls and from all other countries)
Facsimile: (416) 661-5767

Western Canada (Vancouver)

Hours: 7:00 to 24:00 (Pacific Saving Time)
Telephone: 1-888-732-6222 (toll free in Canada and the United States) (604) 666-9240 (local calls and from all other countries)
Facsimile: (604) 270-9247

You can also find information on the CFIA's Web site at **www.inspection.gc.ca**.

Meats, eggs, dairy products, and fresh fruits and vegetables

Canada has complex requirements, restrictions, and limits that apply to importing meats, eggs, dairy products, fresh fruits and vegetables, and other foodstuffs. You can avoid problems by not bringing such goods into Canada. If you need more information, contact the BIS at one of the numbers listed on page 12 of this pamphlet.

Endangered species

Canada has signed the *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora* (CITES). This international agreement protects species of animals and plants that are, or may be, threatened with extinction by regulating their international trade. These restrictions extend to their parts and to products made from the fur, skin, feathers, bone, or other parts of these species. **Before** importing such products into Canada, please contact:

CITES Administrator
Canadian Wildlife Service
Environment Canada
Ottawa ON K1A 0H3
Telephone: 1-800-668-6767 (toll-free number)
Facsimile: (819) 953-6283
Web site: www.ec.gc.ca

Before moving to Canada

It is important that you prepare a list (in duplicate) of all the goods you are bringing into Canada, showing their value, make, model, and serial number where applicable.

Clearing Canadian Customs

When importing your personal goods, you may be issued a *Temporary Admission Permit* (Form E29B) by the CBSA officer. In certain circumstances, a refundable security deposit may be required.

If you ship your goods by commercial carrier, you may choose to have the goods cleared at the first border services point of arrival in Canada or have them sent in bond to the CBSA office nearest your Canadian residence. The carrier will notify you when the goods arrive and you can clear them through border services.

In both cases, you are required to provide adequate identification, proof of your status in Canada (demonstrated by providing documentation issued by CIC such as your work permit or study permit), along with a list of the goods imported. If you are entering Canada to work, you should provide a letter of introduction from your employer.

While you are in Canada

Personal exemptions

You are eligible for the same personal exemption entitlements that apply to residents of Canada. These allow you to import certain goods duty and tax-free after a short trip abroad. You can find complete details in the pamphlet *I Declare* (RC4044), which is available on our Web site at www.cbsa.gc.ca or by contacting the BIS.

Renewing your temporary admission permit

Temporary residents are reminded to pay attention to the date when their temporary admission permit is due to expire. A few days before it expires, visit your local CBSA office, and arrange for a renewal. The CBSA officer will want to know if you still have in your possession all the non-consumable goods you brought with you to Canada and whether you have changed your address or telephone number.

Leaving Canada

Once you have completed your studies or work in Canada and are about to return to your permanent place of residence, advise the nearest CBSA office when and how your personal effects will be exported from Canada. The CBSA officers will tell you what steps you should take. Be sure to leave a forwarding address with them. Any refunds you are entitled to will be mailed to the address you provide.

For more information

If you have any questions, you can contact our Border Information Service (BIS). This is a 24-hour telephone service that automatically answers all incoming calls and provides general border services information. You can access BIS free of charge throughout Canada by calling **1-800-461-9999**. If you are calling from outside of Canada, you can access BIS by calling (204) 983-3500 or (506) 636-5064. Long-distance charges will apply. If you call during regular business hours, Monday to Friday (except holidays) from 08:00-16:00 local time, you can speak directly to an agent by pressing "0" at any time while the recorded message is playing.

You can also visit our Web site at **www.cbsa.gc.ca**.

Think recycling!



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