

HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

Immigrants: This is any person moving to Canada, with the intention of establishing a residence for more than 12 months. An immigrant may import free of duty and taxes household and personal effects that were owned and used by him in his former country of residence.

Returning Canadians: May bring back duty free all household and personal effects including car, boat, plane, provided they have been acquired and used six months prior to arrival in Canada. (After 5 years, the 6 months provision is eliminated). There is, however, a valuation limit placed on these goods of \$10,000 per item which includes automobiles. Duty & taxes will be levied against any one item that exceeds that limitation. Canadians who have lived outside of Canada for less than 1 year is excluded.

CUSTOMS CLEARANCE

Personal attendance during customs clearance by the shipper is mandatory. The first declaration must be made at point of entry into Canada. At this time the shipper will need to submit two detailed lists, in duplicate. The first list should cover accompanying goods and the second should be marked "goods to follow". It would be helpful to show values, makes, models and serial numbers. When the shipment arrives, a second personal declaration to Custom is required at the Customs point nearest final destinations.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED

1. Returning Canadian Residents

- "Cargo Control" document also known as "Arrival Notice" (Will be provided by Compass once the shipment arrives)
- Original Passport
- Proof of residency outside of Canada for at least 1 year (foreign tax return or letter from employer – utility bills, rental agreements may not be sufficient)
- Packing list / inventory
- List of items with a value over CAD \$10,000 (including vehicles)
- Personal Affects Accounting Document ([B4E/BSF186](#))
- Valued list of goods (in Canadian Dollars)
- All documents from previous customs declaration upon entry into Canada (if applicable -- i.e. B-15 document (blue border), stamped packing list, etc.)
- Liquor import declaration / permit (if applicable)

2. Work Visa or Student Visa

- “Cargo Control” document also known as “Arrival Notice” (Will be provided by Compass once the shipment arrives)
- Valid visa in passport or document confirming work permit / student visa / visitor visa
- Original Passport
- Packing list / inventory
- Liquor import declaration / permit (if applicable)

Please Note:

1. All items imported must be for your personal use during your stay.
2. All goods must be exported when you leave Canada.
3. The goods may not be disposed of in Canada without Customs authorization.

3. Landed Immigrants (Settlers)

- “Cargo Control” document also known as “Arrival Notice” (Will be provided by Compass once the shipment arrives)
- Original Passport
- Immigration documentation: visa in passport, confirmation of permanent residence or permanent resident card
- Packing list / inventory
- Personal Affects Accounting Document ([B4E/ BSF186](#))
- All documents from previous customs declaration upon entry into Canada, if applicable (i.e. B-15 document (blue border), stamped packing list, etc.)
- Liquor import declaration / permit (if applicable)

4. Seasonal Residents in Canada

- “Cargo Control” document also known as “Arrival Notice” (Will be provided by Compass once the shipment arrives)
- Personal Affects Accounting Document ([B4E/ BSF186](#))
- Proof of ownership of a property in Canada
- Original Passport
- Packing list / inventory – Note: Import of used household goods and personal effects is duty free on a ONE time entry basis only and the goods cannot be sold for at least 1 year.

5. Inheritance / Pre-Inheritance (A gift from a relative in Anticipation of Death)

- “Cargo Control” document also known as “Arrival Notice” (Will be provided by Compass once the shipment arrives)
- Personal Affects Accounting Document ([B4E/ BSF186](#))
- Identification (passport, etc.)
- Copy of Will and Death Certificate
- A signed statement from the donor giving reason for the gift or statement from the Executor of the Estate (gifts could be subject to import duties and taxes)
- Packing list / inventory

6. Canadian resident (Residing in Canada. No tax Exemption // less than 12 months away -No tax Exemption))

- “Cargo Control” document also known as “Arrival Notice” (Will be provided by Compass once the shipment arrives)
- Personal Affects Accounting Document ([B4E/ BSF186](#))
- Invoice of goods purchased or declared value
- Inventory list
- Passport

7. Diplomats

- “Cargo Control” document also known as “Arrival Notice” (Will be provided by Compass once the shipment arrives)
- Copy of Diplomatic Passport
- Letter of employment from the LOCAL Embassy / Consulate – Original stamped by the local Canadian consulate indicating that the client is working in the consulate.
- Inventory list (By the moving company)

OTHER NOTES

VEHICLES

Immigrants may import on a duty-free basis an automobile that they have owned, used and had in their possession prior to coming to Canada. Returning residents who have lived outside Canada for a minimum of 1 year, and have owned, had in their possession, and used a vehicle for at least 6 months may bring them in duty free. However, in all cases any vehicle less than 15 years old must comply with all Canadian safety and emission standards. Please note that not all autos made in the U.S. or made to US specifications meet Canadian standards. Any vehicle 15 years or older may be imported from countries other than the USA.

DRIVER'S LICENSE

Landed immigrants on a work permit are allowed to drive a car on their original license for up to two months. After this period a test is required for the Canadian Province of residence driver's license

LIQUOR

All liquor is subject to duty and taxes. Do not ship wine between October 1 and March 31, to avoid the possibility of freezing. Liquor permits are required for any quantity in most provinces. Please check this with the local Canadian consulate.

FIREARMS

A rifle or shotgun for sporting purposes is not restricted. However, pistols, revolvers, or fully automatic firearms are restricted and a firearm permit is required. Special rules apply for shippers entering Canada on a work permit. Please check this with the local Canadian consulate.

ANIMALS

Dogs, birds, livestock and horses must comply with health regulations and have appropriate vaccination documents.

PLANTS

Plants or plant material require a permit from the Department of Agriculture, Plant Products Division before arrival. Write to Agriculture Canada for a permit application.

MEAT

Write for information to the Meat Inspection Division of the Department of Agriculture, Ottawa. Authority to import meat or meat products is necessary, otherwise they will be confiscated on arrival.

INHERITANCE GOODS

A copy of the will or estate document is required together with a copy of death certificate.

WEDDING PRESENTS

Wedding presents may be imported duty and tax free, without restrictions of possession and use, if you were married 3 months before arrival, or plan to be married within 3 months after arrival.

CAD\$10,000.00 LIMIT

Any single item of personal and household effects including a motor vehicle that was acquired after March 31, 1977 and is valued at more than \$10,000.00 on the date of importation is subject to regular duties and taxes on the excess amount.

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

IMPORTING HOUSEHOLD GOODS INTO CANADA

OWNERSHIP, POSSESSION AND USE REQUIREMENTS

If a person has been residing outside Canada for at least one year, but less than 5 years, the personal and household effects must have been in ownership, possession and use for at least 6 months. After an absence of 5 years or more, the goods need only to have been in ownership, possession and use before returning to Canada; 6 months minimum does not apply.

ARRIVING IN CANADA

Upon arrival into Canada as immigrant/returning Canadian or with a temporary VISA each person must report to Canada Immigration when there are goods to follow and obtain the B4E declaration form.