

A Guide to Importation of Personal & Household Effects into Canada

TO QUALIFY FOR DUTY FREE ENTRY

- Goods imported by migrants must be owned, possessed and used prior to importation into Canada and may not be used for commercial purposes; leased goods do not qualify as owned and are subject to duty. To enter goods as a settler you must be a LANDED IMMIGRANT and your shipment must arrive within a reasonable time of your official landing date.
- Returning Canadians must have resided outside Canada for not less than 12 consecutive months and have owned and used the goods for at least six months prior to importation, subject to a limit of CA\$10,000 any one item. Any item in excess of CA\$10,000 is subject to duty and tax on the excess.
- Wedding gifts if you were married within three months of arrival in Canada or you plan to marry within three months of arrival in Canada, as long as they are owned and possessed before your arrival in Canada.
- Antiques must be over 100 years old and are not for re-sale or disposal.
- Works of Art as long as they form part of a bona fide removal and are not for sale or disposal.
- Inheritance bequests should be accompanied by a death certificate indicating you as beneficiary or a letter from the executor of the estate. A valued inventory will also be required of goods being imported.

Unless the above criteria are satisfied duty and GST (Goods And Services Tax) is payable. If you dispose of goods imported duty free within a year of importation duty and GST are immediately payable.

WOOD PACKAGING

Any wood packaging used in personal effects consignments (crates, pallets etc) must be constructed of approved treated timber and must be stamped with the internationally recognised ISPM symbol verifying. This does not effect manufactured wood materials such as fibre board, plywood, whisky and wine barrels and veneer, loose wood packing materials, sawdust, and pieces of wood that are less than 6 mm. Any non-compliant timber may be destroyed, treated or re-exported to the country of origin at the owner's expense. Export cases supplied by Anglo Pacific are compliant, embossed GB FC0122 DB HT Forestry Commission.

CUSTOMS CLEARANCE

Before you arrive in Canada you should prepare a list of all the goods you intend to bring into Canada, indicating value, make, model and serial number, where applicable. The list should consist of two sections; one representing goods accompanying you and the other representing goods to follow as freight. Upon your arrival, the customs officer will prepare Form B4, Personal Effects Accounting Document, based on the list of goods you provide and will issue a receipt copy. Our representative will supply a Canada Customs Brokerage form which you will be required to complete and return with a full, descriptive inventory in English, destination agent's Notice Of Arrival and your receipted copy of the "goods to follow" declaration. Migrants will be required to produce a copy of the Immigration Permit (IMM 1000); returning Canadians will be required to produce proof of residency abroad (apartment lease, foreign work permit etc) and a copy of page 2 of their Canadian passport. Please note you will be required to present yourself at Canada Customs and make a personal declaration at the time of clearance.

IMPORTANT

We will require a full descriptive packing list, a copy of your passport and the full consignee street address (PO Box address is unacceptable) prior to shipment.

RESTRICTED ARTICLES

The following articles may be imported into Canada subject to special permits, inspection or declaration:

- Alcoholic beverages
- Certain firearms
- Hunting Trophies

PROHIBITED ARTICLES

The following articles are prohibited by Canadian Customs:

- Many firearms
- Plants including pot plants, seeds and plant cuttings
- Narcotic drugs
- Endangered species, fur skin, bone, feathers, ivory etc

This information is not definitive and is intended as a guide only. Destination regulations can change without notice and for specific guidance we strongly recommend that you obtain direct rulings from the relevant authority.

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