



## *Importing Personal Property Into Canada*

### **HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS**

#### **CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS**

##### **Customs Regulations:**

**Client and/or spouse must be present during Customs clearance Failure to appear will result in shipment going to bonded storage at client's expense.**

All shipments are subject to inspection. Air shipments must be cleared within 48 hours to avoid storage charges.

All new items (less than 6 months old) must have receipts in the event the items are questioned by Customs agents. Items cannot be sold or lent within one year of importation.

Note: Customs has the right to refuse entry of used mattress into Canada however it is seldom enforced. Including mattresses in a HHG shipment does entail the risk of confiscation, should enforcement occur.

**Returning Canadians** having resided outside of Canada for at least one year but less than five years can import used household goods and personal effects free of duty.

##### **Required Documents:**

- ✓ Passport including photo page
- ✓ Visa – if applicable
- ✓ Comprehensive inventory list in English or French – appliances and electronics require make, model and serial number noted on the inventory list
- ✓ Work Permit – if applicable
- ✓ Customs Manifest – Form A8A
- ✓ Importer's Declaration for Customs
- ✓ Previous airport or United States/Canada Border Declaration
- ✓ Landed Immigrant Application and papers if applicable
- ✓ Letter of Undertaking (not always necessary)
- ✓ Returning Canadians will also need to provide the following documents:
  - Proof of Residency abroad
  - Monthly statements, i.e. rent receipts, electric/water/telephone bills, letter from employer

##### **Diplomat Status:**

**Foreign diplomats are granted duty free entry**

##### **Required Documents:**

- ✓ Diplomatic Franchise
- ✓ Passport copy
- ✓ Comprehensive inventory list in English

#### **RESTRICTED/DUTIABLE ITEMS**

Canada has complex requirements, restrictions and limits on meats, dairy, fruits and vegetables and other foodstuffs. It is strongly advised NOT to bring such goods into Canada. For more information, contact the CFIA Import Services Centre.

## RESTRICTED/DUTIABLE ITEMS CONTINUED...

- ✓ Firearms and ammunitions- Require Import, Government and Police Permits to be obtained before being allowed importation. These requirements are strictly enforced
- ✓ Meat requires a Health Certificate and must be inspected by the Port Health Authority
- ✓ Live plants must be inspected by Ministry of Agriculture & Rural Development
- ✓ Tobacco products
- ✓ Alcohol- A detailed list is required stating type, size and quantity.
  - Provincial and Federal duties and taxes will be assessed
  - DO NOT ship wine between October 1 and March 31 to avoid possibility of freezing
- ✓ Office equipment – new or used
- ✓ Commercial quantities of any item or product incur duties
- ✓ Radio equipment (CB's, walkie-talkies etc)
- ✓ Any item valued at or over \$10,000 is dutiable
- ✓ Air guns are not restricted so long as the muzzle velocity does not exceed 500 feet per second
- ✓ Hunting rifles or shotguns for sporting purposes are allowed so long as they are not modified

## PROHIBITED ITEMS

- ✓ Narcotics/illegal drugs of any kind
- ✓ Weapons, explosives, ammunitions and fireworks
- ✓ Pistols, revolvers and handguns require a Police Permit
- ✓ Animals and products there-of on the CITES and/or Endangered Species list,
- ✓ Soft shell turtles from any country including the US
- ✓ Plants, sand and other related matter requires a Phytosanitary Certificate and Import Permit issued in advance from the Department of Agriculture
- ✓ Products from Haiti, including drums made of animal skins

**NOTES: Inclusion of any of these items will delay Customs clearance and result in additional expenses for the customer.**

**Replica firearms are classified as prohibited and cannot be imported into Canada.**

**Guns have severe restrictions and specific permit processes depending on the type.**

**Please refer to [www.cfc.gc.ca](http://www.cfc.gc.ca) for specific guidelines.**

## IMPORTATION OF PETS

All live animals must meet specific permit requirements issued by the Veterinary Services Division of the Quarantine may be required depending on type of pet and country of origin.

**Note:** Dogs, cats, birds, horses and other livestock three months old or older from the United States can be imported provided they are accompanied by a certificate, signed and dated by a veterinarian indicating the animal has been vaccinated against rabies within the last year. The certificate must identify the animal by breed, age, sex, color and any distinguishing marks.

### **Required Documents:**

- ✓ Inspection by the Department of Agriculture
- ✓ Health and Inoculation Certificate (International version)
- ✓ Vaccination Record – must be at least 30 days prior to entry
- ✓ Import Permit – Required for birds imported from ALL countries except the US

## IMPORTATION OF VEHICLES

Vehicles are duty-free but may be subject to local taxes. Vehicles over 15 years old are subject to different regulations and costly modifications may be required. Canadian Motor Vehicle Safety and Emission control regulations apply.

### **Required Documents:**

- ✓ Certificate of Title and Registration,
- ✓ Form K-22
- ✓ Proof of Ownership - i.e. Insurance Policy, Purchase Invoice
- ✓ Statement of Compliance label affixed by the manufacturer

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:**

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/toce.shtml> 2009

IATA Travel Center 2009

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.