

## The import process

If you are thinking about purchasing a vehicle in the United States and importing it into Canada, this guide will tell you what you need to know.

**Step 1: Before you import**

**Step 2: At the border**

**Step 3: After vehicle entry**

## Questions? Want to know more?

If you have questions or require additional information on how to import a vehicle from the United States or about the RIV vehicle registration, inspection and certification program, contact us at 1-888-848-8240 or [info@riv.ca](mailto:info@riv.ca).



## Who we are

Transport Canada has contracted with Livingston Managed Services to establish and operate Canada's national program of vehicle registration, inspection and certification known as the Registrar of Imported Vehicles. This program aims to ensure that vehicles originally manufactured for the U.S. market and subsequently imported into Canada meet Canadian road safety standards.

### The Registrar of Imported Vehicles

405 The West Mall  
Toronto, Ontario  
M9C 5K7

**1-888-848-8240 • [www.riv.ca](http://www.riv.ca)**

### Hours of service

Monday to Friday,  
7:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. (midnight) EST  
Saturday and Sunday,  
7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EST



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**RIV** Registrar  
of Imported  
Vehicles

## Your Guide to Importing a Vehicle from the United States into Canada

An overview on how to permanently import into Canada a vehicle originally manufactured for the U.S. market.

**[www.riv.ca](http://www.riv.ca)  
1-888-848-8240**

## Step 1: Before you import

**Vehicle admissibility.** Determine if the vehicle you would like to purchase can be imported into Canada, by reviewing Transport Canada's vehicle admissibility list at [www.tc.gc.ca](http://www.tc.gc.ca).

**Vehicle branding history.** A brand is a record of a prior accident serious enough to result in an insurance write-off (salvage) or even non-repairable status. A brand remains part of the vehicle's permanent history and may affect the ability to license the vehicle in Canada. The Registrar of Imported Vehicles (RIV) makes U.S. brands available to Canadian provinces and territories. You are strongly advised to verify the vehicle's branding history through available commercial VIN search engines before you purchase any vehicle in the U.S. or attempt to import it into Canada.

**Modification and inspection requirements.** Some vehicles may require modifications in order to comply with Transport Canada Motor Vehicle Safety Standards. Determine what modifications your vehicle may require before you import it.

**Recall clearance.** Recall clearance is a requirement for all vehicles imported into Canada.

For more information about what documentation is required and how to obtain the recall clearance letter for your vehicle, visit [www.riv.ca](http://www.riv.ca).

### **RIV exemptions.**

Find out about specific exemption criteria and if they apply to your vehicle.

**Cost considerations.** Determine any possible duties, provincial and federal sales taxes, trip permits, temporary insurance and provincial licensing requirements before you import your vehicle.

### **Fees for registering a vehicle imported from the U.S. through the RIV program with a Form 1.**

**\$195.00 + GST and QST** for vehicles entering through a border crossing in Quebec

**\$195.00 + GST** for vehicles entering through a border crossing in any other province

## Step 2: At the border

### **U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP).**

CBP requires at least 72 hours advance notice before any self-propelled vehicle is permanently exported from the United States. CBP regulations state that at land border points:

1. required documentation must be submitted at least 72 hours prior to export; and
2. the vehicle must be presented to CBP at the time of export. CBP recommends that you contact the border crossing directly to determine all documentation required and the hours of operation.

### **Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA).**

CBSA will:

**Check documentation.** Ensure you have the required documentation, including title documents, registration or proof of ownership.

### **Supply Vehicle Import Form - Form 1.**

It is your responsibility to complete it. Retain this form as it is

required by your province or territory to licence the vehicle.

**Verify admissibility.** CBSA will check your vehicle against Transport Canada's List of Vehicles Admissible from the United States, verify the VIN and manufacturer's statement of compliance label.

**Facilitate payment.** CBSA will facilitate the payment of the non-refundable RIV fee.

## Step 3: After vehicle entry

Once the vehicle has entered Canada, it is your responsibility to have any required modifications completed and the vehicle inspected at an authorized RIV inspection centre.

**Vehicle modifications.** After your payment and the recall clearance documentation have been received, RIV will send you an inspection form. The inspection form contains the information about modifications necessary to pass the RIV inspection.

**RIV inspection.** Once any modifications are completed, your vehicle must be inspected at an authorized RIV inspection centre.

Locate the nearest inspection center at [www.riv.ca](http://www.riv.ca).

**Provincial licensing.** When your vehicle has passed the RIV inspection, contact the provincial or territorial licensing authority in your region to find out how to license your vehicle.

