

Moving from the United States to Canada

A Comprehensive Guide

Updated October 2012

Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Personal Entry Requirements	3
Clearing Customs	4
Common Imported Goods	4
Duty free goods	4
Goods subject to taxes and duties	5
Prohibited and restricted goods	5
Pets and plants	8
Shipping a Motor Vehicle	9
Moving Industry Relocation Services	10
Bonded Storage Locations	10
Canada Customs	11
Canada Customs District Office Locations	12

Introduction

Allied Van Lines has one of the largest networks of agents in the North American Continent. Not surprising – given our name. So, whether you are moving to one of Canada’s remote communities, or one of Canada’s world-class major cities, we’re here to provide a complete relocation service to you and your family.



This booklet is designed to cover the requirements of Canada Customs, Immigration and other Government Agencies with respect to importing your personal possessions and you and your family’s legal entry requirements.

Enjoy your new adventure, and know that we, at Allied Van Lines are available to meet your relocation needs anywhere throughout Canada and the United States of America.

Personal Entry Requirements

Canadian Citizens are required to provide certain documents to Canada Customs for their personal entry at the port of entry into Canada.

- Valid Passport
- Proof of residence while living in the United States. A photocopy driver’s license issued by the state in which you resided may or may not be accepted by Canada Customs. Your green card, if you have one, is acceptable or some other documents, which indicates the address at which you reside in the United States.
- A copy of the Allied Van Lines Bill of Lading and inventory listings prepared by the driver at the time of loading.

American Citizens and other nationalities must provide the following documents to Canada Customs upon their arrival in Canada.

- Valid passport or birth certificate
- Photo identification
- Employer “Letter of Intent”
- “Employment Authorization” (Issued by a Canada Employment Centre, often referred to as a “work permit”)

- A copy of the Allied Van Lines Bill of Lading and inventory listings prepared by the driver at the time of loading.

Note: Upon your arrival at the Canadian port of entry (your destination airport if arriving by plane, or the border crossing point if traveling by car, bus or train) you must report to Canada Customs and declare that you are moving to Canada, and that your household goods and personal effects will follow.

Clearing Customs

When the driver crosses the border into Canada, his trailer is sealed, and this seal cannot be broken until the shipment is cleared by Canada Customs.

Upon the arrival of your goods at destination, you must meet the driver at the nearest Canada Customs office to clear customs. You must bring the following paperwork with you when you meet the driver;

- Photo identification
- Allied Van Lines Bill of Lading and inventory listings

The Customs Cargo Control Department will stamp the paperwork with an Acquittal Number and the shipment is then released for shipment.

*If your goods have been delivered to bonded storage, you must first report to the agent's warehouse and pick up Custom paperwork, *before* proceeding to Canada Customs. You will then proceed to Canada Customs and have the shipment cleared without a driver present. Your shipment is now authorized to be delivered to your destination residence.

Common Imported Goods

For household goods relocations, there are four common categories of goods likely to be applicable to your particular shipment:

- Duty-free
- Goods subject to taxes and duties
- Prohibited and restricted goods
- Pets and plants

Goods which can be imported duty-free include:

Appliances, antiques, books, boats and the trailers that carry them, family heirlooms, furniture, furnishings, hobby tools and other hobby items, jewelry, linens, musical instruments, private collections of coins, stamps or art, private aircraft, silverware and vacation trailers.

Note: Such articles must have been owned and used for at least one year prior to importation, otherwise duty or tax may be applicable.

Goods subject to taxes and duties:

- Goods purchased less than one year prior to importation to Canada
- Personal items that exceed \$10,000 in total value may be subject to taxes and duties depending on status of your move to Canada (i.e. permanent or temporary resident or nationality)
- A mobile home or trailer used as a residence and any goods you use commercially are subject to duties
- Automobiles, boats, motorcycles, motor scooters, snowmobiles, and any other vehicle used to carry passengers, may be subject to duty depending on the date the item was acquired.
- Office equipment, such as safes and furniture, used for business purposes, is subject to duty.

Payment to Canada Customs must be made before your goods are released for delivery.

Goods which are prohibited and restricted:

Such items include prohibited weapons and firearms, explosives, narcotics, dangerous drugs, obscene articles and publications, toxic and poisonous substances, alcohol (including the contents of wine cellars), and non-canned food items.



Canada Customs randomly inspects inbound shipments. Any prohibited items found in the shipment are subject to seizure. In the particular instance of undeclared firearms, weapons or explosives, criminal charges could also be filed against the owner of the goods.

Allied Van Lines will not reimburse the cost to replace any item confiscated by Canada Customs. Also, any additional costs incurred by Allied Van Lines due to the inclusion of such prohibited items will be the sole responsibility of the shipper.

Canada is a member of the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). This organization protects animals and plants from exploitation, particularly endangered species.

The following items are currently on the list of items prohibited from entry into Canada:

- Articles made from or containing elephant ivory, such as figurines, jewelry, piano keys, bagpipe fittings
- Articles made from snake and crocodile skins, such as boots, purses, shoes, watch straps

- Articles made from coral, such as jewelry
- Articles made from cactus plants, such as rain sticks
- Certain medicines containing endangered species parts

The following flammable/explosives/poisons will not be accepted for shipment:

- Propane tanks
- Combustible liquids
- Compressed gases
- Explosives
- Corrosive liquids
- Flammable paints, glues, oils, greases, etc.
- Fireworks
- Toxic or poisonous substances

Canada's Federal Firearm Act and Regulations classifies firearms and prohibited articles in four categories, as follows :

Non-Restricted Firearms

- Any ordinary rifle, shotgun or combination gun that is not described below as being restricted or prohibited.

Prohibited Firearms

- A prohibited handgun, that is, with a barrel of 105mm or less, or designated or adapted to discharge a 25 or 32 caliber cartridge.
- A rifle or shotgun that has been changed to make it less than 660mm or more in overall length, with a barrel less than 457mm.
- Automatic firearms or converted automatic firearms.
- Any firearm classified by the Governor in Council and prescribed under the Criminal Code as being prohibited.

Restricted Firearms

- A handgun that is not a prohibited firearm.

- A semi-automatic, center-fire rifle or shotgun with a barrel length less than 470mm that is not prohibited.
- A rifle or shotgun that fire after being reduced by an temporary means (folding, telescoping) to an overall length of less than 660mm.
- Any firearm classified by the Governor of Council and prescribed under the Criminal Code as being restricted (including some long guns).

Prohibited Devices

- Silencers
- Switchblade knives
- Large-capacity cartridge magazines
 - More than 10 shots for handguns
 - More than 5 shots for center-fire semi-automatic rifles, shotguns, and some assault pistols
- Weapons, parts, components or ammunition declared prohibited by order in Council, such as:
 - Certain military and paramilitary firearms
 - Body-armor piercing handgun cartridges, incendiary and explosive projectiles and shotgun “flechette” cartridges
 - “Bull-pup” stocks for rifles or carbines
 - Devices that enhance the rate of fire
 - Stun guns, taser public defenders
 - SS-1 Stinger and variants
 - Brass knuckles
 - Mace tear gas, pepper spray
 - Certain martial arts devices

Contact Canada Customs through the Automated Customs Information Services telephone number, listed in this booklet, for information on the requirements and documents to import non-restricted or restricted firearms.

Note: Allied Van Lines will not accept either non-restricted or restricted firearms for transportation, as stringent and complex procedures are best handled by the owner of the firearm(s). Failure to declare any weapon will not only result in confiscation, but could result in criminal charges.

Pets and Plants:

Regulations pertaining to the importation of more exotic or unusual goods or animals can be obtained by contacting the Automated Customs Information Service (ACIS).

To contact ACIS:

- Calls made within Canada
 - Service in English: 800.461.9999
 - Service in French: 800.959.2036
- Calls made from outside Canada
 - Service in English: 204.983.3500 or 506.636.5064
 - Service in French: 204.983.3700 or 506.636.5067

If you call during office hours, you may also choose to speak with a Customs Officer.

Dogs and Cats

For dogs and cats, the regulations are:

- Dogs and cats under 3 months do not require documentation.
- Dogs and cats 4 months or older require a certificate signed by a veterinarian certifying that the animal has been vaccinated for rabies within three years prior to entry into Canada. This certification must specify the age, sex, coloring, distinguishing marks, and breed of the dog or cat.



Plants

Be advised, Allied Van Lines does not transport plants or plant products.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is responsible for protecting Canada's Agricultural and Forestry Industries from disease and pests.

Should you wish to take plants in your own personal vehicle, the following must be adhered to:

- Common houseplants intended to be grown indoors can enter Canada without certificates or permits.
- All other plants require a certificate from the United States Department of Agriculture and an import permit from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, of which, must be issued in advance of the arrival of such items into Canada.

Importing Motor Vehicles

Transport Canada has similar regulations to those of the United States with respect to Safety and Emission Standards for Motor Vehicles. Most vehicles manufactured in the U.S. or elsewhere for sale in the U.S. will meet Canada's emission control standards.

To contact the registrar of Imported Vehicles, call 1.888.848.8240 or visit their website www.riv.ca. Be prepared to provide the year, make, model and vehicle identification number (VIN).

To pass Canadian safety standards, there are three potential areas that may need to be addressed if the vehicle was manufactured in the United States or elsewhere, for sale in the U.S.



- If the vehicle is 1990 or newer, it will need to be retro-fitted to comply with the Canadian daytime running light system.
- All vehicles, which seat more than two passengers, must have an approved child car seat attachment or mounting points.
- If your vehicle has been subject to any manufacturers "recalls", you must provide Canada Customs with written proof from the manufacturer (NOT THE DEALER) that the work has actually been performed on your vehicle to correct the defect.

You should attend to all of these safety requirements (if they apply), before entering Canada. Should a deficiency be identified upon your arrival or at the time your goods are about to be cleared, you may be given a period of time to correct the deficiency. You will then have to return to Canada Customs, which will inspect the vehicle to verify the necessary work has been done.

For Canadian citizens returning to Canada with a vehicle you have previously owned in Canada, you must be able to show proof of ownership when making your Customs declaration.

All vehicles entering Canada must be thoroughly cleaned on the interior and exterior, and free from foreign soil to prevent the spread of plant diseases and/or infestation of insects harmful to Canada's Agriculture and Forestry Industries.

Vehicles leaving the United States now have to be cleared for export. This means your automobile must be cleared by U.S. Immigration prior to it leaving the country. You must contact your nearest U.S. Customs office and ask them to pre-clear your vehicle for export.

If your vehicle is loaded on the same van as your household goods, you must provide the driver with the following documentation:

- Photocopy of driver's license
- Original of vehicle registration/ownership certificate
- Proof of insurance
- Manufacturer's letter of certification of corrected recall defects (if applicable)

If you are shipping a **motorcycle**, you must provide the **original title** to the driver.

Moving Industry Relocation Services

The Employee Relocation Council (ERC) and its Canadian counterpart, the Canadian Employee Relocation Council (CERC) are comprised of members who offer every conceivable service that might be required by your family's move.

Available services throughout the United States and Canada include:

Education consultants	Mortgage and financial services
Furniture rentals	Pet moving services
Home inspectors	Property managers
House appraisers	Realtors
Insurance brokers	Relocation consultants
Language schools	Re-patriation counselors
Lawyers	Tax accountants
Long and short term furnished accommodations	Welcome wagon

To obtain the names of firms which provide these services, please contact:

Employee Relocation Council

4401 Wilson Boulevard, Suite #510
Arlington, VA 22203
Telephone: 703.842.3400
Website: www.erc.org

Canadian Employee Relocation Council

180 Dundas Street West, Suite #1010
Toronto, ON M5G 1Z8
Telephone: 416.593.9812 / 866.357.2372
Website: www.cerc.org

Bonded Storage

Allied Van Lines Canada Customs bonded warehouse locations:

Alberta

Calgary Edmonton

British Columbia

Burnaby Comox Victoria

Manitoba

Winnipeg

New Brunswick

Fredericton

Newfoundland & Labrador

Cornerbrook Gander Goose Bay

St. John's

Nova Scotia

Halifax Middleton

Ontario

Barrie Belleville Brantford

Kingston London Mississauga

North Bay Oshawa Ottawa

Toronto Windsor

Quebec

Lasalle Montreal Pointe Claire

Canada Customs

Canada Customs has an "Automated Customs Information Service" (ACIS) that you can call with any questions or concerns you may have. This is a computerized, 24-hour telephone service that automatically answers all incoming calls and provides general Customs information. Directly from your telephone, you can access information on several topics under each of the following main categories:

- Personal importation and travelers exemptions
- Commercial importation and exportations
- General information on local customs news

To contact ACIS:

- Calls made within Canada
 - Service in English: **800.461.9999**
 - Service in French: **800.959.2036**
- Calls made from outside Canada
 - Service in English: **204.983.3500** or **506.636.5064**
 - Service in French: **204.983.3700** or **506.636.5067**

If you call during office hours, you may also choose to speak with a Customs Officer.

Canada Customs website is www.cbsa.gc.ca.

Canada Customs District Offices

Alberta

Calgary, AB

Edmonton, AB

British Columbia

Campbell River, BC

Cranbrook, BC

Kamloops, BC

Kelowna, BC

Nanaimo, BC

Penticton, BC

Prince George, BC

Prince Rupert, BC

Sidney, BC

Vancouver, BC

Victoria, BC

Manitoba

Winnipeg, MB

New Brunswick

Bathurst, NB

Fredericton, NB

Grand Manon, NB

Moncton, NB

Saint John, NB

Newfoundland and Labrador

Corner Brook, NL

Water Street

Gander, NL

St. John's, NL

Northwest Territories

Inuvik, NT

Yellowknife, NT

Nova Scotia

Halifax, NS

Sydney, NS

Yarmouth, NS

Ontario

Astra, On (CFB Trenton, AMU Building 346)

Barrie, ON

Hamilton, ON

Kingston, ON

Kitchener, ON

London, ON

Mississauga, ON

North Bay, ON

Oshawa, ON

Sudbury, ON

Thunder Bay, ON

Toronto, ON

Prince Edward Island

Charlottetown, PEI

Quebec

Baie-Comeau, QC

Chicoutimi, QC

Montreal, QC

Sept-Îles, QC

Sherbrooke, QC

Sorel-Tracy, QC

Quebec City, QC

Trois-Rivières, QC

Saskatchewan

Regina, SK

Saskatoon, SK

Yukon

Whitehorse, YK