

# **Moving from Canada to the United States**

A Comprehensive Guide

Updated October 2012

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## Introduction

Allied Van Lines has one of the largest networks of agents in the North American Continent. This booklet is designed to cover the requirements of U.S Customs, Immigration and other



Federal 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

For the purpose of Customs and Immigration, there are two classes of people entering the United States:

- Returning Residents
- Non-Residents

### Returning Resident

A **citizen** is defined as a person who has acquired United States Citizenship by virtue of birth or naturalization.

A **resident alien** is a non-citizen or national of another country that has acquired legal permanent residence within the United States, and is returning from a temporary stay outside the U.S.

### Non-Resident

An **immigrant** is a person who has acquired a visa allowing them to live permanently within the United States and who is coming to the U.S. for initial admission for permanent residence.

A **non-immigrant** is a national of another country other than the United States who is proceeding to the U.S. temporarily on business, or to study, and who has another country in which he/she ultimately intends to return.

## Documents Required to Enter the United States

- A **U.S. citizen** requires a valid United States Passport and a 3299 Form (Declaration of Free Entry of Unaccompanied Articles).
- A **resident alien** requires their alien registration receipt card (or, Re-entry permit). Canadian Citizens will also require a valid Canadian passport, Social Insurance Number, and a 3299 Form (Declaration of Free Entry of Unaccompanied Articles).
- An **immigrant** requires a valid unexpired passport, an immigrant visa (issued by a United States Consul Officer), or a valid work visa I-94.
- A **non-immigrant** requires a valid unexpired passport and a United States visa allowing admission into the United States, and a 3299 Form (Declaration of Free Entry of Unaccompanied Articles).

***Note: Every family member who will be entering the United States must have a passport.***

For more information, please contact:

### U.S. Customs

Telephone: 877.227.5511

Website: [www.customs.ustreas.gov](http://www.customs.ustreas.gov)

### U.S. Immigration

Telephone: 800.375.5283

Website: [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov)

## Common Imported Goods

With the exception of non-resident students who are not permitted to bring household goods into the United States, all other classes of entrants are entitled to import certain goods. Customs regulations have four categories of goods:

- Duty-free
- Quantity restricted goods
- Restricted and prohibited goods
- Pets and plants

### **Goods which can be imported duty-free include:**

Wearing apparel, household furniture, personal use automobiles, motorcycles, boats and planes, professional books, instruments and tools of trade or occupation. All of the foregoing must have been owned and used by you or your family for a period of more than one year, otherwise duty may be applicable.

### **Goods which can be imported, but are restricted to quantity include:**

#### **Alcohol and Tobacco**

You may import one (1) liter (33.8 oz) of alcoholic beverages duty-free. Permits are required by most states to import alcohol and the process to obtain such permits can take 60 days or more.

***Note: Allied Van Lines does not transport alcohol, including the contents of wine cellars.***

You may import a maximum of 200 cigarettes and 50 cigars duty free. Quantities in excess of this, will be subject to duty. Cuban cigars will be confiscated at the border.

#### **Prescription Medicine**

You may import up to a three-month supply of prescription drugs for personal use. Prescription drugs should be carried on your person. A letter from your doctor explaining prescribed medications, particularly those administered by hypodermic injection, will ensure a trouble-free customs clearance. Keep your medicine in separate vials, with the name of the medication, prescribing doctor, the dosage and the directions for use clearly labeled in English.



#### **Money**

You must file a Form 4790 with U.S. Customs if you transport or send into/out of the country, more than \$10,000 USD currency or foreign coins/currency, traveler's cheques, money orders, negotiable or investment securities. A customs Form 4790 must also be filed if you receive more than \$10,000 USD while in the United States.

### **Goods which are restricted and prohibited:**

#### **Firearms**

A firearm purchased in the United States must be accompanied with the bill of sale that proves the U.S. origin of the firearm.

You must make an application for a "Permit for Importation" of any foreign (non-U.S.) manufactured firearm (Form 4455 or 4457). The permit and authorization to import is issued by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearm (AFT).

***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). You should carry firearms on your person, having secured the proper documentation to present to customs at the time of your entry. Failure to declare any weapons will not only result in confiscation, but could result in criminal charges.***

### **Knives**

Weapons with fixed blades are generally permitted entry into the United States, however, souvenirs such as swords, camel whips, machetes and similar articles capable of being used as weapons may still be in violation of local and state laws. According to U.S. Customs: “Knives designed for utilitarian use, such as household purposes, personal grooming, trade or professional employment, crafts or hobbies, hunting and fishing, and scouting activities are permitted unrestricted entry, provided that the imported knife does not open automatically and is not a switchblade”.

Prohibited items include weapons and firearms, ammunition (bullets, gun powder and firing caps) explosives, narcotics, obscene articles and publications, toxic and poisonous substances, propane tanks, combustible or corrosive liquids, compressed gases, fireworks and flammable paints, glues, oils, greases, etc. Persian rugs not purchased in the U.S. Products from endangered species, including crocodile skins, snakeskin, sea turtle products like combs or jewelry, are prohibited.

For more information on/permits for Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, please contact:

### **ATF Distribution Center**

Telephone: 202.927.8140 (alcohol and tobacco)

Telephone: 202.927.8320 (firearms)

Telephone: 703.455.7801 (forms)

Website: [www.atf.treas.gov](http://www.atf.treas.gov)

### **Pets and Plants:**

#### **Dogs and Cats**

At the port of entry, dogs and cats are examined to determine if they are free from any disease communicable to humans. A vaccination against rabies is not required for cats, however, dogs must be vaccinated at least 30 days prior to entry into the United States.

A valid rabies vaccination certificate signed by a licensed veterinarian must accompany the dog. This certification must specify the age, sex, coloring, distinguishing marks and breed of the dog,



and it must provide the dates of vaccination and vaccination expiration.

***Note: If the dog's vaccination was administered less than one month prior to its arrival, the pet will be admitted into the country but will be placed in quarantine by the owner until the required 30 days have expired. There are special guidelines for importing puppies, so check with the U.S. Health Service for specific details.***

Regulations pertaining to the importation of household animals can be obtained by contacting the Foreign Quarantine Program at:

**U.S. Public Health Service**

1600 Clifton Road NE

Atlanta, Georgia 30333

Phone: 404.639.3311

Website for Center for Disease Control and Prevention: [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

**Plants**

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

The Department of Agriculture regulates the importation of plants and plant products. Any items of biological nature – including plants, cuttings, seeds, vegetables and fruits are subject to approval **prior** to importation into the United States. As a result, all plants, plant products, fruits and vegetables must be declared and presented to the Customs Officer for inspection.

***Note: Some states restrict entry of plants and produce. In addition, the U.S. Endangered Species Act places numerous restrictions on the importation of endangered plants such as certain cycads, orchids and cacti. For more information please contact:***

**United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service**

4700 River Road, Unit 136

Riverdale, MD 20737

Phone: 301.734.4393

Website: [www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov)

**Importing Private Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles**

When importing your vehicle/motorcycle into the United States (either by driving it yourself, or shipping it with Allied Van Lines), your vehicle must satisfy requirements established by the

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Form 3520-1, the Department of Transportation (DOT) Form HS-7 and the Department of Homeland Security Form 7501 (Informal Entry). You are responsible to ensure your vehicle meets these requirements.

Contact the manufacturer of the vehicle/motorcycle, and ask for a letter that states the vehicle complies with all applicable U.S. Federal motor vehicle safety standards (FMVSS). The letter from the manufacturer must identify your vehicle by the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN).



**Read the manufacturer's letter carefully.** If the letter states the vehicle/motorcycle complies with U.S. FMVSS, except for minor labeling requirements, you have an acceptable letter. This letter along with your vehicle registration should be presented to U.S. Customs at the border. U.S. Customs will review the manufacturer's letter to ensure the vehicle is compliant.

If the manufacturer's letter states that the vehicle/motorcycle meets all U.S. FMVSS, except the speedometer, or headlights, you must have these components replaced at a dealer authorized by the manufacturer. In addition to the documents cited above, you will present the invoice for the speedometer or headlight replacement to obtain U.S. Customs approval.

If the manufacturer's letter states that the vehicle/motorcycle meets all U.S. FMVSS except for FMVSS No. 208 (automatic or passive restraint requirements) you **will not** be able to bring your vehicle/motorcycle into the United States on a permanent basis unless it is modified by an RI (registered importer). If an RI is willing to modify the vehicle, it will be expensive and may change your desire to import the vehicle/motorcycle.

If the manufacturer will not issue a letter of compliance for your vehicle, the vehicle cannot be imported into the United States.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture requires all vehicles/motorcycles entering the United States 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.

If you are driving your vehicle/motorcycle across the border, or, your vehicle/motorcycle is loaded on the same van as your household goods, you must provide the driver with the following documentation:

- Original registration/ownership certificate
- Proof of insurance
- Photocopy of driver's license
- Manufacturer's letter of compliance
- EPA Form 3520-1
- DOT Form HS-7
- Informal Entry Form 7501



Some imported automobiles are subject to a "Gas Guzzler Tax". Before registering and titling your vehicle, many states require proof that you have paid this tax, which can be \$300 or more.

For more information on importing a vehicle/motorcycle, please contact:

**U.S. Department of Transportation's** website at [www.dot.gov](http://www.dot.gov).

For more information regarding the U.S. Safety emission control standards, please contact:

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**

Telephone: 734.214.4200 / 202.564.9660

Website: [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)

**Acura**

USA 800.382.2238

Canada 888.922.8729

[www.acura.com](http://www.acura.com)

**Honda**

800.999.1009

[www.honda.com](http://www.honda.com)

**Mitsubishi**

888.648.7820

[www.mistubishi-motors.com](http://www.mistubishi-motors.com)

**Audi**

800.822.2834

[www.audiusa.com](http://www.audiusa.com)

[www.audi.ca](http://www.audi.ca)

**Infiniti**

USA 800.662.6200

Canada 800.361.4792

[www.infiniti.com](http://www.infiniti.com)

**Nissan**

USA 800.647.7261

Canada 800.387.0122

[www.nissanusa.com](http://www.nissanusa.com)

[www.nissan.ca](http://www.nissan.ca)

**BMW**

USA 800.831.1117  
Canada 800.567.2691  
[www.bmw.com](http://www.bmw.com)

**Isuzu**

800.255.6727  
[www.isuzu.com](http://www.isuzu.com)

**Subaru**

800.782.2783  
[www.subaru.com](http://www.subaru.com)

**Chrysler Corporation**

USA 800.992.1997  
Canada 800.465.2001  
[www.chrysler.com](http://www.chrysler.com)

**Jaguar**

USA 800.452.4827  
Canada 800.668.6257  
[www.jaguar.com](http://www.jaguar.com)

**Suzuki**

USA 800.934.0934  
Canada 905.889.2677  
[www.suzuki.com](http://www.suzuki.com)

**Ferrari**

201.816.2600  
[www.ferrariusa.com](http://www.ferrariusa.com)

**Land Rover**

USA 800.637.6837  
Canada 800.346.3493  
[www.landrover.com](http://www.landrover.com)

**Volkswagen**

800.822.8987  
[www.volkswagen.com](http://www.volkswagen.com)

**Ford**

USA 800.392.3673  
Canada 800.565.3673  
[www.ford.com](http://www.ford.com)

**Mazda**

949.727.1990  
[www.mazda.com](http://www.mazda.com)

**Volvo**

USA 800.458.1552  
Canada 800.663.8255  
[www.volvo.com](http://www.volvo.com)

**General Motors**

800.263.3777  
[www.gm.com](http://www.gm.com)  
[www.gm.ca](http://www.gm.ca)

**Mercedes-Benz**

USA 800.367.6372  
Canada 800.387.0100  
[www.mercedes-benz.com](http://www.mercedes-benz.com)

**Yamaha**

USA 800.962.7926  
Canada 416.498.1911  
[www.yamaha-motors.ca](http://www.yamaha-motors.ca)

**Harley Davidson**

USA 414.343.4056  
Canada 905.660.3500  
[www.harley-davidson.com](http://www.harley-davidson.com)

## A Word about Gypsy Moths

Gypsy moths are very destructive and cause hundreds of millions of dollars of damage through defoliating trees and shrubs.

Extensive gypsy moth infested areas include southern Ontario, southern Quebec and New Brunswick in Canada, and Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, Michigan, and parts of Wisconsin, Ohio and West Virginia in the United States.

If you are moving from Ontario, Quebec or New Brunswick, to certain agricultural sensitive areas such as California, Nevada and Arizona, then you must perform a self-inspection to remove all moths or egg masses from all articles normally stored outside.

Such items include:

- Recreational and camping items (i.e. tents, snowmobiles, campers, boats, bicycles, sports equipment)
- Household items (i.e. trash cans, ladders, storage sheds, water hoses)
- Building materials (i.e. bricks, lumber, workbenches)
- Children's swing sets, playhouses, toys.
- Yard and garden items (i.e. grills, birdhouses, garden tools, picnic tables, wheelbarrows)

The driver must present a certificate of inspection at the Department of Agriculture check station before entering certain states.

For further information, contact:

United States Department of Agriculture, Plant Protection and Quarantine

Telephone: 301.734.5519

Toll-free: 877.770.5990 (automated system)

Fax: 301.734.4300

## **U.S. Customs Documents Required**

Your **driver** must have the following documents in his possession to clear your shipment with U.S. Customs at the United States Port of Entry:

- Original 3299 Form (Declaration for Free Entry of Unaccompanied Articles)
- Original 2332 DND Form (if applicable)
- Photocopy of passport (inside page showing picture and description of importer) for each family member
- Photocopy of work visa I-94 (if applicable)

For your personal entry into the United States, **you** must produce the following documents for U.S. Customs at the United States Port of Entry:

- Passport for each family member
- Valid work visa I-94 (if applicable)

- Copy of the Allied Van Lines Bill of Lading
- Copy of the household goods inventory listings
- Copy of the 3299 Form (Declaration for Free Entry of Unaccompanied Articles)

## Moving Industry Relocation Services

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

Available services throughout Canada and the United States 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:

### 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](http://www.cerc.org)

### Employee Relocation Council

4401 Wilson Boulevard, Suite #510  
 Arlington, VA 22203  
 Telephone : 703.842.3400  
 Website: [www.erc.org](http://www.erc.org)