

Moving From The United States To Canada

WITH UNITED VAN LINES

Our goal: To make your relocation process as uncomplicated as possible, by following all procedures and providing the required documentation to Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA).

- ☐ Although we can offer expertise in cross-border customs procedures, enforcement by Customs Authorities is beyond our control.
- ☐ It is important that you also understand your responsibilities and the documentation requirements. We encourage you to contact the government agencies listed at the end of this brochure for more detailed information.

Declaring your Household Goods and Personal Effects

- ☐ When entering Canada — even if you have no household goods and personal effects with you at the time of entry — you must provide a list of your household goods “to follow” to the CBSA Officer at your first point of arrival in Canada.
- ☐ Based on the list of household effects you provide, the CBSA Officer will complete a B4 form called the Personal Effects Accounting Document for you, assign a file number to it and give you a copy of the completed form as a receipt. This receipt is called a B15 form, also referred to as the Casual Goods Accounting Document.
- ☐ You will need to present your copy of the form to claim free importation of your unaccompanied goods when they arrive (for any returning residents or seasonal residents).

Note: “Goods to follow” may be subject to duties/taxes and import restrictions before you can complete importing them into Canada.

- ☐ To expedite the process, complete a B4 form in advance and present it to the CBSA Officer when you first arrive in Canada.

What to Expect During the Customs Clearance Process

- ☐ Household goods and personal effects entering Canada do not clear customs at the border; they clear at the closest Canada Customs office to your destination address.
- ☐ Your household goods and personal effects will enter Canada “in bond.”
- ☐ Your customs clearance appointment can only occur once the Van Operator has formally crossed the border and your shipment is in Canada at the destination city.
- ☐ Once the Van Operator arrives in Canada, he or she will call you in advance to set up a customs clearance date, time and advise the location.
- ☐ By Canadian law, you (the shipper) must personally be present for your appointment with the CBSA Officer. Clearing your shipment is typically a simple procedure as long as you have all your documentation in order.

CONTAINER SHIPMENTS

If you have container shipments, you will need to visit the Canada Customs office closest to your destination agent to have your shipment released. This may be some distance from your home. Getting to the Customs office is your own responsibility, and no one from the moving company will be there.

Not sure whether you have a container shipment? Ask your move coordinator.

- ☐ Either your Move Coordinator or the Van Operator will contact you to proceed with clearance.
- ☐ On the day of your customs clearance appointment, please ensure you bring your passport and all the documentation that will support your status in Canada. Please refer to the list below for required documentation.

NOTE: If your shipment is selected by CBSA for inspection, your customs clearance process may take longer. You may incur additional charges for storage at a bonded warehouse and extra labor required to unload the shipment for inspection. These additional procedures can add significant amounts to the cost of your move. Check with your sales representative for details.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

Former Residents and Returning Canadian Citizens

- ☐ **Cargo Control Document** – A8A Manifest (Van Operator/Destination Agent will provide this form)
- ☐ **Inventory List** – You should include a total valuation of your household goods shipment in Canadian Funds
- ☐ **Original B4 Form and/or B15 Form**
- ☐ **Original Passport** – For all accompanied family members, photocopies are accepted as long as the photo page is clear
- ☐ **Proof of residency abroad** – Any document showing that you have lived outside of Canada for over 1 full year (i.e. a utility bill, income tax return, bank statement, letter from employer)

Landed Immigrant

- ☐ **Cargo Control Document** – A8A Manifest (the Van Operator will provide this form)
- ☐ **Inventory List** – You should include a total valuation of your household goods shipment in Canadian Funds
- ☐ **Original B4 Form and/or B15 Form**
- ☐ **Original Passport** – For all accompanied family members, photocopies are accepted as long as the photo page is clear
- ☐ **Original Landing Documents and Permanent Resident Cards** (if you have already received your PR cards)
- ☐ **Original receipts** of new goods (if any)

Temporary Resident (Work Visa)

- ☐ **Cargo Control Document** – A8A Manifest (the Van Operator will provide this form)
- ☐ **Inventory List** – You should include a total valuation of your household goods shipment in Canadian Funds
- ☐ **Original B4 Form and/or B15 Form**
- ☐ **Original Passport** – For all accompanied family members, photocopies are accepted as long as the photo page is clear
- ☐ **Work Permit** (Employment Authorization)

Seasonal Resident

- ☐ **Cargo Control Document** – A8A Manifest (the Van Operator will provide this form)

- ☐ **Inventory List** – You should include a total valuation of your household goods shipment in Canadian funds
- ☐ **Original B4 Form and/or B15 Form**
- ☐ **Original Passport** – For all accompanied family members, photocopies are accepted as long as the photo page is clear
- ☐ **Copy of your purchase agreement** for your property in Canada

Note: The property cannot be a mobile or portable home, a time-share residence, a residence that is shared with a Canadian resident, or a residence that will be rented or leased to others while the seasonal resident is out of Canada.

Bequest (Inheritance)

- ☐ **Cargo Control Document** – A8A Manifest (the Van Operator will provide this form)
- ☐ **Inventory List** – You should include a total valuation of your household goods shipment in Canadian funds
- ☐ **Original B4 Form and/or B15 Form**
- ☐ **Original Passport**– For all accompanied family members, photocopies are accepted as long as the photo page is clear
- ☐ **Copy of Will** showing client (shipper) as the beneficiary
- ☐ **Death Certificate** or letter from the Executor of Estate

Note: In cases where this is a “gift in anticipation of death,” a signed statement from the donor outlining these circumstances must be provided. The statement needs to attest that the gift is without financial consideration or compensation of any kind and the goods have been owned, possessed and used abroad by the donor prior to their donation.

PROHIBITED AND RESTRICTED ITEMS

- Obscene material
- Hate propaganda
- Firearms and weapons
- Explosives, fireworks and ammunition
- Coin, base and counterfeit
- False description of Geographical Origin of Goods and Goods with Trademarks
- Fruit, plant and animal products
- Health products (Personal medications should be carried on their person)
- Used or second-hand mattresses

Alcohol and Tobacco

- ☐ In order to import alcohol and tobacco, you (the shipper) must be of legal age, pursuant to your destination province or territory.
- ☐ Alcohol and tobacco products imported into Canada above the personal exemption limit are subject to duties and taxes.
- ☐ The quantities of alcohol included in your shipment must be within the limits set out by your destination province or territory.

- ❑ It is your responsibility to contact the provincial or territorial liquor control board in advance of your shipment.
- ❑ You need to create a detailed inventory list of all alcoholic beverages including: the brand name, number of bottles, volume per bottle, alcoholic content and price for each item.
- ❑ The detailed list should also be clearly noted on the boxes for Customs purposes.
- ❑ Alcohol must be declared upon your first arrival port in Canada and duties and taxes will be assessed by the CBSA Officer.
- ❑ We will not be responsible for any spoiling, discoloration or broken bottles of liquor, wine or beer.
- ❑ Choosing to include alcoholic beverages and wine in your shipment will be “SHIP AT OWNER’S RISK.”

Personal Exemption Limits:

Alcoholic Beverages

- 1.5 L (53 imperial oz) of wine
- A total of 1.14 L (40 oz) of alcoholic beverages; or
- Up to a maximum of 8.5 L of beer or ale

Tobacco Products

- 200 cigarettes
- 50 cigars;
- 200 grams (7 oz) of manufactured tobacco; and
- 200 tobacco sticks

Contact Information

Border Information Services (BIS)

1-800-461-9999 (within Canada)
204-983-3500 or 506-636-5064
(outside Canada)
www.cbsa.gc.ca

Royal Canadian Mounted Police

(RCMP)
Canadian Firearms Program
Ottawa, ON K1A 0R2
1-800-731-4000

Canadian Food Inspection Agency

(CFIA)
1-800-442-2342 or
613-773-2342
www.inspection.gc.ca

Liquor Control Authority

Alberta – Alberta Gaming & Liquor Commission	1-800-272-8876 or 780-447-8600
British Columbia – Liquor Control Licensing Branch	1-866-209-2111 or 250-952-5787
Manitoba – Liquor & Gaming Authority	1-800-782-0363 or 204-954-9400
New Brunswick – Alcool NB Liquor	506-452-6826
Newfoundland & Labrador – Liquor Corporation	709-724-1100
Northwest Territory – Liquor Commission	867-874-8700
Nova Scotia – Liquor Corporation	1-800-567-5874
Nunavut – Liquor Commission	867-645-8475
Ontario – Liquor Control Board	1-800-668-5226 or 416-365-5900
Prince Edward Island – Liquor Control Commission	902-368-5710
Quebec – The Société des alcools du Québec	1-866-873-2020 or 514-254-2020
Saskatchewan – Liquor & Gaming Authority	1-800-667-7565 or 306-787-5563
Yukon Territory – Liquor Corporation	867-667-5245