



## **Import Customs Guide CANADA**

Information from FIDI Canada

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FIDI ACCREDITED  
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**The global quality standard for international moving.**

The FAIM label is your global assurance for a smooth, safe and comprehensive relocation process.

GOODS	DOCUMENTS REQUIRED	CUSTOMS PRESCRIPTIONS	REMARKS
<p><b>Removal goods - Settlers (Immigrants, Student Visa, Work Visa, Super Visa)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Copy of passport.</li> <li>▪ Detailed inventories (English/French).</li> <li>▪ Advice notice/customs manifest – obtained from the moving company in Canada.</li> <li>▪ Detailed valued list of items included in shipment.</li> <li>▪ Ownership, possession and proof of use.</li> <li>▪ Receipts for any new items.</li> <li>▪ Previous airport or US/Canada border declaration papers (B4Ee/ B15).</li> <li>▪ Liquor import declaration (if applicable).</li> <li>▪ Immigration papers (if applicable).</li> <li>▪ Landed immigrant application (if applicable).</li> <li>▪ Visa (if applicable).</li> <li>▪ Work permit (if applicable).</li> <li>▪ Letter of undertaking (not always necessary).</li> <li>▪ Valued list of items.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Duty free for immigrants if:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Household goods &amp; personal effects, owned &amp; used by importer for at least 6 months prior to importation.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Duty free for student, visitor/super visa, work visa if:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All items imported must be for personal use during the stay.</li> <li>▪ All goods must be exported when importer's temporary residency status expires.</li> <li>▪ The goods may not be sold or disposed of in Canada without customs authorization.</li> <li>▪ <u>Super Visa</u>: Customs may require a refundable deposit based on the declared value of the goods. Refunds will be issued after Customs is satisfied all imported goods have been exported upon the expiration of the visa.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All shipments must be declared to customs at the port of entry (i.e. at the airport/U.S Canada border) when the transferee lands in Canada.</li> <li>▪ If entering Canada through an airport, complete the e311 Declaration card and ensure you have ticked the section declaring you have goods to follow.</li> <li>▪ eTA (Canadian Electronic Authorization) is mandatory before flying to Canada.</li> <li>▪ For the most current information regarding household and personal effects, please go to: <a href="http://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/menu-eng.html">http://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/menu-eng.html</a></li> <li>▪ Shipments of personal and household effects can be subject to a thorough inspection by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA).</li> <li>▪ Any single item of personal or household effects, including automobiles, that were acquired after March 31, 1977, and are valued at more than \$10,000 are subject to regular duty and taxes on the excess amount</li> </ul>
<p><b>Removal goods – Returning Canadians</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Proof of Residency outside of Canada for at least one year (e.g. monthly statements, letter from employer, rent receipts, Income tax).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Duty free for former residents if:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Household goods &amp; personal effects, owned &amp; used by importer for at least 6 months prior to importation. Must have lived outside of Canada for a minimum of</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All shipments must be declared to customs at the port of entry (i.e. at the airport/U.S Canada border) when the transferee lands in Canada. Do not enter through an automated channel.</li> </ul>

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		<p>12 months ENSURE you have documentary evidence to support living outside of Canada for a minimum of 12 months</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ If entering Canada through an airport, complete the e311 Declaration card and ensure you have ticked the section declaring you have goods to follow.</li> <li>▪ Complete the B4e and B4 list forms.</li> <li>▪ For the most current information regarding household and personal effects, please go to: <a href="http://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/menu-eng.html">http://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/menu-eng.html</a></li> <li>▪ Shipments of personal and household effects can be subject to a thorough inspection by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA).</li> <li>▪ eTA (Canadian Electronic Authorization) is mandatory before flying to Canada.</li> <li>▪ Canadian citizens must enter the country using their Canadian passports, even those with dual citizenships.</li> <li>▪ Any single item of personal or household effects, including automobiles, that were acquired after March 31, 1977, and are valued at more than \$10,000 are subject to regular duty and taxes on the excess amount.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Removal goods – Seasonal residents</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Passport for all family members.</li> <li>▪ Detailed list of all items in English/French.</li> <li>▪ Copy of the deed to the property or copy of sales agreement for the property.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Duty free if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Goods cannot be sold for at least 1 year.</li> <li>▪ Used household goods &amp; personal effects on a ONE time entry basis.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ For the most current information regarding household and personal effects, please go to: <a href="http://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/menu-eng.html">http://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/menu-eng.html</a></li> </ul>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A proof of purchase/copy of lease agreement is required for any person who is not a resident of Canada but owns a residential property or has leased a residence for at least 3 years for his/her personal use.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Shipments of personal and household effects can be subject to a thorough inspection by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA).</li> <li>▪ Any single item of personal or household effects, including automobiles, that were acquired after March 31, 1977, and are valued at more than \$10,000 are subject to regular duty and taxes on the excess amount.</li> </ul>
<b>Diplomatic removals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Obligation for privilege to be lodged by the Canadian Ministry of External Affairs.</li> <li>▪ Passport.</li> <li>▪ Inventory.</li> <li>▪ Arrival notice.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Duty free entry.</li> <li>▪ Alcohol: Diplomats are not entitled to duty free entry of alcohol.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Diplomats are advised to check with their local embassy and destination agent regarding the importation regulations for alcohol.</li> </ul>
<b>Wedding trousseaux</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Inventory in English or French.</li> <li>▪ Marriage certificate.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Duty free entry.</li> </ul>	
<b>Inheritance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Personal identification.</li> <li>▪ A detailed list of all items (English/French) including values in Canadian dollars.</li> <li>▪ Advice Notice obtained from the moving company.</li> <li>▪ Copy of the Death Certificate, copy of the will or a letter from the Executor of the Estate stating you are a beneficiary.</li> <li>▪ A signed statement from the donor giving reason for the gift or a statement from the Executor of the Estate. (Gifts could be subject to import duties and taxes).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Duty free entry if the imported items have been owned and used for at least six months prior to entry.</li> </ul>	
<b>New furniture, household items, presents and souvenirs</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Settlers &amp; Immigrants - new furniture and household furniture are liable to payment of</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Canada Customs require invoices and inventory of new goods.</li> </ul>

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		<p>customs duties if they have not been in the owner's previous use prior to their arrival to Canada.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If duty and taxes are paid at time of import, the goods may be sold at any time. If the goods are brought in and no duty or taxes are paid, then they cannot be disposed of within one year of import.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Work of Arts, Antiques</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No documents required if part of household effects.</li> <li>Proof of age will be required if item is over 100 years old.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Duty free entry if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Works of art are forming part of a bona fide household removal</li> <li>Articles are over 100 years old.</li> <li>Are not for sale or other disposal.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Antiques and works of art imported into Canada for resale, are subject to different regulations.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Motor vehicles</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Passport.</li> <li>Proof of ownership and previous registration</li> <li>Insurance documents to be presented at time of clearing.</li> <li>The car must comply to Canadian Standards</li> <li>All vehicles will be inspected by the Canadian Agricultural Inspection Agency upon arrival into Canada.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Motor vehicles imported into Canada cannot be licensed in Canada unless they have been cleared through Canada Customs. Used or second-hand vehicles are generally prohibited from importation into Canada. However, there are some exceptions to these rules, please be aware of the laws governing vehicle importation to avoid delays and difficulties: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Duty of 6.1% applies to vehicles manufactured outside of Canada, USA and Mexico;</li> <li>Vehicles with air conditioning incur an Excise Tax of \$100;</li> <li>Different tax rates apply based on destination province.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Canadian citizens/permanent residences importing vehicles must have owned, possessed and used the vehicle for at least 6 months prior to import, if they have been away from Canada for less than 5 years. If away for more than 5 years, then the 6 months possession clause drops.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shippers with cars still have to attend Customs in person.</li> <li>If on a work visa, then the rules for importing a car are more relaxed. The vehicle will be imported on a temporary basis for the duration of the work visa. When your work visa expires or you obtain permanent residence, the vehicle will need to be re-exported.</li> <li>Should you require more detailed information, please contact: Transport Canada Vehicle Importation 13th Floor Canada building, 344 Slater Street, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0N5 - Canada 1-613-998-8616.</li> <li>For more details on importing a Vehicle into Canada, please go to: <a href="http://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/menu-eng.html">http://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/menu-eng.html</a></li> </ul>

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<b>Alcohol &amp; cigarettes</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Alcohol is allowed into Canada. Duty and tax will apply. Each province has its own process for importation. Please check with your local destination agent for details.</li> <li>▪ Duties are payable.</li> <li>▪ Diplomats are advised to check with their local embassy and destination agent regarding the importation regulations for alcohol.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Duties will be assessed against valuations calculated by the Provincial Liquor Board levies and Canada Customs tariff.</li> <li>▪ In excess of the allowance a permit is required prior to importation from the Provincial Liquor Board where the liquor is to be imported.</li> </ul>
<b>Firearms</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Detailed list (serial no, - type/calibre - model - brand).</li> <li>▪ Copies of licenses.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All firearms coming into Canada are taken for detailed inspection and could be refused entry.</li> <li>▪ You must declare all weapons and firearms at the CBSA port of entry when you enter Canada. If not, you could face prosecution and the goods may be seized.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Do not ship firearms - check with Canadian Firearms Centre, Ottawa first.</li> <li>▪ In most cases an import-export license must be obtained before transport.</li> <li>▪ When shipping firearms load them last in the container, and/or advise their location in the lift van.</li> <li>▪ Remove firing pins before shipping.</li> </ul>
<b>Hunting trophies</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Restrictions to import apply.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Subject to inspection before Customs clearing.</li> </ul>
<b>Narcotics, drugs</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Importation prohibited.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Canadian Government has a policy of random checks for drugs, which results in the possibility of extra charges.</li> </ul>
<b>Plants</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Import permit (if allowed)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Prohibited.</li> <li>▪ Plants, also the earth, sand or other substance in which they are packed, are potential carriers of pests or diseases.</li> <li>▪ Recognised" house plants" from the USA for</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Import permit from CFIA, if allowed, must be obtained in advance.</li> </ul>

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		indoor use may be permitted.	
<b>Domestic animals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Prohibited.</li> <li>▪ Plants, also the earth, sand or other substance in which they are packed, are potential carriers of pests or diseases. Recognised" house plants" from the USA for indoor use may be permitted.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ It is recommended to check the latest regulations regarding pets at 'Animal Health Division, Agriculture Canada, Ottawa, Ontario KIA OY9'.</li> <li>▪ See <a href="http://www.inspection.gc.ca">www.inspection.gc.ca</a> for more details.</li> </ul>
<b>Food</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Strong restrictions apply for the importation of meat and meat by products.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ It is recommended not to import any food items to Canada. Please visit the website <a href="http://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca">http://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca</a>.</li> <li>▪ If brought in, the shipment will be inspected and extra charges will be applicable for inspection.</li> </ul>
<b>Prohibited items</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Baby Walkers.</li> <li>▪ Balloon Blowing Kits.</li> <li>▪ Infant Self-Feeding Devices.</li> <li>▪ Jequirity Beans.</li> <li>▪ Lawn Darts with Elongated Tips.</li> <li>▪ Relight Candles.</li> <li>▪ Yo-Yo Balls with long cords.</li> </ul>	
<b>Endangered species</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Canada is a signatory to an international agreement that controls the trade or movement of many animals, their fur, skin, bone, feathers, etc</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In all cases, it is best to contact the CITES office to ask about import requirements. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Telephone: 1-800-668-6767 (toll-free number in Canada)</li> <li>▪ 819-997-1840 (from all other countries)</li> <li>▪ Fax: 819-953-6283</li> <li>▪ Web site: <a href="http://www.cites.ec.gc.ca">www.cites.ec.gc.ca</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>



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<b>Firewood</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Permit to Import.</li> <li>▪ A Phytosanitary Certificate issued by the NPPO must accompany the shipment. The Phytosanitary Certificate must validate all of the entry requirements (i.e., treatment, certification, pest free areas) stated on the Permit to Import</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Firewood must be heat treated using equipment (i.e., kiln) that is capable of heating wood to a minimum core temperature of 56°C for a minimum of 30 minutes.</li> <li>▪ The import of firewood from all areas of the world is prohibited, unless the exporting country can clearly demonstrate that the conditions specified have been met.</li> </ul>	
<b>Fumigation of imported and exported wooden crates</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Canadian Government adopted ISPM-15 (International standards for Phytosanitary Measures Publication 15) Guidelines for Regulating Wood Packaging Material in International Trade (aka NIFM-15) to standardise the treatment of wood packing materials used for the transport of goods.</li> <li>▪ ISPM No. 15 requires that wood packaging either be heat-treated or fumigated with methyl bromide and marked with the internationally recognized International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) mark, or in lieu of the mark, the consignment must be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate specifying the treatment used.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ For more information on rules and regulations governing the Import Policy and Export Program for Wood Packaging, visit the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) Web site <a href="http://www.inspection.gc.ca">http://www.inspection.gc.ca</a>.</li> </ul>
<b>Used Mattresses</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Customs Tariff Item 9897 prohibits the importation of used or second-hand mattresses unless accompanied by certificates that show the items were cleaned and fumigated.</li> <li>▪ Imports containing used or second-hand mattresses for importers who fall under Customs Tariff Item 9805 – 9810 (Returning Canadians, Bequests, Settlers, Diplomats) are exempt from the fumigation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Although the requirement for the fumigation of used and second-hand mattresses does exist in the Canada Customs Tariff (Item 9897), <u>enforcement of the fumigation requirement is very rare</u>. When enforced, it is usually on mattresses belonging to individuals who have been away from Canada for <u>less than 1 year</u> (i.e.- “Vacationers”).</li> </ul>



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		requirement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Check with your Destination Agent to determine if the local Canada Customs Office is enforcing the requirement.</li> </ul>



## The FIDI Global Alliance

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