

## Importing a Vehicle into Canada

Importing a Motor Vehicle into Canada can be a complicated process. You have to make sure you do your homework before you undertake such a venture. It can be a rewarding venture but be careful. If done incorrectly, it can cost you much more than anticipated or at worst you may have purchased a vehicle but cannot import it into Canada.

Here's a synopsis of government agencies involved and the main requirements :

### Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA)

For vehicles imported from and registered in the U.S. there is no age restriction. For vehicles being imported from all other countries, in general, they need to be 15 years old or older based on the date of manufacture.

The CBSA imposes duties and collects taxes on behalf of other government departments. In general here is a list of fees to be expected at time or after import;

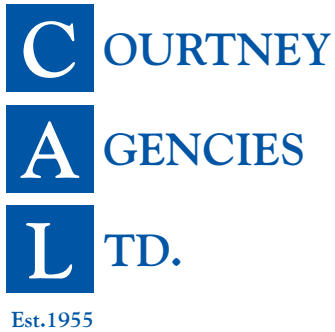
- Duty: 6.1% (some vehicles may be duty free from the USA)
- Gst: 7%
- Excise tax for Air conditioning: \$100.00
- Excise tax at various rates based on weight over 2007 kgm
- PST at various rates based on province of registration (7% in B.C.) payable at time vehicle is insured
- The Registrar of Imported Vehicles imposes a \$192.00 fee on vehicles from the USA less than 15 years old
- CFIA inspection fee: \$43.00 applicable to vehicles imported from a country other than the USA. Steam Cleaning fees may apply if it has not been sufficiently cleaned.

A useful link: <http://www.cbsa.gc.ca/E/pub/cp/rc4140/rc4140-e.html>

### Transport Canada

Vehicles less than 15 years old from the U.S. are highly regulated by Transport Canada. The Registrar of Imported Vehicles (RIV) administer and enforce many of these rules. When you have chosen a make and model of vehicle, the first thing you must do is to check with the RIV to ensure that it is on the list of admissible vehicles. The registrar can also tell you what specific modifications will need to be made to your vehicle after import. Their contact information is: Phone: 1-888-848-8240 or [www.riv.ca](http://www.riv.ca). The RIV will also require a recall letter ([http://www.riv.ca/english/html/recall\\_clearance.html](http://www.riv.ca/english/html/recall_clearance.html)).

The contact information for Transport Canada: Ph: 1-800-333-0371 or [www.tc.gc.ca](http://www.tc.gc.ca).



## CUSTOMS BROKERS / FREIGHT FORWARDERS

SUITE 802 - 535 THURLOW STREET, VANCOUVER, B.C. V6E 3L2  
PHONE: (604) 684-7505 / FAX: (604) 683-7004  
TOLL FREE PHONE: 1-877-786-4970  
TOLL FREE FAX: 1-800-956-8388  
EMAIL: [info@courtney.ca](mailto:info@courtney.ca)  
WEBSITE: [www.courtney.ca](http://www.courtney.ca)

### Provincial Authorities

Most provinces and territories also have their own safety inspection programs. For more details, check with the motor vehicle department of your province or territory.

A useful link: [http://www.icbc.com/Insurance/insura\\_getsta\\_howbuy\\_moving2\\_register.html](http://www.icbc.com/Insurance/insura_getsta_howbuy_moving2_register.html)

It is also useful to check with your vehicle insurance provider.

### US Customs

Any self propelled vehicle coming from the US must be reported to US Customs 72 hours prior to export from the US. This also includes vehicles that are not licensed for the road. Failure to do so will result in a \$400.00 USD fine by US Customs. The vehicle must also stop at US Customs before it physically crosses into Canada. The contact information is as follows:

US Customs in Blaine, Wa.

Phone: 1-360-332-2341 Fax: 1-360-332-2632

[http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/export/export\\_docs/motor\\_vehicle.xml](http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/export/export_docs/motor_vehicle.xml)

### Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)

Soil and related matter can carry pests harmful to Canadian agriculture. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) requires that you wash any sand, soil, earth, and plant residue from your passenger and recreational vehicles, including the undercarriage, before you import them. This requirement does not apply to vehicles entering Canada from the continental United States.

### Our Services

Our services can provide you with a one-stop service to facilitate the import of your automobile. We facilitate the red tape, Customs clearance and can provide the transportation services to meet your particular needs. Feel free to contact us for more details.

Toll free phone: [877-786-4970](tel:877-786-4970) Local (Vancouver): [604-684-7505](tel:604-684-7505)

Email: [info@courtney.ca](mailto:info@courtney.ca)

<sup>1</sup> The information provided in this document is necessarily brief and general in nature and does not constitute legal opinion or advice.