

# BRITANNIA MOVERS INTERNATIONAL PLC

## GUIDE FOR THE IMPORTATION OF UNACCOMPANIED HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS- CANADA



### REQUIREMENTS FOR DUTY FREE ENTRY-HOUSEHOLD AND RELATED EFFECTS IMPORTED BY OWNER

- Household and related effects can be imported into Canada Duty and Tax free provided the “Settler” has owned, possessed and used the goods prior to their arrival in Canada. Former Residents must have owned, possessed and used the goods for at least six months before returning to resume residence.
- Under Customs legislation, Settlers mean all individuals who enter Canada with the intention of establishing, for the first time, a residence for a period of not less than 12 months.
- Former Residents/Returning Canadians must have resided outside of Canada for a period of 12 consecutive months and have owned and used the goods for at least six months prior to importation. Any single personal or household item that is worth more than CAN\$10,000 on the date you import it is subject to applicable duty and taxes on the amount that is over CAN\$10,000. This applies to all items being imported, including vehicles. (to items acquired after March 31, 1977.)
- Antiques must be over 100 years old (bonafide certificate must be accompanied) and are not for sale of disposal.
- If you got married within three months of coming to Canada or if you plan to marry no later than three months after arriving in this country, you can bring in your wedding gifts free of duty and taxes. However, you must have owned and possessed the gifts before you arrived in Canada.
- Inheritance bequests should be accompanied by a copy of the Will/Testament or Notary letter

confirming right of inheritance that goods are not contested from any other party and Death Certificate. If inheritance is from a living person you must submit a letter of anticipation of death stating (verification) that the person has broken up home (i.e. letter from Doctor, hospital or senior residence).

If the above criteria is not met or satisfied then full Duty and GST (Goods and Services Tax) tax will be applied to the consignment, payable upon importation.

### CUSTOMS CLEARANCE PROCEDURE

You must be present in Canada and you must have status (statue) to live in Canada in order for your consignment to clear Customs.

Before you arrive in Canada you should prepare two copies of a list (preferably typewritten) of all the goods you intend to bring into Canada as part of your unaccompanied personal effect consignment. The list should indicate the value, make, model and serial number (when applicable) of all the goods. Upon arrival you must report to Customs and inform that you have goods to follow. Canadian Customs will supply a B4 Personal Effects Accounting Document, based on the list provided, in turn a receipt copy will be provided. Our representatives will supply a Canada Customs Brokerage form which you will be required to complete and return with a full, descriptive inventory in English, destination agent’s “Notice of Arrival” and your receipted copy of the “B4” declaration. Migrants will be required to produce a copy of the Immigration Permit IMM 1000; returning Canadians will be required to produce proof of residency abroad (rental agreements for a minimum of

13 consecutive months, letter from employer, bank statements for a minimum of 13 consecutive months (foreign work permits/visas), utility bills for a minimum of 13 consecutive months) and a copy of the Bio page of their Canadian passport.

Please be aware you **will** be required to attend formal Customs clearance. Failing to do so will result in Customs bond charges. Returning Canadian residents less than 1 year abroad will be required to attend formal clearance with proof that the goods being imported were originally exported from Canada (copy of bill of lading/air waybill and inventory list).

**NOTE:** Please note Customs fees are applicable on all imported consignments. The charge varies consignment to consignment and is determined by the Canadian Border Services Agency. The fees that are applied cover X-Ray, inspection, fumigation, and bonded Customs storage.

### FIREARM IMPORTATION

The importation of firearms is strictly controlled; you must declare all weapons and firearms at the port of entry when you enter Canada. Permission to import firearms is required prior to loading firearms at origin. All permits (if required) must be applied for and obtained prior to the firearms arriving in Canada. **If not, you could face prosecution and the goods may be seized.** For information about importing a firearm into Canada, see the publication called Importing a Firearm or Weapon into Canada or call BIS at one of the telephone numbers listed in the section called “Additional information”

[www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/publications/pub/bsf5044-eng.html](http://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/publications/pub/bsf5044-eng.html)

## **ALCOHOL & TOBACCO IMPORTATION**

We strongly recommend that you do not import alcohol or tobacco products; full Customs import taxes will be applied. A liquor import permit may be required for any alcohol being imported into Canada. Further information can be found on the Canada Border Services Agency website.

## **RESTRICTED IMPORTS**

The following goods are prohibited unless a permit is obtained:

- ivory in any form, including jewellery, and carvings (except with CITES certificate)
- tortoise or sea turtle shell jewellery, and ornaments (except with CITES certificate)
- all food products- dried or can form must be declared (no food products containing meat, poultry, fish or dairy (or their by products can be imported)
- certain firearms
- dried flowers, pine cones or seeds
- skins, furs, feathers, hunting trophies and animal derived products
- equestrian equipment- saddles etc
- artefacts (antiques) masks, wooden carvings etc

\**CITES*-Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

## **PROHIBITED IMPORTS**

The following goods are prohibited and cannot be imported into Canada:

- obscene material including the following: hate propaganda, pornography of all descriptions
- fresh food products including meat and vegetables
- narcotic drugs
- all plant material including seeds, cuttings

## **WOODEN PACKAGING**

All wooden packaging including crates, pallets, over cases and chocks must be stamped with ISPM15 for Agriculture purposes. If items do not comply to the above, the items may be destroyed, re-exported, fumigated at the owners expense. If in doubt please ask your local Britannia representative for advice.

## **USEFUL CONTACTS**

### ***Britannia Movers International***

+44 (0)20-8256-1710

[international@britannia-movers.co.uk](mailto:international@britannia-movers.co.uk)

[www.britannia-movers.co.uk](http://www.britannia-movers.co.uk)

### ***Canada Border Services Agency***

+1 (204) 983-3500

+1 (506) 636-5064

[contact@cbsa.gc.ca](mailto:contact@cbsa.gc.ca)

[www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](http://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)