

How to import a vehicle into Canada

In order to ensure vehicles manufactured in the United States meet Canadian standards, there are several steps to follow. This guide provides a simple summary of what you must do.



Registrar of
Imported Vehicles

Registraire des
véhicules importés

Registrar of Imported Vehicles
405 The West Mall
Toronto, Ontario M9C 5K7
1-888-848-8240

What to do before you import

- Make sure your vehicle is admissible and can be modified to meet Canadian requirements by checking Transport Canada's List of Vehicles Admissible from the United States. This program covers passenger cars including vans and jeeps, chassis cabs, trailers, motorcycles and snowmobiles less than 15 years old; off-road vehicles manufactured after May 1, 1988 and buses made after January 1, 1971.
- Check the list on the back of this brochure for typical modification requirements. You can also call us at 1-888-848-8240 or check our web site: www.riv.ca
- Contact the manufacturer or dealer of your vehicle to obtain a recall clearance letter and information on modifications costs. You must have this document to pass the federal inspection.
- Ask your mechanic or Canadian Tire outlet for an estimate on the cost of the modifications.
- Determine additional costs, such as duty and taxes. Canada Customs and Revenue Agency, responsible for assessing and collecting duties and taxes, can be reached at 1-800-461-9999 (in Canada) or 1-613-993-0534 (outside Canada).
- Make sure you have the required documentation: title documents, registration, sales receipts, statement of compliance label and manufacturer's recall clearance letter.
- Find out about any additional provincial or territorial requirements, such as safety inspections and emissions tests.
- Arrange for insurance on your vehicle.
- Inform U.S. Customs about the permanent export of a vehicle at least 72 hours before arriving at the border.
- Call RIV to have your Vehicle Identification Number checked.

What to do at the border

- Produce your title documents, registration and sales receipts.
- Complete Vehicle Import Form – Form 1 to register your vehicle, which Canada Customs will provide. This requires a Canadian mailing address. This form must be kept in the vehicle until it is licensed.
- Have your vehicle checked against Transport Canada's List of Vehicles Admissible from the United States and for an accurate Manufacturer's Statement of Compliance Label and VIN, if it hasn't already been checked.
- Canada Customs will collect your nonrefundable Registrar of Imported Vehicles' fee of \$182 in all provinces except Quebec where it is \$197.
- Major credit cards are acceptable, as are money orders and cheques. However, cheques can take 10 days to clear, which will eat into your 45-day inspection time frame.
- Remember that payment of fees and receipt of the Vehicle Import Form – Form 1 does not warrant that your vehicle is capable of being brought into conformity with all applicable federal and provincial or territorial laws.

Numbers you'll need

Registrar of Imported Vehicles
1-888-848-8240 or check our web site: www.riv.ca

Canada Customs and Revenue Agency
1-800-461-9999 (from Canada)
(613) 993-0534 (outside Canada)

Transport Canada
1-800-333-0371 (from Canada)
(613) 998-8616 (outside Canada)
(613) 998-4831 (fax)
www.tc.gc.ca

Transport Canada has contracted with Livingston International to establish and operate the national program of vehicle inspection, certification and registration, known as the Registrar of Imported Vehicles.

Livingston International Inc. is the largest customs brokerage and trade services company facilitating two-way trade between Canada and the United States.

LIVINGSTON

Advancing Cross-Border Trade

Designed by Gottschalk+Ash International

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What to do after the vehicle enters Canada

- Within 10 days, you'll receive a letter from RIV with your inspection document (Form 2) which details what must be done to bring your vehicle into compliance.
- It is your responsibility to complete the necessary modifications within 45 days. You may have the modifications done by the mechanic or garage of your choice. However, we recommend that you contact the Original Equipment Manufacturer to discuss appropriate parts or warranty issues. Make sure you keep receipts for parts and labour, to present at the inspection, along with Form 1, Form 2 and the recall clearance letter.
- The RIV has contracted with Canadian Tire, with 430 locations across Canada, to perform our federal inspections. In many cases, Canadian Tire can perform certain modification work, as well as performing the provincial inspection.
- When you pass the inspection, the inspection centre will stamp your Form 1, that you will have to present to the provincial or territorial licensing authority, which may require additional testing.
- Within approximately one week of passing the federal inspection, we will send you a new Canadian Certification label with instructions on where to affix it to your vehicle.
- If the vehicle fails the inspection, you'll have to pay additional charges for another inspection. If the vehicle cannot pass the inspection within the 45 days, it will have to be exported back to the United States.
- If you are having trouble meeting the 45-day deadline or other questions, we may be able to help. So call us at 1-888-848-8240.

Modification and inspection requirements

Passenger vehicles

- Recall clearance letter
- U.S. statement of compliance (S.O.C. Label), at the border
- Canadian statement of compliance label will be issued after passing inspection
- Valid alpha-numeric 17-digit VIN
- Metric speedometer and odometer labels
- Daytime running lights, if manufactured after November 1989
- Infant restraint kit, if manufactured after 1988
- Child tether anchorage, for most passenger cars manufactured after 1988 (refer to Admissibility List)
- 8 km/hour bumpers (refer to Admissibility List)
- French supplementary restraint system label for airbags that require periodic maintenance

Trucks, minivans, chassis cabs

- Recall clearance letter
- U.S. statement of compliance (S.O.C. Label), at the border
- Canadian statement of compliance label will be issued after passing inspection
- Valid alpha-numeric 17-digit VIN
- Metric speedometer and odometer labels
- Daytime running lights, if manufactured after November 1989
- French supplementary restraint system label for airbags that require periodic maintenance

Trailers

- Recall clearance letter
- U.S. statement of compliance (S.O.C. Label), at the border
- Canadian statement of compliance label will be issued after passing inspection
- Valid alpha-numeric 17-digit VIN
- Lighting
- Reflectors

Motorcycles

- Recall clearance letter
- U.S. statement of compliance (S.O.C. Label), at the border
- Canadian statement of compliance label will be issued after passing inspection
- Valid alpha-numeric 17-digit VIN
- Metric speedometer and odometer labels
- All Lights On

Restricted-Use Motorcycles

- Recall clearance letter
- Off-road statement label
- Reflectors

All terrain vehicles manufactured after April 1988

- Recall clearance letter
- Off-road statement label
- All Lights On, for existing lights

Snowmobiles

- Recall clearance letter
- U.S. statement of compliance (S.O.C. Label) or Snowmobile Safety Certification Committee label (SSCC), at the border
- Headlights On, if manufactured after 1988
- Lighting
- Reflectors
- Kill switch

Snowmobile cutters

- Recall clearance letter
- Reflectors
- Rigid tow bar

Buses

- Recall clearance letter
- U.S. statement of compliance (S.O.C. Label), at the border
- Canadian statement of compliance label will be issued after passing inspection
- Valid alpha-numeric 17-digit VIN
- Metric speedometer and odometer labels
- Daytime running lights, if manufactured after November 1989
- French Supplementary Restraint System label for airbags that require periodic maintenance
- Emergency exits, labels and mechanical