



Canada Border  
Services Agency

Agence des services  
frontaliers du Canada

# Coming to Canada by Small Aircraft or Recreational Boat

BSF5061 Rev. 07

Canada





# Private aircraft and recreational boats arriving in Canada

Pilots that arrive in Canada by private, company-owned or charter aircraft carrying 15 people or less, as well as travellers on recreational boats, have to call a Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) Telephone Reporting Centre (TRC) to obtain authorization to enter Canada.

## How to present and report goods to the CBSA

### Aircraft

The pilot is the person in charge of the aircraft and must follow these steps:

- call 1-888-226-7277 at least 2 hours before but no more than 48 hours prior to the aircraft's arrival in Canada;
- give the estimated time of arrival (ETA);
- give the aircraft tail number/aircraft registration mark; and
- arrive during regular CBSA office hours at a designated airport of entry (AOE). The list of AOE's can be found on our Web site at [www.cbsa.gc.ca](http://www.cbsa.gc.ca).

### Note

Should the ETA point of arrival, or any other information change, the pilot must contact the TRC at 1-888-226-7277 again to report the new information, prior to arrival.

The pilot also has to follow these steps:

- give the full name, date of birth and citizenship for all persons on board (including crew);
- give the destination, purpose of trip and length of stay in Canada for each passenger who is a non-resident of Canada;
- give the length of absence for each passenger who is a returning resident of Canada;
- give the passport and visa information of passengers (including crew), if applicable;
- make sure all passengers have photo identification and proof of citizenship documents;

- declare **all** goods being imported, **including firearms and weapons**;
- report **all** currency and monetary instruments of a value equal to or greater than CAN\$10,000;
- for returning residents of Canada, declare all repairs or modifications made to goods, including the aircraft, while outside Canada; and
- give true and complete information.

If the pilot is not a CANPASS member, he or she will be required to make a second call to the TRC upon arrival at an airport of entry. If no verification is necessary or if the verification office cannot conduct one, the border services officer at the TRC will provide a report number to the pilot. The receipt of this report number will constitute release unless an officer on site otherwise instructs the pilot.

If verification is to be conducted, the pilot will be advised by the border services officer at the TRC to remain at the site and to ensure that all goods and passengers remain on board until the verification team arrives. The verification team will conduct the verification and provide the pilot with a report number.

#### **Note**

Calling **1-888-226-7277** arranges border clearance only. It does not replace the requirements to file a flight plan with NAVCAN.

Should the **1-888** service not be available, pilots must call one of the following TRCs. Long distance charges may apply.

- Lansdowne      613-659-4576
- Hamilton        905-679-2073
- Windsor         519-967-4320
- Victoria         250-363-0222

As proof of presentation, the border services officer will give the pilot a report number for the records. The pilot must give this number to a border services officer upon request.

## Recreational boats

The master of a recreational boat is the person in charge. As master of the recreational boat, he or she is required to go to a designated telephone reporting marine site and call the telephone reporting centre at **1-888-226-7277**. No one except the master may leave the boat until authorization is given by the CBSA.

### Note

To find designated telephone reporting marine sites in your area, call **1-888-226-7277**.

### The master is required to follow these steps:

- give the full name, date of birth and citizenship for every person on the boat;
- give the destination, purpose of trip and length of stay in Canada for each passenger who is a non-resident of Canada;
- give the length of absence for each passenger who is a returning resident of Canada;
- give the passport and visa information of passengers, if applicable;
- make sure all passengers have photo identification and proof of citizenship documents;
- declare **all** goods being imported, **including firearms and weapons**;
- report **all** currency and monetary instruments of a value equal to or greater than CAN\$10,000;
- for returning resident of Canada, declare all repairs or modifications made to goods, including the boat, while outside Canada; and
- give true and complete information.

As proof of presentation, the border services officer will give the master a report number for their records. The master must give this number to a border services officer upon request.

## What are the import restrictions?

All travellers can import goods for their personal use. U.S. residents must return all goods to the United States unless those goods were consumed while in Canada.

If you import any promotional materials, including samples, commercial goods, or equipment, you have to clear your importations through a commercial broker, pay duties and taxes, or provide security, as required.

Travellers cannot import controlled, restricted or prohibited animals, plants or goods as described in the publications called *I Declare* (for Canadian residents) or *Information for Visitors to Canada and Seasonal Residents* (for U.S. residents). These publications are available on our Web site at [www.cbsa.gc.ca](http://www.cbsa.gc.ca).

There are restrictions on importing alcohol and tobacco products into Canada. For more information, see the publications called *I Declare* or *Information for Visitors to Canada and Seasonal Residents*.

You cannot import prohibited firearms or weapons including mace, pepper spray and stun guns. If you plan to import firearms or weapons, for hunting or for a competition for example, read and follow the procedures stated in the publication called *Importing a Firearm or Weapon Into Canada*.

Controlled, restricted or prohibited goods will be seized and you may be subject to criminal prosecution.

## Are there penalties?

You will be subject to random examinations to ensure that you comply with customs and immigration legislation as well as any other legislation administered or enforced by the CBSA.

Depending on the severity of the violation, the CBSA can impose penalties and seize any goods and any aircraft or boat used to carry the goods. As well, you may be subject to criminal prosecution.

The CBSA can arrest and remove non-residents of Canada for violations of the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*.

## CANPASS programs

For a minimal processing fee, the CBSA offers three programs to facilitate customs and immigration clearance procedures: CANPASS – Private Boats, CANPASS – Private Aircraft and CANPASS – Corporate Aircraft.

Benefits for CANPASS members:

- Designated airports of entry and ports of entry are only for CANPASS members, offering more options on where members can arrive in Canada.
- CANPASS members can arrive at an airport of entry or designated docking site whenever the facility is open, regardless of the hours of business of the local CBSA office.

For more information or information on becoming a CANPASS member, see the publications called *CANPASS – Private Boats*, *CANPASS – Private Aircraft* and *CANPASS – Corporate Aircraft*.

The CANPASS Remote Area Border Crossing (RABC) permit program facilitates the CBSA clearance process for persons wishing to cross the border from the United States into Canada at the following remote areas:

- From Pigeon River through to and including Lake of the Woods
- The Canadian shore of Lake Superior
- Cockburn Island
- Sault Ste. Marie (upper lock system)
- Emerson West Lynne

Citizens and permanent residents of Canada together with citizens and lawful permanent residents of the United States are eligible to apply for a CANPASS RABC permit.

For more information on the RABC permit program, please visit the CBSA's Web site at [www.cbsa.gc.ca](http://www.cbsa.gc.ca).

## Need more information?

Visit our Web site at [www.cbsa.gc.ca](http://www.cbsa.gc.ca) or call the Border Information Service (BIS) toll-free line at **1-800-461-9999**.

### Note

If you are calling from outside Canada, you can access BIS by calling 204-983-3500 or 506-636-5064. Long distance charges will apply.

Think recycling!



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