

Importation of Vehicles into Canada

February 4, 2016

I am often contacted by individuals who want to import a vehicle they own into Canada. Sometimes, I am called by a non-resident. Other times, I am called by a Canadian resident who is buying a car on Craigslist.

On January 21, 2016, the Canada Border Services Agency (“CBSA”) posted on their web-site [D-Memorandum D19-12-1 “Importation of Vehicles”](#) (stated to be published on January 11, 2016), which answers many common questions (not in the most comprehensible format though).

The D-Memo covers:

- 1) Pre-border processes;
- 2) At the border processes;
- 3) Post-border processes;
- 4) Transport Canada requirements;
- 5) RIV requirements for imported vehicles;
- 6) Eligibility requirements for registration in the RIV program;
- 7) Proof of ownership requirements;
- 8) US leased and financed vehicles being declared for importation;
- 9) FMVSS specifications vehicles (new or used) acquired in foreign countries;
- 10) Salvage vehicles;
- 11) Flood and water damaged vehicles;
- 12) Vehicles imported for parts only program;
- 13) Vehicles that cannot be registered in the RIV program;

- 14) Canadian vehicles modified abroad;
- 15) Non-regulated vehicles;
- 16) Work vehicles;
- 17) Trailers as work vehicles;
- 18) Agricultural vehicles;
- 19) Mobile homes;
- 20) UTVs;
- 21) Competition vehicles;
- 22) Age-Exempt vehicles;
- 23) Vehicles entered temporarily;
- 24) Vehicles entered by visitors, tourists and temporary residents;
- 25) In-transit vehicles; and
- 26) more.



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