



# SHIPPING TO CANADA IS EASY

## Frequently Asked Questions and Definitions

To ensure your shipment clears Canada Customs in a timely manner, it is essential that all necessary documents are properly completed. Inaccurate or incomplete information may result in delays.

### COMMON TERMINOLOGY USED WHEN SHIPPING TO CANADA:

- Border Crossing: Port of entry at the border with customs offices where freight crosses to/from the US/Canada.
- Broker: A third party representing the importer and insures the importer meets all financial and legal obligations required by customs.
- Customs: Government agency or procedure that collects taxes, duties (if applicable) on imported goods.
- Documentation: paperwork required to clear freight
  - Bill of Lading: document for transporting goods
  - Canada Customs Invoice: document required by Canada Customs to determine duty/taxes (if applicable)
  - Certificate of Origin/NAFTA: document required to obtain NAFTA benefits (if applicable)
- Duties/Taxes: Sales Tax on imported goods or duty per the Harmonized Tariff System
- Exporter: One that sells to merchants in other countries
- Importer: The receiver or consignee
- PARS: Pre-arrival Review System- clearance process using unique bar-coded labels

### WHAT DOCUMENTATION IS REQUIRED TO SHIP TO CANADA?

- Please complete a Bill of Lading, Canada/Commercial Invoice and a Certificate of Origin, also known as the NAFTA Certificate (North American Trade Agreement).

### WHAT IS A CUSTOMS BROKER?

- A customs broker is hired to represent the importer (receiver/consignee) clearing goods through Canada Customs. The broker will process and present the shipping documents to Customs. In most cases, the Canadian consignee will be the importer, meaning they will choose and pay for the services of a customs broker.
- Remember, the carrier (freight movement) and customs brokerage services are two completely separate transactions.
- The carrier will bill for freight charges and the broker will bill for clearance services.
- The customs broker can answer any additional questions you may have related to duty, taxes, permits etc.

### IF MY CUSTOMER IN CANADA DOES NOT HAVE A BROKER, DO I NEED TO HIRE ONE?

- If the importer in Canada does not have a broker, you the shipper in the U.S. may consider becoming a Non-resident importer (NRI). Some benefits to becoming an NRI are:
  - Provides the U.S. shipper the ability to quote a complete delivered price to the Canadian customer inclusive of the cost of goods, cost of transportation, cost of brokerage and related duties or tax.
  - Becoming an NRI is becoming more popular among U.S. Corporations marketing to Canada. It creates a less complicated sales environment for your Canadian Customer

For assistance in locating a Canada Customs broker, please call R & L Transborder Solutions Group at 888-5RL-CNDA

*\*It is important to list the name of the broker on the customs documents to avoid delays.*

### AM I ELIGIBLE FOR NAFTA?

- As a result of the North American Free Trade Agreement, shipments destined to Canada may qualify duty free. Contact your customs broker for eligibility.

### WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR DUTY AND TAXES?

- The importer of record (purchaser of the goods, generally the consignee in Canada) is Responsible for taxes or duty ( if applicable). If the shipper in the U.S. is a Non-resident Importer (NRI) then the shipper is responsible.

### WHERE DOES MY FREIGHT CROSS THE BORDER?

- The crossing between the U.S. and Canada is determined by origin and destination of the freight.
- The border crossings used by R & L:
 

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ R&amp;L Terminal</li> <li>Seattle</li> <li>Detroit</li> <li>Hartford</li> <li>Buffalo</li> <li>Chicago</li> <li>Manchester</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ U.S. Crossing</li> <li>Blaine, WA</li> <li>Detroit, MI</li> <li>Hightgate Springs, VT</li> <li>Buffalo, NY</li> <li>Pembina, MN</li> <li>Calais, ME</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ CN Crossing</li> <li>White Rock, BC</li> <li>Windsor, ON</li> <li>Philipsburg, QC</li> <li>Ft. Erie, ON</li> <li>Emerson, MB</li> <li>St. Stephen, NB</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Canadian Terminal</li> <li>Vancouver</li> <li>Windsor</li> <li>Montreal</li> <li>Toronto</li> <li>Winnipeg</li> <li>Saint John</li> </ul>
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### WHAT IS PARS?

- PARS (Pre-Arrival Review System) is a program that allows the importers and/or customs brokers to submit customs documents to Canada Customs for review and processing prior to the arrival of goods in Canada. This process allows for a faster clearance through Customs. If all required information is available, your shipment may be eligible for PARS.

**IF YOU HAVE ANY  
QUESTIONS ON YOUR  
SHIPMENT TO CANADA,  
PLEASE CONTACT:**

**Transborder Solutions:  
888- 5RL- CNDA**

**Rates: 800- 535- 1983**