

# FOOD

## Declare the product

When travelling, you must declare all food products you bring with you into Canada.

- For more information, check the document [I Declare: A guide for residents returning to Canada](#) from the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) or the [Visitors to Canada](#) web page.
- Be prepared, your product may need to be inspected by the CBSA at the point of entry (such as border crossings and airports).

**Table 1. Food products allowed into Canada originating from the United States <sup>1</sup>**

Product	Restrictions and requirements	New maximum quantity limits for personal use exemption <sup>2</sup> (Per person)
Animal fat or suet	Permitted only if accompanied into Canada by you (cannot be brought in by mail or courier)	20 kg (if measured by weight) 20 L (if measured by volume)
Baked goods such as bread, pastries, cakes, fruit pies, biscuits	Cannot contain meat.	20 kg
Condiments, dressings	None	20 kg (if measured by weight) 20 L (if measured by volume)
Confectionary, sweeteners, snack foods	Cannot contain meat.	20 kg (if measured by weight) 20 L (if measured by volume)
<u>Dairy products</u>	None	20 kg (if measured by weight) 20 L (if measured by volume)
Dried foods (except those included in food commodities)	Please see <a href="#">AIRS</a> .	20 kg

Product	Restrictions and requirements	New maximum quantity limits for personal use exemption <sup>2</sup> (Per person)
Eggs and <u>processed egg products</u>	<p>During outbreaks of avian disease (Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza and Newcastle Disease), eggs must be retail packaged, for human consumption, and clearly labelled as a "Product of the USA"</p> <p>Eggs from a farm or backyard flock are not permitted for import at any time</p>	<p>5 dozen eggs</p> <p>Processed egg products:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20 kg (if measured by weight) of processed eggs</li> <li>• 20 L (if measured by volume) of processed eggs</li> </ul>
<u>Fish</u> and seafood	<p>Pufferfish and Chinese mitten crab (<i>Eriocheir sinensis</i>) are not permitted.</p> <p>Shark fins or parts of shark fins that are not attached to a shark carcass are prohibited under the <u>Fisheries Act</u>.</p> <p>You require a permit if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• you bring live finfish identified as a <u>susceptible species of aquatic animal</u></li> <li>• you bring more than: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ 10 unviscerated dead finfish</li> <li>◦ 4 head-on, shell-on crustaceans</li> <li>◦ 3 kg of molluscs</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Certain fish species, such as sturgeons, and their products are protected under the <u>Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)</u> and may be prohibited or require a <u>CITES permit</u>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Find out if your fish is on the CITES list and what applies to their import by using the <u>species search tool</u></li> <li>• Sturgeon caviar of a quantity greater than 250 g requires a CITES permit</li> <li>• If you need a CITES permit, consult Permits for trade in protected species</li> </ul>	<p>40 kg (except for dried fish and fish roe)</p> <p>10 kg of dried fish</p> <p>1 kg of fish roe</p>
<u>Fresh fruits or vegetables</u>	<p>Refer to <u>AIRS</u></p> <p>Potatoes must be commercially packaged and graded US No.1</p>	<p>Fruits: 20 kg</p> <p>Vegetables: 20 kg</p>

Product	Restrictions and requirements	New maximum quantity limits for personal use exemption <sup>2</sup> (Per person)
Fruits and vegetables: <u>Processed fruit or vegetable</u> (including herbs) such as dried, frozen, canned	None	Processed fruits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20 kg (if measured by weight)</li> <li>• 20 L (if measured by volume)</li> </ul> Processed vegetables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20 kg (if measured by weight)</li> <li>• 20 L (if measured by volume)</li> </ul>
<u>Game animal</u> carcasses	You require a hunter's permit or a licence.  Permitted only if accompanied into Canada by you (cannot be brought in by mail or courier).  Provincial restrictions may apply. For example, on deer, there may be restrictions due to chronic wasting disease.  Note: there is no maximum quantity for the purpose of importing such a carcass or part of a carcass for personal use. However, this quantity may be subject to limits imposed by a hunter's permit or another form of permission from a competent authority.	N/A
Grain-derived foods	None	20 kg (if measured by weight)  20 L (if measured by volume)
Honey	None	20 kg
<u>Infant formula</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dry milk-based</li> <li>• Liquid milk-based</li> <li>• Non-milk-based, (dry/liquid) formula</li> </ul>	None	20 kg (if measured by weight)  20 L (if measured by volume)

<b>Product</b>	<b>Restrictions and requirements</b>	<b>New maximum quantity limits for personal use exemption <sup>2</sup> (Per person)</b>
Maple syrup and products	None	20 L maple syrup 4 kg maple products
<u>Meat products</u> (meat and poultry): fresh, frozen and chilled	<p>Permitted only if accompanied into Canada by you (cannot be brought in by mail or courier)</p> <p>Packages must have identifying marks, indicating what the product is</p> <p>Proof of country of origin is required (label showing "Product of USA" is acceptable)</p> <p>During outbreaks of avian disease (Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza and Newcastle Disease), poultry must be retail packaged, for human consumption, and clearly labelled as a "Product of the USA"</p> <p>Eggs from a farm or backyard flock are not permitted for import at any time</p>	20 kg
Multi-ingredient foods	None	20 kg (if measured by weight) 20 L (if measured by volume)
Non-alcoholic beverages	None	50 L
Nuts, grains, seeds	Refer to <u>AIRS</u>	20 kg
Oils (food grade)	N/A	50 L
Spices, tea, coffee	None	20 kg

# Alcohol and Tobacco Limits

ALCOHOL

## Alcoholic beverages

Alcoholic beverages are products that exceed 0.5% alcohol by volume. Certain alcoholic and wine products that do not exceed 0.5% by volume are not considered alcoholic beverages.

If you have been away from Canada for **48 hours or more**, you are allowed to import **one** of the following amounts of alcohol free of duty and taxes:

Product	Metric	Imperial	Estimates
Wine	Up to 1.5 litres of wine	Up to 53 fluid ounces	Two 750 ml bottles of wine
Alcoholic beverages	Up to 1.14 litres	Up to 40 fluid ounces	One large standard bottle of liquor
Beer or ale	Up to 8.5 litres	Up to 287 fluid ounces	Approximately 24 cans or bottles (355 ml each) of beer or ale.

You must meet the minimum age of the province or territory where you **enter** Canada. Minimum ages are established by provincial or territorial authorities: 18 years for Alberta, Manitoba and Quebec and 19 years for the remaining provinces and territories.

The CBSA classifies "cooler" products according to the alcoholic beverage they contain. For example, beer coolers are considered to be beer and wine coolers are considered to be wine.

The quantities of alcoholic beverages you can import must be within the limit set by provincial and territorial liquor control authorities that apply where you will **enter** Canada. If the amount of alcohol you want to import exceeds your personal exemption, you will be required to pay the duty and taxes as well as any provincial or territorial levies that apply. Contact the appropriate provincial or territorial liquor control authority for more information **before** you return to Canada.

## Tobacco products

You can speed up your clearance by having your tobacco products available for inspection when you arrive.

Whether they are stamped or unstamped, if you bring in tobacco products that exceed your personal exemption, you will be required to pay the regular duty and taxes as well as any provincial or territorial levies that apply on the excess amount.

Note: You must be **18 years of age** to bring tobacco products into Canada under your personal exemption.

## Stamped Tobacco Products – Personal exemption amounts

If you wish to import cigarettes, manufactured tobacco and tobacco sticks duty free as part of your personal exemption, the packages must be stamped "**duty paid Canada droit acquitté**". You will find tobacco products sold at duty-free stores marked this way.

If you have been away from Canada for 48 hours or more, you may import **all** of the following amounts of cigars and stamped tobacco into Canada free of duty and taxes.

Product	Amount
Cigarettes	200 cigarettes
Cigars	50 cigars
Tobacco	200 grams (7 ounces) of manufactured tobacco
Tobacco sticks	200 tobacco sticks

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## Unstamped Tobacco Products – Special duties rate

A special duty rate applies to cigarettes, manufactured tobacco and tobacco sticks that are not stamped "**duty paid Canada droit acquitté**".

For example, if you claim a carton of 200 cigarettes as part of your personal exemption and it is not stamped "**duty paid Canada droit acquitté**", you will be assessed at a special duty rate.

## Unstamped Tobacco Products – Import limits

In addition to your personal exemption amounts, there are limits on the quantity of tobacco products that may be imported if it is not packaged and not stamped "**duty paid Canada droit acquitté**". The limit is currently five units of tobacco products. **One** unit of tobacco products consists of one of the following:

Product	Amount
Cigarettes	200 cigarettes
Cigars	50 cigars
Tobacco	200 grams (7 ounces) of manufactured tobacco
Tobacco sticks	200 tobacco sticks

When you arrive in Canada you'll need the following:

DOG

- ✓ a valid rabies vaccination certificate; **and**
- ✓ the dog appears healthy and meets humane transportation requirements

A personal pet dog is defined as a dog that is intended to live with the owner who is bringing the animal into Canada as a personal pet dog. The dog is not intended to be transferred or given to another person upon its arrival into Canada, and/or is not intended for commercial purposes such as reproduction, breeding or sale of offspring, showing/exhibition, sale of germplasm, sale of the dog itself, scientific use/research or special training status (regardless of whether a profit is made or a transfer of funds occurs).

The owner must be the importer of the dog and be able to provide documentation that clearly demonstrates they own the dog and obtained ownership prior to it entering Canada upon request.

- ✗ If you are bringing a dog to Canada to give to someone else, to foster, to adopt out, to breed, or for other commercial purposes, change your selection from "personal" to "commercial" to get the correct import requirements.

**Note:** other federal departments/agencies (for example, Canada Border Services Agency) may have additional requirements if an owner/importer has authorized a person/agent to accompany their import to Canada on their behalf. It is the owner/importer's responsibility to comply with any other relevant requirements.

A hard copy of all required original documentation may be requested during the inspection, and the importer must be able to provide such records if asked. As such, it is strongly recommended to travel with a physical original copy of all required documentation.

## Rabies vaccination certificate

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Dogs must have been at least 3 months of age at the time of rabies vaccination.

The rabies vaccination certificate must:

- be written in English or French
- be issued and signed by a licensed veterinarian
- identify the animal (age, breed, sex, colour/markings, weight, and microchip/tattoo number if applicable)
- state that the animal is vaccinated against rabies
- indicate the date of vaccination
- indicate the trade name and the serial number of the licensed vaccine
- specify the duration of immunity (otherwise, it will be considered valid for 1 year from the date of vaccination); **and**
- have the name and signature of the licensed veterinarian that issued the certificate and the date it was signed

All information on the certificate must be legible.

The European Union pet passport is an acceptable alternative to the rabies vaccination certificate as long as all the required elements outlined below are included.

## Personal imports

Travellers may bring into Canada a personal import of pet food (limit of 20 kg), if the import meets **all** of the following requirements:

4-4 lbs

- the pet food or product must be of United States origin and be commercially packaged
- the pet food or product must be in the possession of the traveller at the time of entry from the U.S.
- the animal that will eat the imported product must accompany the traveller at the time of entry
- the imported product is fed only to the animal that accompanied the traveller into Canada

# Notice to industry : Changes to import requirements for pet chews made from animal products and by-products

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2022-05-10

Import requirements will change for pet chews made from animal products and by-products in the spring of 2022. The requirements will be modernized and simplified to allow importers to more easily categorize imported products.

The categories will be defined by species (bovine, porcine, etc.), and then divided into chews made of bones and chews made of all tissues other than bone (including hooves with no bone remaining inside).

Simple pet chews are found in Chapters 5 and 23 of the [Automated Import Reference System](#) (AIRS) and must be made entirely from animal by-products such as pizzles, ears, tails, etc. If there is any meat or meat meal in the product, along with by-products or rawhide, this is defined as a compound chew which are found in Chapter 23. Examples of compound chews include a hoof stuffed with meat meal or rawhide wrapped around a chicken breast.

The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) is the authority on tariff categorization of imported products, and importers are encouraged to approach them directly if there is a question about tariff coding. Refer to the [CBSA Canadian customs tariff web page](#) for further information.

The product label or a list of ingredients will now be required when importing rawhide chews. It must clearly describe the product as containing rawhide (also known as beefhide, cowhide, pork skin, porkhide) as the **only** animal origin ingredient.

The Public Health Agency of Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) are strengthening controls over microbiological testing of pet chews due to the risk of *Salmonella* infections in pets and owners. The same testing will be required for all chews (5 random samples per lot), but there will be a new requirement for these microbial testing results to be clearly linked to the lot number on the import documentation. This will ensure a higher degree of safety for Canadian pets and owners.

The CFIA is updating the list of countries from which pet chews will be accepted. Pet chews made of bone may only be imported from countries with a veterinary infrastructure and certification system recognized by Canada. AIRS will be

updated when these changes are published to specifically state whether a chew will be accepted or refused from each country, making it easier for importers to find the information they need.

We hope you find this information useful. These changes will be implemented on Monday May 2, 2022, and there will be a transition period of 12 months where product will be accepted for import using either the previous or new conditions.

If you have any questions about these changes, contact the Animal products and by-products at [APABPImport@inspection.gc.ca](mailto:APABPImport@inspection.gc.ca). For routine inquiries, your [local CFIA office](#) continues to be your first point of contact.

# KNIVES

The Canadian government has been very concerned about knife crime, and over the last few years the Canadian government has become increasingly restrictive with the types of knives that can be carried.

You can go to jail for carrying a knife that is illegal in Canada. What's more, it doesn't matter how old your knife was when you were caught; even brand new knives will get you into trouble.

In order to make sure that everyone knows what kind of knife is acceptable to carry, the federal government created an online database where anyone who wants to buy a knife must register their name and address before purchasing one.

The website also allows police officers to check whether someone is legally permitted to own a particular knife by entering the serial numbers on the knife into the system.

The followings are types of knives that are allowed :

## **Utility knives – pocket knives**

Utility knives are allowed in Canada. However, blade length, blade style, and blade material can vary from province to province.

## **Swiss army knives**

Swiss army knives are allowed in Canada without restriction. In addition, many other countries allow these kinds of knives as well.

## **Belt-buckle knife**

The Canadian Association for Firearms and Hunting (CAF&H) has announced new regulations on the use of knife blades with belt-buckles. The new regulations will allow knives with a 4" blade with a belt-buckle to be worn inside a coat or jacket.

## **Non-locking swiss army knives**

Non-locking swiss army knives are allowed in Canada.

The following types of knives dangerous weapon and not allowed in public :

## **Butterfly knives**

Butterfly knives are illegal in the UK, where they are known as flick knives. A flick knife is a folding knife that open with a flick of the wrist, making it easier to conceal.

In the US, a butterfly knife is a butterfly knife or balisong. In both cases, it's a folding knife with a blade that hinges between two pieces of the knife. It's illegal to carry butterfly knives in Canada.

## **Automatic knives**

Knives are considered a weapon in Canada and are regulated by the Criminal Code. A switchblade or automatic knife is usually made with a spring or other device that allows the knife to open quickly. It is illegal to own, buy, sell, or possess a switchblade or an automatic knife in Canada.

### **Centrifugal knives**

Centrifugal knives are also known as flick knives or balisongs, which are banned in Canada since 1995. Therefore, if you have any type of centrifugal knife, you should dispose of them immediately.

### **Gravity knives**

Carrying a gravity knife in Canada is prohibited by law. Accordingly, if you're found to have such a knife, you could face up to five years imprisonment.

### **Knife blade**

In Canada, importing a switch knife, automatic knife, gravity knife, butterfly knife, or any knife with a blade that can be released with the flick of a button, is prohibited.

It is illegal to carry a knife with a blade longer than 3 inches (7.62 cm) on your person in Canada.