



WHAT TO KNOW WHEN CROSS-BORDER SHIPPING

By preparing and properly completing/supplying the right forms prior to routing any shipment(s) slated to cross the border you can reduce time and avoid unnecessary stress.

To ensure your shipment(s) will pass through the border without incident, all required documents must be filled out carefully, in full, and provided to the driver and assigned carrier(s) at the time of pick up.

If all necessary documents are not on hand and ready, the shipment runs the risk of being held in transit and all parties involved will experience delays.

Blue Continent Transportation Ltd. Typically keeps additional copies of all the documents on hand so we can facilitate communication between broker and carrier and ensure a safe/smooth crossing and delivery.

Pre-Arrival Review System

The Pre-Arrival Review System (PARS) was developed by Canada Customs to allow the early release of information needed to facilitate shipment crossings in advance of them physically arriving at their expected border crossing/gateway. By having required documentation able to be reviewed in advance of the shipment arrivals, all parties are prepared and the odds of encountering unexpected delays is minimized.

The U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agency also have a similar system in place to process shipment customs/crossing information in advance. The Pre-arrival Processing System (PAPS) also allows the carrier to pre-submit individual shipment information beforehand in much the same manner as the Canadian "PARS" system noted above.

Required Documents

The first document required when shipping freight across the border is a commercial invoice. This invoice is used for foreign trade to declare if the shipment contains dangerous goods, food related products and other information that will help to identify/specify exactly what will be crossing the border. This is what the border crossing will use to prepare for your shipment.

The second important document when shipping freight across the border is the bill of lading. This document identifies who the carrier hauling the shipment is, where the shipment is/was picked up from, and where it will be going. It also includes the shipment piece count(s) and weight(s) of the freight.

Another item that carriers require is the cargo control number. This is a unique number to identify the shipment to the Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA). It consists of a carrier code followed by a unique reference number assigned by the carrier. Using the cargo control number, border officials can associate and accurately connect the information provided with the correct freight crossing the border.

Cross Border Shipping with Blue Continent Transportation

The objective with each and every one of these steps is to provide the most accurate and clear information possible to all parties. As a freight forwarder, Blue Continent will connect you with the carrier, help you to prepare you for your shipment, make certain your documentation is in order, and answer any other questions you might have.

If you have any questions for us about cross-border shipping, call us at 604.536.4700 (after-hours @ 604.626.8240) or contact us online at csr@bluecontinent.ca.