

Other Government Departments (OGDs)

The term "Other Government Departments (OGDs)" refers to all Canadian government agencies, besides the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA), that regulate import and export shipments in Canada.

In addition to the CBSA, there are 15 Other Government Departments (OGDs) and agencies that are involved in the movement of various commodities in and out of Canada. The goal of the OGDs is to help ensure prohibited and controlled goods are not illegally imported or exported.

In addition to the standard customs documentation, these Departments may require special permits, certificates, licenses, and have specific labelling/packaging requirements. These requirements must be fulfilled prior to the goods entering or exiting Canada.

How OGDs Affect Importers:

Imports subject to OGD requirements may be delayed if proper information is not available. Even when all is in order, the CBSA may examine your shipment based on their targeting or at the request of an OGD. Delays due to missing documentation/information may result in additional costs from carriers and warehouse operators.

OGD Import Requirements:

OGD import requirements vary based on commodity. As an example, for food products regulated by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), a series of data fields must be transmitted to CBSA for each product at time of release request. These data fields identify the product, origin, packaging, end-use and province of destination. Following is an example of imported popcorn:

Import Details for Requirement : 54498 Version : 3	
HS Description : 100590	
10	Cereals
05	Maize (corn)
90	Other
OGD Extension : 005100	
0051	Corn for popcorn (dried)
Origin : DE	
EU	Europe
DE	Germany
Destination : ON	
ON	Ontario
End Use : 08	
08	Human consumption

How to avoid clearance delays:

To help avoid OGD clearance delays:

- 1) Ensure commercial documents provide complete product descriptions in order that any OGD requirements may be determined
- 2) Review new products prior to import to determine OGD requirements and obtain permits/licenses where required
- 3) Ensure your customs broker has been notified of any new products and their OGD requirements in advance of arrival

With the wide array of OGDs it is more important than ever for all importers/exporters to know their commodity requirements.

Shipments may be subject to examination by Customs to verify marking or proper labelling that meet Canadian import requirements prior to releasing the shipment into Canada. If the requirements have not been met, the shipment can be refused entry.

Even if an import has been approved through the OGD, CBSA still make the ultimate decision on whether or not a release will be granted.



Common OGDs to be aware of...

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)

- CFIA's **Automated Import Reference System (AIRS)** is used to determine import requirements for products regulated by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. This tool will advise of any additional documentation requirements for imports into Canada
 - Information codes from AIRS must be transmitted electronically to CBSA for all regulated commodities, e.g. food, plants, wood products, animal products, chemicals
- For most commodities, CFIA will conduct a Desk Review of import documentation – where required, examinations will be conducted to verify information and/or to sample shipments
- Specific export requirements, based on country of destination, should be reviewed with CFIA to ensure requirements of the importing country are met

Natural Resources Canada (NRCan)

- NRCan regulate the import of energy-using products such as appliances, explosives including firearms and ammunition, as well as metals and minerals
- For import release of all regulated products, NRCan requires electronic submission of:
 - manufacturer information,
 - make and model,
 - reason for import.

Health Canada

- Health Canada regulate consumer goods such as drugs, pharmaceuticals, vitamins, cosmetics, medical devices, natural health products, pesticides, radiation-emitting devices, toxic substances and nutritional products
 - Most requirements are via permits, licensing and/or specific labelling requirements

Currently, only the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) and Transport Canada receive release information electronically from the CBSA – other OGDs rely on paper submissions at time of import/export release request.

Importers must ensure that their goods comply with the requirements of all OGDs prior to importation.

Contact Universal Logistics for consultation prior to import or export to determine whether your goods will require additional documentation or if specific considerations may be involved.