



## LIQUOR DISTRIBUTION BRANCH

BC Liquor Distribution Branch  
3383 Gilmore Way  
Burnaby BC V5G 4S1

Re: Casual Importation

Thank you for contacting the British Columbia Liquor Distribution Branch.

**Please note: the casual importation policy is currently under review and may be subject to change.**

Individuals or Canadian residents (returning after 48 hours or more) meeting the minimum age requirements of the province of British Columbia and entering into British Columbia can include in their personal exemption, without assessment, up to either 1.5 litres of wine or 1.14 litres of liquor, or, as a substitute, 8.5 litres of beer or ale (please refer to CBSA Visitors to Canada and other Temporary Residents guideline). An individual can bring in a maximum of 45.45 litres total, as long as the product accompanies them through Customs (CBSA D2-3-6).

Alcohol in excess of the personal exemption limits, or not accompanying the traveler, and/or up to maximum of 45.45 litres are subjected to Provincial markup fees, duties and taxes that applies. Please note the maximum amount is 45.45 litres per shipment. The following information is provided for general guidelines only in order for you to estimate the Provincial Mark Up that would be payable:

Wine – the provincial charges are assessed at the purchase price converted to Canadian multiplied by 116%. That is on a \$10.00 bottle of wine, an individual will be charged approximately \$11.60 per bottle.

Spirits - the provincial charges are assessed at the purchase price converted to Canadian multiplied by 161%. That is on a \$10.00 bottle of spirits, an individual will be charged approximately \$16.10 per bottle.

Beer - the provincial charges are assessed at \$1.40 per litre.

These figures are for **provincial mark up only** which does not include the federal duties and taxes. These are approximate percentages to allow for ease of cost calculation.

Please do not import alcohol into Canada via Canada Post Corporation (CPC), as the BCLDB is not allowed to clear alcohol products under this circumstance.

The Special Clearance Department at the BCLDB will generate Customs Entries known as B3's or Canada Customs Coding Forms, along with Provincial Liquor Fee Invoices for all casual importation. In order to clear shipments at Canada Border Service Agency, the Special Clearance Department requires a **Proforma Invoice** (and/or a commercial invoice and/or a Canada Customs Invoice also known as a CCI) **and Purchase Receipt** (and/or proof of purchase, i.e. credit card statement), **Manifest** (also known as Advice Notice or Cargo Control Document), and **contact info** (please refer to CBSA D1-4-1).

You may appoint a Customs Broker to submit all paperwork to the LDB on your behalf, however this is only an option and you may choose to represent yourself. Please contact your preferred Broker for their particular fees.

Details of Documents required for Clearance:

1. All documentation must be **legible**.
2. Ensure the Proforma Invoice or the CCI has all the required information, such as
  - number of bottles
  - the size of bottles
  - type of product
  - percentage of alcohol
  - the year of the product
  - The name of the **Winery** that produced the wine, not the winery or shipper that shipped the product out.



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- Transaction Value:
  - Transaction value of the goods is the price actually paid or payable for the goods. (please refer to CBSA D229 E(01))
- 3. Manifest requires the following:
  - Consignee name should be the following:
    - BC Liquor Distribution Branch**
    - C/O-XXX (your name)**
    - 1234 ABC Street, Vancouver BC (your delivery address)**
  - Shipper Name and Address
  - Carrier Code and Cargo Control Number
  - Date of Direct Shipment
  - Port of Exit (if shipment is from United States)
  - Weight of the shipment

Please ensure all required information is completed before submitting to the BCLDB for timely processing.

Once all the paperwork is prepared, the BCLDB will fax or email a copy of the Provincial Liquor Fee invoice to the broker or recipient assigned to the shipment. Please note that the broker or recipient is responsible to pay for the Provincial Liquor Fee invoice to BCLDB in person or via mail (BCLDB only accepts exact amount in cash, money order, or bank certified cheques). Please also note BCLDB charges an administration fee per B3 entry of **\$20 Canadian plus applicable taxes**.

Once the recipient has paid the Provincial Liquor Fee, the B3 will then be authorized by the BCLDB. The signed B3 form can be taken to the Canada Border Services Agency where they will approve release of the goods. The broker or recipient is also accountable for the **Federal Charges that are on the B3** when it is submitted to CBSA for clearance.

If you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to contact us as we would be glad to assist you in any way.

Thank you.

Contact information for the Special Clearances department is:

Email: [ldbcustoms@bcldb.com](mailto:ldbcustoms@bcldb.com)

Amanda Cheung  
Special Clearance Supervisor, Wholesale Operations – Imports  
Tel: 604-252-8771

Connie Harvey  
Special Clearance Clerk, Wholesale Operations – Imports  
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Special Clearance Clerk, Wholesale Operations – Imports  
Tel: 604-252-8798

Reference

[Canada Border Service Agency, D229 E \(01\)](#)

[Canada Border Service Agency, Visitors to Canada and other Temporary Residents BSF5082 \(E\) Rev. 10](#)

[Canada Border Service Agency, D2-3-6](#)