

SHIPPING

CANADIAN SHIPPING ACRONYMS

Learn the common Canadian shipping terms all importers and exporters should know.

Importing and Exporting

Definitions of common Canadian shipping acronyms

The following list will assist you in understanding the meanings of many common shipping acronyms.

ACI – Advance Commercial Information	A requirement under CBSA's e-Manifest program for all carriers to provide shipment data to CBSA prior to the goods arriving at the border.
ACROSS – Accelerated Commercial Release Operating Support System	A system developed by Canada Customs that allows shipment release information to be electronically communicated to and from Customs.
AMPS – Administrative Monetary Penalty System	A monetary penalty system that enforces compliance with customs legislation.
CADEX – Customs Automated Data Exchange System	An electronic data interchange systems offered by the CBSA, allowing importers and brokers to file customs accounting documents (B3 forms) electronically.
CBSA – Canada Border Service Agency	The agency responsible for providing integrated border services that support national security and public safety. The CBSA manages the flow of people and goods crossing into and out of Canada.
CCD – Cargo Control Document	An itemized list of the contents of a shipment (also known as the manifest) to be shown for customs clearance. The most commonly used manifest is form A8A.
CCI/CI – Canada Customs Invoice or Commercial Invoice	An invoice prepared by the vendor of the goods which is submitted to the CBSA for all shipments entering Canada. The CCI/CI helps to determine the classification of goods; the value for duty, tax and duty rate; and tariff treatments.
CFIA – Canadian Food Inspection Agency	A government department, or OGD, dedicated to safeguarding food, animals and plants to enhance the health and well-being of Canada's people, environment and economy.
CSA – Customs Self Assessment	A program which features streamlined release and accounting processes for qualified Canadian importers. Introduced by the CBSA, it reduces costs associated with cross-border trading.
DAS – Detailed Adjustment Statement	A document generated when an importer has corrections to their original customs entry or when Customs initiates corrections to an entry classification, valuation, origin, or any other adjustment.

DFATD – Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development	The mandate of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada is to manage Canada’s diplomatic and consular relations, to encourage the country’s international trade and to lead Canada’s international development and humanitarian assistance.
FAST – Free and Secure Trade	A joint program between Canada and the U.S. to enhance security at the border while facilitating the free flow of identified low risk shipments.
GAA – General Agency Agreement	The written authority of a customs broker to act on behalf of the importer in transactional customs business.
GST – Goods and Service Tax	A federal tax that is paid on most goods and services sold in Canada.
HST – Harmonized Sales Tax	A Value Added Tax (VAT) that consists of a combination of the federal Goods & Services Tax (GST) and the provincial sales tax. This provincial portion of this tax varies from province to province.
HVS – High Value Shipment	A shipment that is valued at or above \$1,600 CDN.
LVS – Low Value Shipment	A shipment that is valued lower than \$1,600 CDN.
MFN – Most Favoured Nation Tariff	This tariff treatment is applied to goods where Canada has signed a general trade agreement with the World Trade Organization recognizing countries Canada is prepared to trade with unconditionally.
NAFTA – North American Free Trade Agreement	A trade agreement signed by Canada, the United States and Mexico enabling importers to substantially reduce, or even eliminate, duties if their products meet specific eligibility requirements.
NRI – Non-Resident Importer	A company or entity operating outside of Canada that acts as the importer of record on commercial shipments into Canada.
OGD(s) – Other Government Departments	Government departments which administer import/export regulations related to their specific industry. Examples include CFIA, DFAIT, etc.
PARS – Pre-Arrival Review System	A system developed by Canada Customs that allows release information to be processed before goods arrive at the border.
RMD – Release on Minimum Documentation	A release process that allows importers to obtain release of their goods prior to the full payment of their duties and taxes for a prescribed period of time (5 business days).

SIMA – Special Import Measures Act	A law protecting Canadian manufacturers and producers from two sources of unfair competition: dumped goods imported into Canada at prices lower than they would sell for in their home market or at prices below their full cost; and subsidized goods imported into Canada that have been produced as a result of substantial government subsidies. Such goods imported into Canada are subject to provisional duties or anti-dumping and/or countervailing duties.
TRQ(s) – Tariff Rate Quota(s)	A quota for a volume of imports at a lower tariff rate. After the quota is reached, a higher tariff is applied on additional imports. The distinction between an absolute quota and a TRQ is that under an absolute quota it is legally impossible to import more than the set quota, whereas under a TRQ, imports can exceed the set quota but a higher over-quota tariff rate is applied to the excess.
VFD – Value For Duty	The value of imported goods in Canadian dollars at which duties (if applicable) are calculated.
VFT – Value For Tax	The total of the VFD plus applicable duties. GST/HST taxes are assessed based on the VFT.

Contact Livingston

Have questions or need help with your shipments? Contact your account executive, write to us at: simplify@livingstonintl.com or give us a call at **1-800-837-1063**