

How to get your Cowboy Guns into Canada

Howdy Pardner,

We hope you'll find the following information and links to be helpful in bringing your Cowboy Shootin' Irons up to Vancouver Island to shoot with us this Labour Day weekend. There are TWO basic types of paperwork you must have in order to enter Canada with firearms. The first is an "Authorization to Transport" (ATT) which will be issued to you by the RCMP Canadian Firearms Centre (CFC). The second is a completed, *in triplicate*, **BUT NOT SIGNED** form 5589/5590.

But before we go any further there are some important things you need to know about Canadian Firearms Legislation. Canadians cannot possess or acquire handguns in .25 or .32 calibre unless they have a Prohibited Possession and Acquisition license (PAL). Therefore American Cowboys and Cowgirls who have .32 calibre hand guns will NOT be able to bring them into Canada. Sorry, it doesn't make sense and we don't like it but it's the law. You may bring in .25 and .32 calibre rifles, but not hand guns.

Hand guns with barrels shorter than 105mm or 4.1 inches are also prohibited and will not be allowed entry.

Form 5490e - Authorization to Transport (ATT)

Non-residents MUST get a short-term Authorization to Transport (ATT) to allow them to transport their firearms while in Canada. You can apply for a short-term ATT using Form 5490e. You will be applying for an ATT under section (n): *transport to and from a target shooting competition under the auspices of an approved shooting club or range*. Once approved, an ATT will be issued to transport firearms within a defined area and within a defined time period. Because Canada has no Second Amendment equivalent no one can possess a firearm for self-defence so **PLEASE** do not even think about using that as a reason to enter Canada with your firearms. You will be refused.

When you register for the "Headquarters" match in Victoria, BC from August 26 - 29, 2016, the Victoria Frontier Shootists will issue you an invitation which will contain all the information you will need from to make an application for an ATT. When you register for either the SASS Canadian National Championships "Bustup at Boomtown" and/or the SASS Canadian Wild Bunch Championships "North of the Border" the Valley Regulators will issue a *Letter of Invitation* to cover their match. This will allow you to travel between Victoria and Courtenay. The Valley Regulators will also be holding their regular monthly fun matches on Saturday, August 20, 2016 and Saturday September 10, 2016. These dates will be included in your registration and the *Letter of invitation*. Please see the calendar attached. If you plan to attend matches in both locations include both *Letters of Invitation* in your ATT application. If you cannot attend the Valley Regulators' events at "Boomtown" or the Victoria Frontier Shootists "Headquarters" event for any reason we will refund your registration fees in full.

Form 5589/5590 - Non-Resident Firearm Declaration & Continuation Sheet

You can get copies of these forms from the Canadian Firearms Centre (CFC) or from their website or you can click on the links in the title of this section. If you phone the CFC at 1-800-731-4000 they will mail you 3-part NCR type forms. It's faster to go to their website <http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca> where you can download .pdf versions of the forms, fill them out and make copies. If you go to pdffiller.com you can fill out a .pdf version of form 5589, then print off three copies. The form 5589 "*Instructions for: Non-Resident Firearm Declaration*" will capture all your relevant personal information and has space for the information about three of your firearms. If you have more than three firearms (and you do!) you will need to fill out the necessary number of form 5590s "*Instructions for: Non-Resident Firearm Declaration Continuation Sheet*". Each of the 5590s have room for 4 firearms. When you've completed your form 5589/5590s **DO NOT SIGN THEM!** When you get to the Canadian Border the Border Agent **must witness you signing your signature** on the form 5589/5590. You will also have to pay a \$25.00 fee per person (not per gun).

The Border Agents may want to look at your firearms to verify that they are as described on your declaration so think about how you have them stowed. If you have them stowed behind a bunch of paraphernalia you will have to unload and then re-stow everything. Just make sure you are transporting them according to Canadian regulations. Scroll down to the next section for a good link to the relevant info on the RCMP/CFC website.

Storing and Transporting Firearms in Canada

For information on storing and transporting firearms in Canada go to the [Storing, Transporting and Displaying Firearms](#) page on the RCMP/CFC website. It's pretty much common-sense; trigger locks on handguns, handguns locked in hard containers, etc.

Importing Cartridge Ammunition and Powder/Primers

The Explosives Safety and Security Branch (ESSB) of Natural Resources Canada (NRCAN) is responsible for administering the Explosives Act and regulations. No permit is required if you are bringing in less than the maximum amounts for personal use. These amounts include a maximum of 5000 rounds of small arms ammunition (under .50 calibre) and 5000 percussion caps and 8 kg. of black powder and 8 kg. of smokeless powder. Go to the [NRCAN website](#) for more specific details. Store your ammo in appropriate containers.

It is recommended that you print off this page from the NRCAN site and have it available when you get to the border. The Canadian Border Service Agency has very few of its own rules but it does enforce the laws and regulations of all the rest of the Federal and Provincial Government departments. That's a whole lot of laws. Some of the younger Agents may not be fully conversant with the Explosives Act so be kind and give them a break.

To Summarize

You must already have your ATT *before you get to the border* in order to begin your travels in Canada. You won't be allowed in with your firearms without it. The application process involves a bit of red tape and dealing with the bureaucratic mindset so the sooner you start the process the better.

Fill out Forms 5589 and 5890 ***in triplicate. Do not sign*** them until you are standing in front of a Canadian Border Services Agent. He/she must witness your signature and then you will pay the \$25.00 fee.

Store and transport your firearms and ammunition in compliance with Canadian regulations.

Stow your firearms and ammunition so they will be easy to access for inspection before you get to the border. You don't want to have to empty out the RV so the Border Agent can verify them.

See you at the Range!

Happy Trails,

Doc Richards

Victoria Frontier Shootists

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