



Ottawa, March 19, 2009

MEMORANDUM D19-6-2

In Brief

INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY COMMISSION

1. This memorandum has been revised to reflect new contact information within the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) and the International Boundary Commission.



Printed in Canada



Ottawa, March 19, 2009

MEMORANDUM D19-6-2

INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY COMMISSION

The Canada Border Services Agency assists the International Boundary Commission in the enforcement of the *International Boundary Commission Act*. This memorandum outlines the prohibitions against building next to the international boundary and interfering with boundary monuments.

GUIDELINES AND GENERAL INFORMATION

1. The following are defined in the *International Boundary Commission Act* and apply in this memorandum:

“boundary monument” means a buoy, post, tablet, cairn or other object or structure placed, erected or maintained by the Commission to mark the boundary and includes a reference monument, triangulation station or other marker or structure placed, erected or maintained by the Commission to assist in determining the boundary.

“work” means any ditch, earthwork, building or structure of any description or any lines of telephone, telegraph or power, including posts, piers or abutments for sustaining or protecting the wires or cables of those lines.

2. Provision is made in section 5 of the *International Boundary Commission Act* that, except with the permission of the International Boundary Commission, no person shall:

- (a) construct or place within ten feet of the boundary any work or any addition to work, or
- (b) enlarge any work that was on July 6, 1960, within ten feet of the boundary.

3. To perform any type of work on the 20-foot-wide vista along the boundary, a letter of authorization from the Commission is required. The applicant should submit to the Commission a written request that contains the following documents:

- (a) a detailed letter describing the type of work proposed and the location (e.g., lot number, municipality, town, province/state);
- (b) two copies of a drawing showing the location of the proposed work in relation to a boundary monument or boundary reference monument.

4. Requests that originate in Canada should be submitted to the Canadian section of the Commission at the address shown below:

International Boundary Commission
615 Booth Street, Suite 575
Ottawa ON K1A 0E9

Telephone: 613-992-1294
Fax: 613-947-1337

5. Provision is made in section 6 of the *International Boundary Commission Act* that, except with the permission of the Commission, no person shall:

- (a) pull down, deface, alter, or remove a boundary monument erected or maintained by the Commission; or
- (b) have a boundary monument or any portion thereof in his possession or custody.

6. Any erection of billboards or other structures within ten feet of the international boundary, or any reconstruction of a line building or other structure which has suffered destruction, or any making of additions to any structure erected on the international boundary, or any interference with boundary monuments, constitutes an offence under the *International Boundary Commission Act*. Border services officers will immediately report such infractions to:

Partnerships Division
Border and Compliance Programs Directorate
Admissibility Branch
Canada Border Services Agency
150 Isabella Street, 5th Floor
Ottawa ON K1A 0L8

Telephone: 613-954-1410
Fax: 613-946-1520

Penalty Information

7. Provision is made in the *International Boundary Commission Act* that every person who, or whose employee or agent, has contravened any provision of the Act is guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or to both.

REFERENCES

ISSUING OFFICE – Partnerships Division Border and Compliance Programs Directorate Admissibility Branch	HEADQUARTERS FILE – 68510
LEGISLATIVE REFERENCES – <i>International Boundary Commission Act</i> , sections 2, 5 and 6	OTHER REFERENCES –
SUPERSEDED MEMORANDA “D” – D19-6-2, September 2 1998	

Services provided by the Canada Border Services Agency are available in both official languages.

