

# FAST

## Importer Application Process for Importing into Canada

Available on-line only.

La version française de cette publication est intitulée *EXPRES – Processus d'inscription des importateurs pour les importations au Canada*.

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## **FAST – Importer application process**

The Free and Secure Trade (FAST) program is the result of the Smart Border Declaration – 30-Point Action Plan, and is a harmonized program involving Canada and the United States.

Both countries are co-operating in this program to simplify border crossing for pre-approved low-risk importers, highway carriers, and commercial drivers.

Importers wanting to import goods **into the United States** under the FAST program must:

- make a separate application to the United States Bureau of Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and meet the requirements of the U.S. Customs Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C-TPAT) program. A Web site address for the C-TPAT program is provided on page 6 of this guide under “Contact information and related Web sites.”

Importers authorized to use the FAST program to import goods **into Canada** must:

- have a demonstrated history of complying with all relevant legislative and regulatory requirements;
- be a Customs Self Assessment (CSA) approved importer;
- sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the CBSA in recognition of membership with the Partners in Protection (PIP) program; and
- use carriers and registered drivers who have been approved for the FAST program.

This document will guide you through the necessary steps to become a FAST approved importer **into Canada**.

## **What are the benefits?**

Importers approved under the FAST program into Canada will benefit from:

- a streamlined accounting and payment process for all of their imported goods;
- a streamlined clearance option for FAST – eligible goods when goods are imported into Canada by an approved carrier and registered driver; and
- a strong and ongoing partnership with the CBSA in recognition of our shared objective to enhance security and safety while protecting the economic prosperity of Canada.

## **How do I apply?**

In this guide, you will find information on the FAST program as well as on an application process that must be completed in order to become a FAST importer into Canada. In order to be a FAST – approved importer into Canada, you must:

- be a Customs Self Assessment (CSA) approved importer; and
- sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the CBSA in recognition of membership with the Partners in Protection (PIP) program.

## **Customs Self Assessment (CSA) program**

There are three parts to the CSA application process:

- Part I – You must provide basic information about your business structure and activities.
- Part II – You must document your commercial processes and audit trails.
- Part III – You will be asked to sign a Summary of Program Requirements which will solidify your partnership with the CBSA.

It is recommended that you seek approval from the CBSA for Part I of the CSA application process, before completing and submitting Part II of the CSA application process.

Existing CSA clients, must become members of the PIP program to qualify for FAST in Canada.

## **Partners in Protection (PIP) program**

The purpose of the PIP program is to establish a partnership to strengthen efforts to enhance border security, combat organized crime and terrorism, increase awareness of customs compliance issues, and detect and prevent contraband smuggling. The partnership will focus on developing a more secure border environment through the enhancement of physical security throughout production, transportation, importation, and exportation processes.

To become a partner, you must:

- sign two copies of the PIP (General) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU);
- complete the security questionnaire within 60 days of signing the PIP (General) MOU.

The PIP MOU and security questionnaire may be completed simultaneously or consecutively. Furthermore, the PIP portion of the application process can be completed at any time during or after the CSA application process.

## **Terms and conditions**

Once you are approved for the FAST importer program in Canada, you agree to continue to comply with all customs laws and regulations and any other laws or regulations that are enforced by the CBSA.

If you are found in violation of the terms and conditions of this program, we may cancel your privileges and you may be subject to fines, penalties, and criminal charges.

## **Contact information and related Web sites**

Mail FAST importer applications for Canada to:

CSA/FAST Importer Application  
CSA/FAST Division  
Canada Border Services Agency  
1980 Matheson Blvd., E.  
Mississauga ON L4W 5R7  
CANADA

Mail signed PIP MOUs and security questionnaires to:

Partners in Protection  
Canada Border Services Agency  
10th Floor  
191 Laurier Avenue, West  
Ottawa ON K1A 0L8  
CANADA

For further information on the PIP program, email the CBSA at [pip@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:pip@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca).

Additional information can be found on the following Web sites:

Free and Secure Trade (FAST), Customs Self Assessment (CSA), Partners in Protection (PIP)  
[www.cbsa.gc.ca](http://www.cbsa.gc.ca).

Customs Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C-TPAT)  
[www.cbp.gov](http://www.cbp.gov).