

With ACI, speaking Canadian just got a little harder



The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) has developed a program to better manage the risk assessment process for Canada-bound shipments — Advance Commercial Information (ACI).

What is Advance Commercial Information?

ACI is a three-phase initiative designed to better track the arrival of goods into Canada. Most importantly for U.S. shippers, ACI mandates that all commercial carriers notify CBSA of cargo contents prior to its arrival at the border. Purolator uses its unique Canadian expertise to seamlessly move shipments through this technical process.

What is CBSA trying to achieve?

CBSA's goal is to introduce more effective risk management processes to protect Canadian health, safety and security. Specific ACI goals include:

- ▶ 100% electronic pre-arrival transmission of data from carriers, freight forwarders, and importers/brokers
- ▶ automated risk assessment with integrated targeting for all risks related to health, safety and security
- ▶ data processing and examination decisions made prior to first point of arrival for all modes of transportation
- ▶ national health, safety and security threats will be dealt with at first point of arrival or in a foreign port

What are the three phases of ACI and what does each mandate?

	PHASE ONE	PHASE TWO	PHASE THREE (Also Referred to as E-Manifest)
Transport Mode Affected	Marine Cargo loaded in non-U.S. Ports	Air Cargo and Marine Cargo loaded in U.S. Ports	Cargo traveling via Highway or Rail
Date of Compliance	April 2004	July 2006	To Be Determined
Rules of Compliance	Electronic transmission of cargo data 24 hours prior to loading cargo	Air: Electronic transmission of data 4 hours prior to arrival at Canadian airport, or at time of departure for flights less than 4 hours. Marine: Electronic transmission of data 24 hours prior to arrival in Canadian port, or at time of departure if less than 24 hours.	Rail: Electronic transmission of cargo data 2 hours prior to arrival in Canada. Highway: Electronic transmission of cargo data 1 hour prior to arrival in Canada.



Are any shipments exempt from ACI requirements?

The following categories are not required to adhere to ACI mandates:

- ▶ Low value shipments (LVS) under the courier program (LVS shipments are valued at less than \$1600 CAD)
- ▶ Military cargo transported by a military or military charter aircraft
- ▶ Commercial goods carried in passenger baggage

Don't risk noncompliance with ACI when shipping to Canada.

The most likely result of failure to comply with ACI is CBSA's refusal to clear cargo for entry into Canada. In addition, CBSA may impose fines or other penalties on the carriers and others responsible for the submission of cargo declarations to CBSA. Businesses should make sure that their freight forwarder has the appropriate background and tools for meeting these requirements.

Purolator USA has contracted with ViaSafe, Inc., a leading provider of security compliant global trade solutions, to ensure compliance with the ACI program. This relationship allows Purolator USA to electronically manage and deliver customs clearance information to CBSA to avoid potential delays at the border.

Purolator USA makes all your shipments hurdle the Canadian border.

Canadian customers are a lucrative market for US companies. Too bad small package and freight shipments to Canada can be such a big headache. Fortunately, Purolator USA is everywhere you need us, linking your shipments to 4 major gateway terminals at strategic locations near the Canadian border with preferred access to the vast Purolator delivery network in Canada — the network larger than any two competitors combined.

Put Purolator's Canadian cross-border supply chain expertise to work for you. With our end-to-end seamless support, your shipments will seem like they simply hurdle the border.

For more information about CBSA's ACI program, contact your Purolator USA sales representative.



Where business is going

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