

La version française de cette publication est intitulée *FAST*
– *Guide du participant*.

FAST Commercial Driver Program

Free And Secure Trade (FAST) Commercial Driver Program is the result of the Smart Border Declaration – 30 Point Action Plan and is a harmonized program involving the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency (CCRA), Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC), the U.S. Customs Service (USCS), and the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (USINS).

What are the benefits?

If you are approved to participate in the FAST Commercial Driver Program, you will receive a card to use at the border that will allow you to:

- use FAST dedicated lanes in Canada and the U.S. (where available);
- cross the border with accelerated customs and immigration processing; and,
- transport eligible goods for FAST approved carriers and importers.

Who qualifies?

You may qualify to participate in the program if you are a citizen or permanent resident of the U.S. or Canada, age 18 or over and possess a valid driver's license. You must be admissible to Canada and the U.S. under applicable immigration laws. However, you **may not** qualify if you:

- provide false or incomplete information on your application;
- have been convicted of a criminal offence;
- have been found in violation of customs or immigration law; or
- fail to meet other requirements of the FAST Commercial Driver Program.

Both countries must approve your application. If you do not meet the requirements of both countries, your application will be denied.

How do I apply?

Your participation in this program is strictly voluntary. If you complete the attached application form, we will use the information you provided to determine your eligibility. If you meet initial requirements, you will be invited to visit the enrollment centre for final processing. During this stage, we will:

- review the information you provided on your application form to ensure it is accurate and valid;
- review original documents such as proof of citizenship, residency, work permits, and/or visas;
- take a full set of fingerprints;
- take your photo for your FAST Commercial Driver card;
- explain the terms and conditions of the FAST Commercial Driver Program; and
- following appropriate background checks, you will be notified if you have qualified.

Completing the application

Each person who wants to participate in the FAST Commercial Driver Program must fill out a separate application form.

The following sections give details about certain parts of the application form.

Preferred Language – Indicate English or French. Canadian officials will correspond with you in the language of your choice. U.S. officials will correspond with you in English.

Check the box that applies – *First time applicant* or *Renewal or Replacement*.

Section A – Personal Information

Other names used – If you have ever changed your name (including by marriage), provide the previous name(s) you have used.

Citizenship and Residence – Indicate whether you are a citizen of Canada, the United States, or another country. Be sure to indicate all countries of which you are a citizen or national (i.e. you are a dual national). Check the box that corresponds with your country of permanent residence.

Proof of Citizenship and Residency – Acceptable proof of Canadian or U.S. citizenship includes birth certificate and photo identification, a passport or citizenship certificate or card, a certificate of registration of birth abroad, or a certificate of naturalization. Proof of Canadian or U.S. permanent residency includes a record of landing in Canada, a valid Canadian permanent resident card or a valid U.S. permanent resident card. Please provide copies of any visas you are required to present. Be prepared to provide proof that your citizenship, residency and immigration status are as stated on the application form.

Two photocopies of proof of citizenship and residency, along with two photocopies of your valid drivers license, must be sent with your application form to the FAST Commercial Driver program processing centre. Failure to do so will result in the application being returned to you. However, if the document indicates that it is a violation to copy it, please note this on your application and bring the original with you to your interview.

You will need to bring all the original documents required for your admission to the U.S. and Canada to the enrollment office to be verified as part of the interview process.

Section B – Address history for the last 5 years

You must provide details of your address history for the past 5 years. Use the spaces provided, starting with your current address. Attach a separate sheet, if necessary.

Section C – Employment history for the last 5 years

You must provide details of your employment history for the past 5 years. Use the spaces provided, starting with your current employer. Attach a separate sheet, if necessary.

Lack of employment will not disqualify you from participation, if you are otherwise admissible to the U.S. and Canada, and meet all other program requirements.

To use a FAST card you must be transporting eligible goods for a FAST approved carrier and importer.

Section D – Additional information

Indicate any convictions for offences in any country for which you have not received a pardon for example, alcohol related offences. You must also indicate any immigration or customs violations. For Canadian background checks on admissibility, you may be questioned with regards to offences committed outside Canada, pardons granted by countries other than Canada and deemed rehabilitation. For U.S. background checks, you may be questioned about your full criminal history, including arrests or pardons.

You must also indicate if you have ever applied to CIC for rehabilitation.

You must also indicate any waivers of inadmissibility you have been issued by the USINS.

Section E – Certification

The laws that protect personal information collected by government agencies differ in Canada and the United States. You should read the U.S. and Canadian privacy

statements and the certification statement on the application form carefully. You must sign and date the certification statement.

The U.S. *Privacy Act* applies to U.S. citizens and U.S. permanent residents, including Canadian and other nationals who fall into either of these two categories. The Canadian *Privacy Act* applies to all persons applying to the Canadian portion of the program.

Section F – Fee payment

For every application there is a non-refundable fee for the FAST Commercial Driver Program of \$80.00 Canadian or U.S. \$50.00. Program participation will be valid for a five-year period. This fee is equally divided by the two countries and includes the existing U.S. \$25.00 application fee for a land border alternative inspection program as well as the \$40.00 Canadian application fee.

You must include a money order or a certified cheque for the total amount in Canadian or U.S. dollars made payable to the *Receiver General for Canada*. As an option you may provide a Visa or MasterCard number with your signature.

Do not send cash.

How do I declare goods?

As a FAST Commercial Driver participant, you must declare all goods you are importing whenever you cross the border into the U.S. or Canada.

If you are entering the U.S. and are importing goods for your personal use, you must make an oral declaration to the officer in the booth. For more information, U.S. residents should refer to the U.S. pamphlet called ***Know Before You Go*** and Canadian residents visiting the U.S. should see the publication called ***Visiting the United States***.

If you are entering the U.S. and have goods to declare in excess of your personal exemption, you must use the regular lane.

If you are entering Canada and are importing goods for your personal use that do not exceed your personal exemption, you must make a verbal declaration to the officer in the booth. For more information about importing goods into Canada, Canadian residents should see the CCRA pamphlet called *I Declare* and U.S. residents should see the pamphlet called *Customs Information for Visitors to Canada and Seasonal Residents*.

If you are entering either Canada or the U.S. and have goods to declare in excess of your personal exemption, you must use the regular lane.

Note: Canadian residents have the option of obtaining *Traveller Declaration Cards* (TDCs) that can be presented any time you cross into Canada using the FAST lane. The card must be completed before arriving in Canada. When you arrive, hand your TDC to the officer in the booth. If you exceed your personal exemption, the duties and tax owing will be charged to your credit card.

Are there restrictions on the goods I can import for personal use?

- You cannot import controlled, restricted, or prohibited firearms or weapons, including mace, pepper spray, and stun guns;
- you cannot import controlled, restricted, or prohibited goods, animals, or plants. This includes controlled, restricted, or prohibited substances, endangered animals or species, and restricted fruits and vegetables. For more information, see the pamphlets mentioned previously; and,

- if you bring or carry more than US \$10,000 in currency and monetary instruments into or out of the U.S., you must use the regular lane and make a declaration to U.S. Customs.

What else do I need to know?

The card is valid for a period of 5 years provided you continue to meet all the terms and conditions of this program.

Only approved FAST Commercial Drivers can use FAST dedicated lanes (where available). As a FAST Commercial Driver, you remain subject to compliance and enforcement checks at any time you cross the border.

If you use the FAST dedicated lane, everyone in the vehicle must be in possession of a valid FAST commercial driver card and transporting eligible goods for a FAST approved carrier and importer.

We will take a full set of fingerprints to perform criminal records checks. This biometric will be shared with other government and law enforcement agencies. In addition, any personal information you provide will be shared with other government and law enforcement agencies.

Your application will be denied if you do not meet both Canadian and U.S. requirements for admission into the FAST Commercial Driver Program.

Your FAST Commercial Driver card is not a travel document that authorizes your admission to the U.S. or Canada. Your FAST Commercial Driver card validation and expiration date will depend on your underlying citizenship or immigration status for each country. Your immigration status must be valid at all times, and you must possess appropriate immigration and identity documents in addition to your FAST Commercial Driver card. These may include your passport (required for some countries), birth certificate, visa, permanent resident card, employment authorization, work permit, and other related documents.

Penalties for the Provision of False Information

The failure to provide true, accurate and complete information in an application to the FAST Commercial Driver Program may result in denial of your application. Penalties are provided by law for knowingly and willfully falsifying or concealing a material fact, or using any false document in submitting your application. A false representation also may result in the denial of this and any other application you may make for any benefit under U.S. Immigration laws.

U.S. FAST Lane Conditions

Applicants acknowledge and agree that if they violate any conditions of this program, or any law or regulation of any Federal Inspection Service, or are otherwise determined to be inadmissible to the U.S., their participation in this program may be revoked and they may be subject to other applicable sanctions. Such sanctions may include, but are not limited to, criminal prosecution, removal proceedings, imposition of civil monetary penalties, and seizures of merchandise and vehicles. Conditions by which applicants must abide include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a) adherence to all state, federal, and local laws regarding the importation of alcohol and agriculture products, possession and importation of controlled substances, and all other laws and regulations under the jurisdiction of any federal agency.
- b) adherence to all requirements of the *Immigration and Nationality Act*, as amended, U.S. Customs regulations, and all Federal Inspection Service regulations regarding documentary requirements.

If you violate the terms and conditions of this program, we may cancel your privileges and you may face fines, penalties, and criminal charges. We will strictly enforce the law.

Canadian FAST Lane Conditions

Applicants acknowledge and agree that if they violate any conditions of this program, or are otherwise determined to be inadmissible to Canada, their participation in this program may be revoked and they may be subject to other applicable sanctions.

Mail your application and fee payment to the address found on the application form (attached).

For more information

Please contact the FAST Commercial Driver Program processing centres at:

4551 Zimmerman Avenue
P.O. Box 66
Niagara Falls ON L2E 6T1
Canada

FAST Driver Registration Office
50 South Main St., Suite 100R
St. Albans, VT. 05478
U. S. A.

Or visit our web sites at:

www.ccra-adrc.gc.ca

www.Customs.gov

Think Recycling!



Printed in Canada