

## SPECIAL REPORT

### INTENDING TO DRIVE INTO CANADA? Obtain and Carry Evidence of Automobile Insurance Coverage Before You Leave

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Too often, U.S. citizens driving into Canada overlook the mandates of Canadian law requiring proof of adequate motor vehicle liability insurance for individuals driving in Canada. Proof that a U.S. driver is covered in Canada is not typically evidenced on the standard “proof of insurance” issued by U.S. insurers.

U.S. travelers planning to drive in Canada must be aware of and comply with Canadian laws requiring drivers to show proof of adequate motor vehicle liability insurance.

Does this mean that an entirely new policy of insurance must be purchased prior to traveling in Canada? Not necessarily.

U.S. automobile insurance companies routinely file with Canadian authorities what is known as a *Canada Non-Resident Inter-Province Motor Vehicle Liability Insurance Power of Attorney and Undertaking*, stating that the insurance company protects its insureds that drive their private passenger vehicles in Canada. U.S. companies which have completed this filing can then issue a *Canadian Non-resident Interprovincial Motor Vehicle Liability Card* to their insureds that are driving into Canada for proof of adequate coverage.

Individuals who intend to drive into Canada but do not have a **Canadian Non-resident Inter-provincial Motor Vehicle Liability Card** should contact their insurance company to obtain the card and carry it at all times while driving in Canada.

This card serves as evidence of insurance coverage if the traveler is stopped by law enforcement or is involved in an accident while driving in Canada. If a law enforcement official determines that the U.S. driver does not have the requisite non-resident insurance card, the driver is at risk of being fined for driving in Canada without adequate insurance, or even having his or her vehicle impounded until proper coverage is obtained.

Additional specific information may be obtained from the Canadian Council of Insurance Regulators at  
[http://www.ccir-ccrra.org/CCIR/pau/NEW%20PAU/index\\_en.htm](http://www.ccir-ccrra.org/CCIR/pau/NEW%20PAU/index_en.htm).

There may be additional requirements for commercial vehicles and trucks. In particular, the financial responsibility requirements for commercial vehicles vary. If you plan to drive a commercial vehicle in Canada, please contact the individual province or territory for additional information:  
[http://www.ccirccrra.org/CCIR/pau/NEW%20PAU/commercial\\_en.htm](http://www.ccirccrra.org/CCIR/pau/NEW%20PAU/commercial_en.htm)

*This Special Report is not intended to serve as a precise statement of Canadian law pertaining to the non-resident drivers in Canada. The information contained within this article is general in nature and is not intended to serve as specific legal advice. The intent of this article is to make the reader generally aware of certain rules relating to non-resident drivers in Canada.*

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