

TRANSBORDER SERVICES

Commodity Descriptions

Under ACI eManifesting requirements (Advance Commercial Information), Northbound shipments to Canada may be delayed by Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) if the commodity descriptions on the Bill of Lading and Commercial Invoice are vague and generalized. The table below is a partial listing of Not Acceptable and corresponding Acceptable commodity descriptions. All shipments moving to Canada should have detailed, common sense commodity descriptions on the Bill of Lading and Commercial Invoice.

NOT ACCEPTABLE	ACCEPTABLE
"Brand" or "Trade Mark" names by themselves i.e., "Bubbles Brand"	"Bubbles Brand" Laundry Detergent; Laundry Detergent
Animals	Horse, Poultry, Bovine
Apparel, Wearing apparel, Ladies' Apparel, Men's Apparel	Shoes, Footwear, Women's Dresses, Men's Shirts, Boy's Jackets
Appliances	Refrigerator, Stove, Microwave Oven, Coffee Machines
Auto Parts	Air filters, Automobile Brakes, Automotive Windshield
Caps	Baseball Caps, Blasting Caps, Bottle Caps, Hub Caps
Chemicals, hazardous/Chemicals, non-hazardous	Actual Chemical Name (not brand name): Aluminum Potassium Sulfate, Methyl Alcohol
Cleaning Products	Detergents, Mops, Window Cleaner
Consolidated (if the load is not consolidated and house bills are not expected to follow)	Consolidated (where house bills are expected to follow)
Electronic Goods/ Electronics	Computers, Monitors, Televisions, Mobile Telephones, DVD players, Electronic Toys, Video Game Consoles, Electronic Dolls
Equipment, Industrial Equipment	Oil Well Equipment, Poultry Equipment, Automotive Equipment
Flooring	Wood Flooring, Carpet, Ceramic Tile, Marble Flooring
Foodstuffs, Food, Meat, Fish, Produce, Pet food	Packaged Rice, Bulk Rice, Fresh Beef, Frozen Chicken, Live Trout, Frozen Salmon, Canned Tuna Fresh Oranges, Frozen Broccoli, Canned Peaches, Canned Dog Food, Dry Cat Food
Gifts, Novelty Items	Dolls, Remote Control Cars, Picture Frames
Household Goods	Acceptable only when goods are Personal / Used Household Effects transported by a commercial carrier (Goods accounted under a Personal Effects Accounting Document)
Iron	Iron Pipes, Iron Plates
Leather Articles	Saddles, Leather Handbags, Leather Jackets, Shoes
Machines	Sewing Machines, Printing Machines
Machine Parts	Oil Pumps, Seals, Engines
Medical Supplies	Medical Gloves, Syringes, Dialysis Machine
Oil	Mineral Oil, Motor Oil, Olive Oil
Ore	Iron Ore, Copper Ore
Pipes	Plastic Pipes, PVC Pipes, Steel Pipes
Plants	Tulips, Cedar Saplings, Tomato Plants
Plastic Goods, Industrial Plastics	Plastic Kitchenware, Plastic Toys, Plastic Sheets, Plastic Tubes
Polyurethane	Polyurethane Threads, Polyurethane Medical Gloves
Pump	Oil Pump, Water Pump, Bicycle Pump
Rubber Articles	Rubber Hoses, Tires, Rubber Toys, Rubber Conveyor Belts
Rods	Welding Rods, Rebar, Aluminum Rods, Reactor Rods
Scrap	Plastic Scrap, Aluminum Scrap, Iron Scrap
Shingles	Asphalt Shingles, Steel Shingles, Wood Shingles
STC (Said to Contain), General Cargo, FAK (Freight of All Kinds), "No Description"	If the shipment is consolidated, (where house bills are expected to follow), the following descriptions may be accepted: Freight of all kinds (FAK), Shipper load and count (SLC) and Consolidated
Steel	Steel Plates, Steel Coils
Tiles	Ceramic Tiles, Marble Tiles
Toiletries / Bathroom Products	Towels, Toothbrushes, Shampoo
Tools	Hand Tools, Power Tools, Industrial Tools
Vehicles	Cars, Trucks, Buses, Tractors, Combines, Bicycles, Boats
Wires	Steel Wire, Copper Wire, Auto Harness, Coiled Wire (Industrial)

Source: Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA). This list is not exhaustive and is subject to change as acceptable descriptions are further refined. Quantity and /or type of packaging are not to be included in the cargo description field ("1 load of", "10 boxes of", "3 pallets of" etc.). If the cargo is "used", specify "used" in front of the description, otherwise the cargo is assumed to be "new".