



GUIDE TO PARTICIPATING GOVERNMENT AGENCIES (PGAs) IN CANADA

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Examples of PGAs in Canada:

- Canadian Food Inspection Agency
- Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
- Environment and Climate Change Canada
- Fisheries and Ocean Canada
- Global Affairs Canada
- Health Canada
- Natural Resources Canada
- Public Health Agency of Canada
- Transport Canada



The Role of PGAs

Each PGA has a role to play in keeping Canadians, and our resources safe and protected from harm. PGA's control the way goods are produced, monitor the safety of food, ensure transportation safety, and more.

Each PGA has regulations and requirements for goods that will be used in Canada. The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) enforces these regulations on imported commodities, and there are a variety of requirements that must be met. Requirements can range from providing details on the goods imported, requiring import permits, and commodity quota's.

As an importer, what should I be aware of?

It is important for importers to understand their commodities, and any special requirements for the importation of these commodities. Before importing, reach out to your customs broker to review the tariff classification and any PGA requirements that need to be met. This will ensure your goods have a smooth crossing into Canada, and are not held up for missing PGA paperwork etc.

Where do I find out what is required for my imports?

Each PGA is slightly different and have informative websites. The most common PGA when importing into Canada is CFIA, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. CFIA covers far more than just food. Anything that will be consumed, used in manufacture of food (human or animal), goes into the ground, or comes from the earth will have additional information required by the CFIA. All required information is detailed on their website. List of all PGAs in Canada: <https://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/import/reflist-listeref-eng.html>

What does my broker need to know? How do they know what to transmit to customs?

When your broker is processing your import paperwork for CBSA, their systems require additional information on goods impacted by PGA regulations. Since most brokers systems are connected directly to CBSA, the import entry will not be accepted until all requirements have been satisfied. An alert will occur when additional information could be required based on the HS classification or end use. At that point, the additional information is supplied such as import permit numbers, Phytosanitary Certificates, etc. Your broker will need to know details on the products that are affected by PGA's.

For example, if you are importing food products, information required would include what the food product is, what will it be used for, how is it packaged, an ingredient list, where the product is coming from, and more.

Another example of a common commodity and the PGA requirements is vehicles. Any vehicle imported into Canada must meet Transport Canada's regulations. This is monitored through the Registrar of Imported Vehicles (RIV) Program. The RIV Program requires information on the vehicle including the manufacturer, the date of manufacture, the country of origin, and various other details, as well as an original title for the vehicle. This information needs to be completed through the RIV Program and submitted to customs before the goods arrive at the border, by your customs broker. The details provided will ensure that it meets Transport Canada's requirements, or alerts for inspection of the vehicle at the port of entry into Canada. Inspections on the vehicles will make sure the vehicle is safe to be on the road within our country.

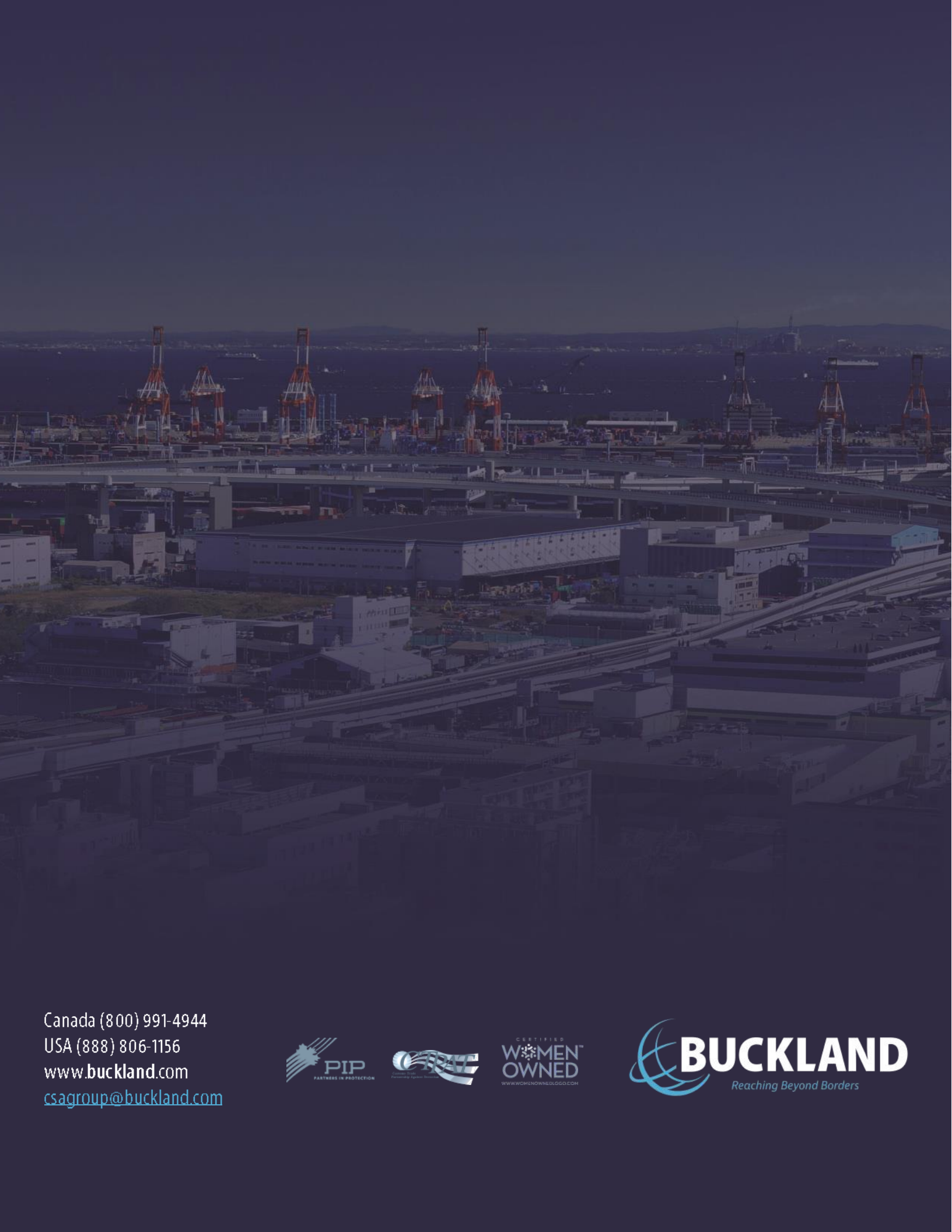
NRCAN is another very common PGA. NRCAN is Natural Resources Canada. A common regulation in everyday life is the requirement for stickers on appliances detailing how much energy they use. When goods are being imported, a broker will transmit details on these sort of goods to customs including what the goods are, where they were made, by whom, their energy output and more. Usually these details are provided on the commercial invoice. In the event that a broker cannot obtain the details from the paperwork provided, they will reach out for additional information.

In Conclusion

To make it simple, if a commodity is for human or animal use (either ingested or applied to the body), electronic, motorized or firearms, it will more than likely have an PGA regulation that needs to be met. In these cases, a broker can inform you about any special paperwork that may be required, and you should provide as many details as possible on the Canada Customs Invoice. By being proactive and knowing the goods you are importing it will help create a smooth import, preventing delays.

Have questions?

Reach out to Buckland at csagroup@buckland.com if you have any questions about PGAs and their requirements.



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