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# The North American Free Trade Agreement The United States, Canada, and Mexico



**What You Should Know to Make Business Travel Easier  
Avoid Surprises at the Border - Call Immigration First**

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The following Ports of Entry have Free Trade Specialists who may be able to provide you with the detailed information and the necessary documentation you request. The Specialists cannot guarantee the admission of any applicant.

#### NORTHERN BORDER

ALBANY	518-472-7140	BLAINE	206-332-8511	BUFFALO	716-885-3367
CALAIS	207-454-2546	CALGARY	403-221-1728	CHAMPLAIN	518-298-8433
DERBY LINE	802-873-3316	DETROIT	313-568-6019	EASTPORT	208-267-2183
EDMONTON	403-890-8549	GRAND PORTAGE	218-475-2494	HIGHGATE SPRINGS	802-868-3349
HOULTON	207-945-0041	INTERNATIONAL FALLS	218-283-8611	JACKMAN	207-668-3151
MADAWASKA	207-728-4565	NIAGARA	716-282-3141	NORTON	802-822-5217
NOYES	218-823-6291	OROVILLE	509-476-3132	PORT HURON	810-982-0493
PORTAL	701-926-4221	RICHFORD	802-848-7766	SAULT STE. MARIE	906-632-8822
SUMAS	206-988-4781	SWEETGRASS	406-335-2911	THOUSAND ISLAND	315-482-2681
TORONTO	416-676-2563	VAN BUREN	207-868-2202	VANCEBORO	207-788-3813
VANCOUVER	604-278-2520	WINNIPEG	204-783-5747		

#### SOUTHERN BORDER

ANDRADE	619-572-0565	BROWNSVILLE	210-548-2620	CALEXICO	619-357-1143
CORPUS CHRISTI	512-888-7528	DEL RIO	512-775-7528	DOUGLAS	602-364-5532
EAGLE PASS	512-773-9205	EL PASO	915-540-3131	GALVESTON	409-766-3581
HIDALGO	210-843-2201	HOUSTON	713-233-3710	LAREDO	512-722-5400
LUKEVILLE	602-627-2816	NOGALES	602-287-3609	ROMA	210-849-1676
SAN ANTONIO	512-229-5130	SAN YSIDRO	619-428-7311	SASABE	602-287-8816
TUCSON	602-670-6130	WESLACO	210-565-9409		

#### ENTERING THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA UNDER THE NORTH AMERICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT (NAFTA)

You must be a citizen of either Canada or Mexico. You must prove admissibility under all existing United States immigration laws. You must establish that you qualify as a visitor for business, a treaty trader or investor, an intracompany transferee, or a professional.

#### DEFINITIONS:

- Visitor for business:** A person engaged in international business activities related to research and design, growth, manufacture and production, marketing, sales, distribution, after-sales service, and other general services reflecting the activities in a complete business cycle, and receiving no remuneration from a United States source.
- Treaty Trader:** A person coming to carry on substantial trade involving the flow of goods or services principally between the United States and Canada or between the United States and Mexico. Over 50% of the international trade must be conducted between the United States and the treaty country. The Treaty Trader must be a citizen of Canada or Mexico. An employee of a trader may also qualify as a treaty trader if he or she is entering the United States in an executive or supervisory capacity; or, if employed in a lesser capacity, the employee must have skills which are essential to the efficient operation of the business. Issuance of a nonimmigrant visa is required prior to entry of both Canadians and Mexicans in this classification.
- Treaty Investor:** A citizen of either Canada or Mexico who is coming to the United States to develop and direct a bona fide enterprise in which they have made a substantial investment of capital and, thereby, own at least 50% or maintain a controlling interest. The employee of a treaty investor who will be employed in an executive or supervisory capacity, or who has skills which are essential to the operation of the business, may also be classified as a treaty investor. Issuance of a nonimmigrant visa is required prior to entry of both Canadians and Mexicans in this classification.
- Intracompany transferee:** A person coming to a United States parent, branch, subsidiary or affiliate of a foreign company. The person must have been employed abroad by the foreign company for at least one year out of the preceding three in an executive, managerial, or specialized knowledge capacity. He or she must be coming to the United States for the purpose of employment in an executive, managerial, or specialized knowledge capacity. A petition must be filed in behalf of the intracompany transferee on Form I-129 by either the United States or the foreign employer.
- Professional:** An alien who is a citizen of Canada or Mexico who seeks to enter the United States under and pursuant to the provisions of Section D of Annex 1603 of the North American Free Trade Agreement to engage in business activities at a professional level.
- Dependents:** The spouse and children of the E - Treaty Trader or Treaty Investor are granted E status just like the principal but are not authorized employment. The spouse and children of an Intracompany Transferee are classified L-2 and may not work. The spouse and children of a professional alien are classified TD for Trade Dependent and are not authorized to accept employment.

#### DOCUMENTATION:

- A Canadian citizen seeking status as a visitor for business, an intracompany transferee, or a professional, may apply for admission at a Port of Entry without first obtaining a nonimmigrant visa.

2. A Mexican citizen seeking status as a visitor for business, an intracompany transferee, or a professional, may apply for admission at a Port of Entry after obtaining a nonimmigrant visa or Border Crossing Card when seeking status as a visitor for business, and the requisite nonimmigrant visa according classification as an intracompany transferee or a professional.

3. Both a Canadian and a Mexican citizen must proceed to a United States Consulate and have the requisite nonimmigrant visa inserted in their passport or other travel document when seeking status as a treaty trader or investor. This applies even if the Canadian citizen obtained a change of status to that of a treaty trader or investor. This is one of the few times when a Canadian citizen would need to present a visa at the time of application for admission.

**PROCEDURES FOR PROFESSIONAL STATUS**

1. A Canadian citizen seeking professional status would present evidence of citizenship, a letter of employment offering employment in professional status, evidence that he or she is in possession of said status, and appropriate evidence of compliance with state licensure requirements.

2. A Mexican citizen seeking professional status would present a nonimmigrant visa issued by a United States Consulate. This visa would be issued after a petition submitted by a would-be employer had first been approved.

3. Both the Canadian and the Mexican citizen may be admitted for a maximum initial period of one year in a professional status.

4. The current listing of professional occupations in Appendix 1603.D.1 is as follows:

<b>PROFESSION</b>	<b>MINIMUM EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS AND ALTERNATIVE CREDENTIALS<sup>1</sup></b>
Accountant	Baccalaureate or Licenciatura degree; or C.P.A., C.A., C.G.A., or C.M.A.
Architect	Baccalaureate or Licenciatura degree; or state/provincial license.
Computer Systems Analyst	Baccalaureate or Licenciatura degree; or Post-Secondary Diploma or Post Secondary Certificate and three years' experience.
Disaster relief insurance claims adjuster (claims adjuster employed by an insurance company located in the territory of a Party, or an independent claims adjuster)	Baccalaureate or Licenciatura degree and successful completion of training in the appropriate areas of insurance adjustment pertaining to disaster relief claims; or three years experience in claims adjustment and successful completion of training in the appropriate areas of insurance adjustment pertaining to disaster relief claims.
Economist	Baccalaureate or Licenciatura degree.
Engineer	Baccalaureate or Licenciatura degree; or state/provincial license.
Forester	Baccalaureate or Licenciatura degree; or state/provincial license.
Graphic designer	Baccalaureate or Licenciatura degree; or post-secondary diploma and three years experience.
Hotel manager	Baccalaureate or Licenciatura degree in hotel/restaurant management; or post-secondary diploma or post-secondary certificate in hotel/restaurant management and three years experience in hotel/restaurant management.
Industrial designer	Baccalaureate or Licenciatura degree; or post-secondary diploma or post-secondary certificate, and three years experience.
Interior designer	Baccalaureate or Licenciatura degree; or post-secondary diploma or post-secondary certificate, and three years experience.
Land surveyor	Baccalaureate or Licenciatura degree or state/provincial/federal license.
Landscape architect	Baccalaureate or Licenciatura degree.
Lawyer (including Notary in the province of Quebec)	L.L.B., J.D., L.L.L., B.C.L., or Licenciatura degree (five years); or membership in a state/provincial bar.
Librarian	M.L.S., or B.L.S. (for which another Baccalaureate or Licenciatura degree was a prerequisite).
Management consultant	Baccalaureate or Licenciatura degree; or equivalent professional experience as established by statement or professional credential attesting to five years experience as a management consultant, or five years experience in a field of specialty related to the consulting agreement.
Mathematician (including statistician)	Baccalaureate or Licenciatura degree.
Range manager/ Range conservationist	Baccalaureate or Licenciatura degree.
Research assistant (working in a post-secondary educational institution)	Baccalaureate or Licenciatura degree.

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<sup>1</sup> For information regarding qualifications for the positions, additions or subtractions from Appendix 1603.D.1, and related information, you should contact your local Immigration and Naturalization Service office, or a Free Trade Specialist at one of the numbers listed on page 2.

**PROFESSION****MINIMUM EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS AND ALTERNATIVE CREDENTIALS**

Scientific technician/ technologist	Possession of (a) theoretical knowledge of any of the following disciplines: agricultural sciences, astronomy, biology, chemistry, engineering, forestry, geology, geophysics, meteorology, or physics; and (b) the ability to solve practical problems in any of those disciplines, or the ability to apply principles of any of those disciplines to basic or applied research. Baccalaureate or Licenciatura degree. Baccalaureate or Licenciatura degree.
Social worker Sylviculturist (including forestry specialist)	Baccalaureate or Licenciatura degree, or post-secondary diploma or post-secondary certificate, and three years experience. Baccalaureate or Licenciatura degree.
Technical publications writer	Baccalaureate or Licenciatura degree, or post-secondary diploma or post-secondary certificate, and three years experience.
Urban planner (including geographer)	Baccalaureate or Licenciatura degree.
Vocational counselor	Baccalaureate or Licenciatura degree.

**MEDICAL/ALLIED PROFESSIONALS**

Dentist	D.D.S., D.M.D., Doctor en Odontologia or Doctor en Cirugia Dental or state/provincial license.
Dietitian	Baccalaureate or Licenciatura degree; or state/provincial license.
Medical laboratory technologist(Canada)/ medical technologist (Mexico and the United States)	Baccalaureate or Licenciatura degree; or post-secondary diploma or post secondary certificate, and three years experience.
Nutritionist	Baccalaureate or Licenciatura degree.
Occupational therapist	Baccalaureate or Licenciatura degree; or state/provincial license.
Pharmacist	Baccalaureate or Licenciatura degree; or state/provincial license.
Physician (teaching or research only)	M.D., Doctor en Medicina: or state/provincial license.
Physiotherapist/ physical therapist	Baccalaureate or Licenciatura degree; or state/provincial license.
Psychologist	State/provincial license; or Licenciatura degree.
Recreational therapist	Baccalaureate or Licenciatura degree.
Registered nurse	State/provincial license or Licenciatura degree.
Veterinarian	D.V.M., D.M.V., or Doctor en Veterinaria; or state/provincial license.

**SCIENTIST**

Agriculturist (agronomist)	Baccalaureate or Licenciatura degree.
Animal breeder	Baccalaureate or Licenciatura degree.
Animal scientist	Baccalaureate or Licenciatura degree.
Apiculturist	Baccalaureate or Licenciatura degree.
Astronomer	Baccalaureate or Licenciatura degree.
Biochemist	Baccalaureate or Licenciatura degree.
Biologist	Baccalaureate or Licenciatura degree.
Chemist	Baccalaureate or Licenciatura degree.
Dairy scientist	Baccalaureate or Licenciatura degree.
Entomologist	Baccalaureate or Licenciatura degree.
Epidemiologist	Baccalaureate or Licenciatura degree.
Geneticist	Baccalaureate or Licenciatura degree.
Geochemist	Baccalaureate or Licenciatura degree.
Geologist	Baccalaureate or Licenciatura degree.
Geophysicist (including oceanographer in Mexico and the United States)	Baccalaureate or Licenciatura degree.
Horticulturist	Baccalaureate or Licenciatura degree.
Meteorologist	Baccalaureate or Licenciatura degree.
Pharmacologist	Baccalaureate or Licenciatura degree.
Physicist (including Oceanographer in Canada)	Baccalaureate or Licenciatura degree.
Plant Breeder	Baccalaureate or Licenciatura degree.
Poultry scientist	Baccalaureate or Licenciatura degree.
Soil scientist	Baccalaureate or Licenciatura degree.
Zoologist	Baccalaureate or Licenciatura degree.

**TEACHER**

College	Baccalaureate or Licenciatura degree.
Seminary	Baccalaureate or Licenciatura degree.
University	Baccalaureate or Licenciatura degree.