
For its part, Canada agreed to exempt U.S. institutions and investors from existing limits on foreign ownership of Canadian-controlled financial institutions. This also applies to federally-incorporated insurance companies. However, U.S. institutions and investors will still be subject to the 10 per cent individual ownership limit for Schedule A banks, which also applies to Canadian investors. In addition, U.S. banks will no longer be subject to the aggregate ceiling that is applied to the assets of foreign bank subsidiaries in Canada. Finally, each country has agreed to protect the access now enjoyed in its markets by the financial institutions of the other country and to extend to them any benefit arising from further liberalization of markets.

Temporary Entry for Business Persons

U.S. Immigration procedures have been a major frustration for Canadian service providers travelling to the United States. Significant delays have resulted, for example, from the need to determine that no U.S. resident in the area to be visited could do the work. The streamlining of border crossing formalities is an important element of the Agreement.

Though Canadian and U.S. business travellers must continue to meet normal health and other general requirements, national laws and regulations governing temporary entry by citizens of both countries for business purposes will be liberalized and entry procedures will be

quick and simple. In order to ensure these general rules are applied to genuine business travellers, the two governments will establish new categories and procedures while preserving existing border crossing rights. These categories and some examples are set out in Table 4.2.

To enter the other country under these provisions, Canadian and U.S. business travellers will have to indicate the nature of their business, specifying that they are entering under one of the following four categories: business visitors, professionals, traders and investors, or intra-company transferees as defined in Chapter 15. Canadian business visitors employed in Canada will be able to gain temporary admission to the United States by applying at a border point without requiring employment documentation. Canadian professionals wishing to market and deliver services in the United States will be able to obtain the necessary U.S. employment documentation at the border without the need for labour certification. Canadian intra-company transferees will be able to gain approval in a period much less than the current 90 days. Canadian traders and investors, including owners, managers and key personnel, will now be able to qualify under the existing U.S. treaty trader category. A Canada-U.S. consultative mechanism has been established to ensure that no new problems arise in the future and to seek ways of further facilitating business travel.