

- Will the vehicle meet Canadian safety and emission control specifications when it's time to come home?
- What type of vehicle would best be suited to the state of the roads at the mission?
- What about the quality of service and repairs? Are spare parts readily available and reasonably priced?
- Are good used cars available for purchase at the mission?

Before you decide on buying a new car or shipping your present one, take another look at the Mission Report and discuss the issue during your Rounds. Effective June 1, 1993, you may claim shipment costs for a new PMV which is purchased from a local dealer at your post where the manufacturer will not ship directly to you, or where this is cost effective.

Crown Held Automobiles

There are a few missions where local restrictions or excessive shipping costs are such that cars will not be shipped at public expense for certain employees. FSD 30 enables Crown-held vehicles to be assigned or alternative transportation arrangements to be made available in that situation.

A list of missions where cars will not be shipped at public expense for certain employees is available from SBM (Geographic Service Section).

Shipment

The shipment of privately owned automobiles at public expense (FSD 15.17) is done by surface means. Transit time for vehicles can take several months and employees should plan accordingly.

If you intend to ship an automobile, this should be one of the first items to look after following receipt of your posting confirmation. You will be required to complete Form EXT 650 (Description of personally-owned vehicle shipped from Ottawa) and bring it to SBM (Geographic Service Section) together with two copies of the vehicle registration. The primary purpose of your PMV must be for family conveyance. For purposes of shipment, PMV means a motorcycle (when not shipped as household effects), sedan, sports car, station wagon, mini-van, pick-up or 4-wheel drive vehicle of three-quarter ton rating or less.

You may be considering the possibility of purchasing a car outside Canada and having it shipped to the mission. This is permissible as long as you have obtained prior authority from SBM (Geographic Service Section). An accountable advance may be obtained for this purpose, but remember to keep all receipts and submit a claim as soon as you take delivery of your vehicle.

When you are making your own arrangements, remember to take out personal and all-risks marine insurance which should cover the replacement and shipping costs of the vehicle. It is essential that an accurately completed Condition Report is made before shipment. Read the fine print in your insurance policy and get a satisfactory explanation from your insurance agent.

Hint — If you have not done so already, speak to colleagues who have gone through the experience of shipping their cars. Contact dealers, manufacturers and/or freight forwarders and try to get an estimate of current transit time. Before you make up your mind, remember there is a high risk of damage and theft associated with shipment of motor vehicles. Also, serviceability, parts availability and cost, customs and resale restrictions, as well as the general state of the roads and security at the mission may make operating your own vehicle a nightmare.

Hint — Consider including accessories such as cassette decks, hub caps and windshield wipers with your shipment of household effects.

Hint — Ensure that no gap occurs between the time your marine transit insurance expires and your personal car insurance coverage begins at the mission.