

Companies doing business in Canada also benefit from a nationwide system of 142 privately-owned warehouses licensed and bonded by the federal government. Their services include the leasing of warehouse and office space to third parties, provision of facilities for opening and closing cargo, and such operational conveniences as free parking space for trailers, waiting rooms for drivers and round-the-clock security. Warehouses in all large metropolitan centres offer on-site customs inspection, bar-coded storage and handling and after-hours clearance. In total they offer about 1.2 million square metres of handling, inspecting and storage space and approximately 100,000 square metres of leasable office space.

EFFICIENT BORDER CROSSINGS

There are many locations where one can move goods and services between Canada

and the U.S., and the Canadian and U.S. governments are actively cooperating to streamline the border crossing process. Canada Customs has introduced a program called PARS that combines electronic data interchange (EDI) and bar coding technology to speed up clearance at the border. FIRS, another Canada Customs program, allows regular shippers to arrange pre-clearance for their goods. Similar programs have been put in place by the American government. For example, the U.S. Line Release System uses bar coding and EDI to speed up release of shipments. A program called ACH allows duty payments to be transferred directly to a U.S. Customs account. These types of innovations are making it even easier for Canadian companies to export to the U.S.

"Pratt & Whitney has a world-wide distribution network. Customs operations have been streamlined to the point that the Canada-U.S. border plays no role in our distribution system..."

Brian McGill
*Director of Transportation
Pratt & Whitney Canada Inc.*