

TEMPORARY ENTRY FOR BUSINESS PERSONS - CHAPTER 15

As required by Article 1503 of the FTA, consultations have been held with the U.S. to develop measures to further facilitate temporary entry of business persons on a reciprocal basis, and to develop amendments and additions to Annex 1502.1.

The Commission has approved the following amendments proposed by the consultative mechanism. First, amend Schedule 1 of the Annex to alter the wording of the provision for Sales to ensure it conforms to language found elsewhere in the Chapter. Second, add a paragraph to the Distribution provision in Schedule 1 to allow facilitated entry of operators of high-capacity motor coaches on regularly scheduled routes (with or without intermediate loading or delivery of passengers within the United States/Canada) that were in operation at the time of entry into force of the Agreement. Third, amend Schedule 2 of the Annex to incorporate the minimum standards for qualification in each of the professional groups listed in the Schedule (this is necessary to enable professionals to understand the criteria and ensure reciprocal treatment by port of entry officials in both countries). Fourth, add more professions to the current list contained in Schedule 2 where inclusion has been sought by that professional group (e.g. geologists) or where the internal logic of the current list dictates inclusion (e.g. chemists were not on the original list yet scientific technicians working in support of chemists were included). Fifth, delete journalists from the current list because of widespread representations from journalists objecting to inclusion.

Both countries will now submit the proposed amendments to the necessary domestic review processes. In the U.S., the list will be published in the Federal Register to allow sixty days for comments from interested parties. In Canada, the list will be published in the Canada Gazette to allow the same time for provinces and all interested groups to comment. The final text will be determined in the light of comments received.

A copy of the proposed amendments is attached. Appendix A refers to changes to Schedule 1 to Annex 1502.1 and Appendix B refers to changes to Schedule 2.