

Commercial Samples

Canadian exporters wishing to send unaccompanied product samples to Cuba should do so through Galax Inc., which will transmit them to the proper addressee in Havana. However, this system occasionally breaks down, resulting in delayed delivery or lost samples. To minimize this inconvenience, Canadian exporters should notify the Embassy's Commercial Division when making such shipments, and provide information on the nature of the samples. Canadian exporters can also send samples directly to the Embassy's Commercial Division. Small, lightweight, non-perishable samples may be sent to P.O. Box 500 (HAVAN), Ottawa address, from which they will be forwarded to the Embassy. Larger, heavy or perishable samples should be sent airfreight to Cuba, addressed to the Commercial Counsellor, Canadian Embassy, Calle 30 No. 518 esq. a 7a. Avenue, Miramar, Havana; Telephone: 2-6422. When such items are sent from Canada the Commercial Division should be telexed full details of contents and weight of sample, the flight number and the airwaybill number concerned. When samples are received by the Commercial Division they will be forwarded to the designated empresa and confirmation of this action will be telexed to you. Any local handling charges will be billed to the exporter by the Embassy.

Postal Packages

Unless addressed specifically to an empresa, all postal packages are subject to close scrutiny by Cuban Customs. Fresh fruit and vegetables will be seized unless accompanied by a certificate issued by the Plant Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa. Small quantities of sample meat and dairy products consigned to an empresa will not be seized, provided it is clearly stated on the packaging material containing the actual product that the goods are of Canadian origin. As regulations may change from time-to-time, it is advisable to request advice from Galax Inc. or the Cuban Trade Commission prior to making a sample shipment. Commercial parcels must be clearly marked "Commercial Parcel" on the wrapper and/or Customs declaration.

Banking

All Cuban banking, both domestic and international, is the responsibility of the *Banco Nacional de Cuba*, which has correspondent relationships with all major Canadian chartered banks. In its role as the central bank of Cuba, BNC