

"(ii) Examination of Personal baggage

- The personal baggage of diplomatic agents is exempt from inspection unless there are serious grounds for presuming that it contains prohibited goods (such as drugs or weapons). Such inspection shall be conducted only in the presence of the diplomatic agent or of his authorized representative. The members of the families of diplomatic agents forming part of their households are also entitled to this exemption. However, the exemption does not apply to members of the administrative and technical staff and their families.
- The personal baggage of consular officers and members of their families forming part of their households is exempt from inspection unless there are serious grounds for presuming that it contains prohibited goods. This exemption does not apply to consular employees and their families."

2. Exemption From Taxes on Domestic Goods

Although the tax exemptions provided for foreign representatives in the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic and Consular Relations refer only to direct taxation, the Canadian Government has taken steps to ensure that foreign representatives are also exempted from federal sales and excise taxes (indirect) levied in Canada on the following products: Automobiles, cigars, cigarettes, tobacco, wines, spirits and beer. See also Part III (e) for purchases of alcohol products from La Société des Alcools du Québec and the Liquor Control Board of Ontario (LCBO).

Procedure

Except in the case of the purchase of automobiles, orders should be sent to licensed manufacturers of the aforementioned products, accompanied by an application in triplicate. A sample form is set out in Annex I.

Signing of purchase orders

(i) Applications by heads of posts shall be signed personally by them. The head of mission may designate a member of his diplomatic staff to sign such customs and excise applications on his behalf on the understanding that the head of mission maintains the ultimate responsibility in the matter. If a head of mission wishes to use this procedure, it is important that he communicates, in writing, to the Deputy Minister of Customs and Excise, Revenue Canada, the name and rank of the designated officer and a specimen of his signature. A new authorization of the head of mission must be forwarded to the Deputy Minister whenever the designated signing officer is changed;