

COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Does the agreement mean that Mexican and American truckers can compete with Canadians on routes within Canada?

No. The NAFTA allows truckers only to transport international cargo from one country to another, not to pick up and deliver cargo to points within the country. Domestic carriers have the exclusive right to haul cargo within their own country.

Will changing the rules on international cargo cause difficulty for the Canadian trucking industry?

No, because Canada currently maintains an open regime vis-à-vis both Mexico and the U.S. Canada therefore will not have to make any regulatory changes, unlike Mexico and the U.S., both of which will have to change their regimes. Industry representatives were consulted throughout the negotiations and fully support the land transportation provisions of the NAFTA. Canadian land carriers can benefit from the right to take on cargo in the U.S. for onward transport to Mexico. This will increase the industry's efficiency and can enhance the competitiveness of Canadian goods.

What does the NAFTA say about air transportation?

NAFTA deals only with specialized air services, such as aerial mapping and surveying. Transborder specialty services will be opened gradually to allow greater market access in Mexico and the U.S. for Canadian companies. The NAFTA does not include passenger and cargo services. Canada is holding separate "Open Skies" negotiations with the U.S. on transborder air services. These negotiations are not part of the NAFTA.

Did the U.S. agree to open the American maritime shipping transportation sector, now protected from competition under the Jones Act?

No. Canada aggressively pursued an opening of the maritime shipping sector. The U.S. did not agree to open this sector. However, in spite of the U.S. position, Canada did strike an agreement with Mexico for international shipping which excludes the U.S. We believe that Canada has a competitive shipping industry which will benefit from increased trade among the three countries and, in particular, between Canadian and Mexican ports.