

to 2:30 or 3:00 p.m. Most Portuguese businesses work relatively late (6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.). Working lunches are common, but working dinners are rare as evenings are usually devoted to the family. For the same reason, meetings on weekends or holidays should not be expected except in unusual circumstances.

In virtually all cases Portuguese business representatives are punctual for their meetings; therefore, you should be too. If you are running late, call ahead to inform your next appointment. Getting around Lisbon is convenient and inexpensive by taxi.

Travel to Portugal should be avoided during the summer vacation (July to mid-September), around Christmas and between April 25 and May 1. It should also be noted that if a public holiday falls in mid-week, many Portuguese "fazem a ponte," meaning they make the holiday into a long weekend.

The Commercial Division of the Canadian Embassy is pleased to assist as appropriate with arranging a schedule of meetings, although a minimum of two weeks lead time is requested.

National Regulations

Labelling and Marking. There are no special requirements for the labelling and marking of general merchandise. Imports need not be marked with the identification of the country of origin, unless they bear the mark of a Portuguese company. However, there is special legislation on labelling of prepacked foodstuffs, pharmaceutical specialties, yarns, textiles, tobacco and wines. Jewellery and other articles of gold, silver or platinum must be assayed and hallmarked by the Portuguese Government Assay Office, for which a small fee will be charged.

It is always expedient to mark packages, cases, bags, etc., in the simplest manner possible, rather than writing out the full name. Care should be taken to see that the marks on the packages are exactly the same as those mentioned in the bill of lading, the certificates of origin, invoices and all shipping documents. According to sound shipping practice, these packages should bear the consignee's mark, including port mark and should be numbered, unless the shipment is such that the packages can be readily identified without numbers.