

Trademarks and Patents

Cuba subscribes to the International Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, and grants patents on inventions and patents of importation. The former may be valid up to 17 years, the latter up to 10 years. Trademarks may be issued for 15-year renewable periods.

Alternative Types of Transactions

The Cuban authorities have expressed interest in developing new methods of conducting business with foreign suppliers, including several varieties of countertrade and joint ventures. Note that capital projects requiring foreign participation are controlled by Cuba's State Committee for Economic Collaboration (CECE). For further information, we suggest you may wish to contact CECE; Galax Inc.; the Department of External Affairs, Caribbean and Central America Trade Development Division, Ottawa; or the Commercial Division, Canadian Embassy, Havana.

Canadian Export Controls

Canada maintains normal trade relations with Cuba which is also a member of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). Goods not covered by Schedule "A" of the Export Control List of the Canadian Export and Import Permit Act do not require an export permit prior to shipment to Cuba. Canadian exporters should be aware of item 9001 of the above-mentioned Schedule "A": "All goods originating in the United States, whether in bond or cleared by Canadian Customs, *except* any such goods that have been further processed or manufactured outside of the United States, by combining them with other goods or otherwise, so as to result in substantial change in value, form and use of the goods or in the production of new goods, *unless* the goods to be exported are listed in another Group in this List." Products in this category require an export permit before they are exported from Canada to any other country, including Cuba. Exporters who are not sure whether the products they intend to ship are listed separately in Schedule "A" or could be classified under item 9001 of the Schedule should contact: The Department of External Affairs, Office of Special Trade Relations, Export Controls Section, Ottawa, K1A 0G2; Telephone (613) 996-2387.