

INADMISSIBILITY & TRAVEL TO CANADA

Regardless of the duration or purpose of travel, a person who is inadmissible to Canada will require a Temporary Resident Permit (TRP) to travel to Canada, in addition to getting a visa or work permit if required.

When is a person inadmissible?

If they have been convicted or have pending charges for an offense that would be considered a violation of the laws of Canada (Criminal Code, Controlled Drugs and Substance Act).

Convictions that trigger inadmissibility:

DUIs (including “wet reckless”), reckless driving, possession of drugs (including marijuana over 1 oz.), theft crimes, assault crimes, and disturbing the peace will trigger inadmissibility. It does not matter if the conviction was a felony or misdemeanor.

Convictions that should not trigger inadmissibility:

Driving without insurance or a license, speeding, and minor traffic violations should not trigger inadmissibility.

Waiver (Temporary Resident Permit / TRP) Required

An inadmissible person must apply for a waiver/TRP to enter Canada for any purpose or duration. Applying in advance by filing with the Consulate is preferred. Processing can take 4-6 months for personal travel. CSBA officers have authority to issue TRP at the port of entry (border or airport), but this is risky and delays entry. People can get turned around at the border.

Expedited Processing

This is available for travel that has “commercial purpose,” for example a critical member of a band or theater company or an executive participating in meetings. Processing can be as fast as 2 weeks with good documentation, though applying at least 3 weeks before travel is advised.

Warning for People Applying for an eTA to Travel to Canada by Air

This application will ask if a person has ever been arrested. If they answer “yes,” the application will go to secondary processing, even if they were not convicted and are not inadmissible. Secondary processing can take weeks to resolve and is difficult to expedite. It is best for travelers to apply for eTAs as early as possible in case issues arise for processing.

We help entertainment professionals get into Canada for work and play!

GENERAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- US Citizens and Permanent Residents (Green Card) do not need to do anything before they travel to Canada.
- People traveling with passports from UK, Europe, Australia, etc. need to get an eTA (electronic transit authorization) before they fly into Canada. An eTA is not needed for driving into Canada. People can apply for an eTA online prior to their trip. Processing is usually 24-72 hours.
- People traveling with passports from Mexico and most countries in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Central America, and South America will require a Visitor Visa (TRV) to be able to travel into Canada as a visitor. People must apply online prior to travel. Visas require fingerprinting and passport stamping. Processing will take 4-12 weeks.

If you have any questions or concerns about traveling to Canada, contact Mundial Law for a consultation.

About Mundial Law

Mundial Law is a boutique law firm that works with entertainment professionals from around the world to solve their Canadian immigration challenges, including obtaining criminal inadmissibility waivers (temporary resident permits) and rehabilitation, work permits for film and television, entry visas for people from visa-required countries, and electronic transit authorizations (eTAs).

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