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# WHEELS

## Know the laws before bringing a vehicle into Canada

NC — Every year, thousands of Canadians import vehicles from the United States.

To avoid disappointment and wasted money, make sure the vehicle you want is admissible into Canada. Here's what to do before you purchase a vehicle:

- Call the Registrar of Imported Vehicles at 1-800-511-7755 (toll-free from Canada and the US) to determine if the vehicle you have in mind is admissible into Canada, and what, if any, modifications might be required to meet Canadian safety standards.

- Contact the original equipment manufacturer (OEM) of the vehicle to determine costs and availability of parts that may be necessary to make the required modifications. If modifications are needed, they can be expensive and a safety test may be required.

- Contact your OEM or one of their dealers in the US to obtain recall documentation stating there are no outstanding recalls on your vehicle.

This documentation is required to pass Canadian inspection. Outstanding recall work has to be completed before the vehicle can be imported into Canada.

- Contact your insurance agent before driving the imported vehicle into Canada to ensure proper insurance coverage.

- At the border, be prepared to pay applicable duties and taxes and a registration fee that covers, among other things, RIV inspection costs. Within 10 days of payment, you will receive an Inspection Form, a list of RIV Inspection Centres, and more

information on the importation process.

- Make any required modifications to your vehicle. Bear in mind that you have only 45 days from the date of entry into Canada to complete these modifications and obtain subsequent inspections.

- Make an appointment with an RIV Inspection Centre. If you opt to have an Inspection Centre perform vehicle modification and recall work, make sure first that they can do the work your vehicle requires. Or have the modifications done elsewhere.

- Contact your provincial licensing authority for information on additional inspection, registration and licensing requirements. Many provinces make it possible to have provincial and federal inspections completed at the same time.

- Take import and recall documentation, as well as any parts receipts or work orders, to your vehicle inspection centre, as proof that modifications were done.

- If the vehicle passes inspection, the RIV head office can typically confirm eligibility and fax an import authorization number back within half an hour.

- The RIV will later mail you a compliance label, which must be affixed to your vehicle.

- Bring the stamped copy of the vehicle import form to a provincial licensing office to obtain registration in your province of residence. Provincial authorities will not license a vehicle without the completed and stamped documentation.

For further details call the RIV at 1-800-511-7755 or visit their web site at [www.riv.com](http://www.riv.com).

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## New software helps Ford respond to customers' needs quicker

Ford of Canada has chosen a Nova Scotia company to provide its dealerships with advanced new software systems that them respond to customer needs more quickly and better manage their businesses.

Ford of Canada and TIM Dealer Services Inc. of Nova Scotia have signed a strategic agreement to offer a leading-edge, made-in-Canada vehicle inventory, administration, accounting, finance and insurance software system in select Ford of Canada dealerships.

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"Our goal is to build lifetime relationships with our customers," said Peter Stoddart, Fordstar information technology manager.

Fordstar provides Ford of Canada's information, technology and distance learning interface with its dealership network.

Designed to complement a dealership's existing Fordstar parts and service software, the PC-based TIM system operates in a Windows NT environment, is Y2K compliant and will provide the key operating areas of a dealership with on-line, real-time

information.

As well, TIM Dealer Services will offer management software to Ford of Canada's new Fast Lane light repair and maintenance centres.

The installation of TIM software began in the summer and will be completed by the end of 2000. Several dealerships in Ontario and Quebec will serve as test sites for the TIM software.