

FLYING TO CANADA FOR THE U.S. PILOT

GET READY A MONTH PRIOR TO DEPARTURE

- Confirm Passport is current and won't expire in the next ~12 months, renew otherwise. *Children traveling with only one parent must have a notarized statement of approval from the absent parent stating the dates of the trip.*
- Confirm a current Custom's and Border Patrol (CBP) Decal is affixed to aircraft (order here if not: <https://dtops.cbp.dhs.gov> or request the aircraft owner/operator to do so) \$27
- Confirm FCC Radio Station Cert for the aircraft is up to date (FCC Form 605 Main Form, Schedule C and FCC Form 159 - <http://www.fcc.gov/formpage.html>) \$65
- Obtain an FCC Restricted Radiotelephone Operator's Permit for the pilot (<http://wireless.fcc.gov/commoperators/rp.html>) \$65 - this may not actually be required in Canada as it appears no one actually checks for it ever, but might be good to be on the safe side.
- Get your eAPIS account set up (<https://eapis.cbp.dhs.gov>). *Have your Customs Decal number and passport ready, you will need it to set up account.*
- Check that your aircraft liability insurance is valid in Canada. Bring proof as it is required in Canada. *Print out cover page of your insurance endorsement showing Canada coverage.*
- Purchase a copy of the Canadian Flight Supplement (similar to an AFD, but contains things not found on charts). Purchase NAV CANADA charts as necessary (ForeFlight, Garmin Pilot, etc.). Study differences between airspace in Canada and US and how flight plans work.
<http://www.tc.gc.ca/Publications/EN/TP11541/PDF/HR/TP11541E.pdf>
- Obtain notarized letter of authorization from plane owner granting permission for plane to fly into Canada.

ONE WEEK PRIOR TO DEPARTURE

- Verify your first airport in Canada is on the list of Airports of Entry (AoE) <http://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/dor-services/aoecan-eng.html>
- Check weather
- Check hotel availability (*Trip Advisor is great!*)
- Check on rental car availability or taxi
- Call destination FBO to discuss your plans, parking fees, fuel, shuttle and any "watch outs"
- Make sure you have an active Canada cell phone plan

BEFORE DEPARTURE - CHECK ONBOARD AIRCRAFT

- Airworthiness Certificate
- Registration (US DOT)
- Radio Station Cert
- Operating Handbook
- Weight and Balance
- Canada Charts and Supplement
- Proof of Liability Insurance

BEFORE DEPARTURE - CHECK ONBOARD PILOT AND PASSENGERS

- Pilot Certificate
- Medical
- Passports
- Driver's License
- Credit Cards/Money
- Radio Operators Permit

ABOUT ONE DAY BEFORE DEPARTURE TO CANADA

- Check weather
- Check hotel availability
- Plan departure/crossing/arrival time
- Submit EAPIS information
- Call Canadian FBO to tell them you are coming (*many AoEs have no FBOs! It can be strange landing, calling CanPASS, getting a number and leaving the airport without seeing anyone!*)
- Update ForeFlight/Garmin Pilot databases
- Charge IPAD

TWO HOURS BEFORE DEPARTURE TO CANADA

- File ICAO VFR or IFR Flight Plan.
- File eAPIS Notice of Departure Manifest (<https://eapis.cbp.dhs.gov>) - can be filed up to 24 hours in advance. *Make sure you keep a copy (or screen shot) of your approval to depart email confirmation. This will say you are cleared to enter/depart the US.*
- Provide notification to CBSA (Canadian Border Services Agency) at 1-888-CAN-PASS (226-7277) to schedule a custom's appointment. Must arrive within 15 minutes of appointment. Provide time, aircraft, arrival airport, passenger info with name, birthday, citizenship, passport number. You must provide notification no less than two (2) hours but no more than 48 hours prior to your arrival.

ON DEPARTURE

- Open flight plan with FSS (if VFR) otherwise ATC will do it if IFR. Make sure you are squawking a discrete code.

ENROUTE

- Do not cross border without squawk code.
- If on a VFR flight plan make sure you will be handed off to Canadian ATC. This is a normal procedure for IFR.

AT DESTINATION IN CANADA

- Close Flight Plan with Canadian tower (or by calling 866-WX-BRIEF on the ground)
- Taxi to Customs if there is one at the airport otherwise taxi to FBO or tie down area. Shutdown and wait a few minutes for customs agents. If no agents, call 1-888-CAN-PASS for directions BEFORE LEAVING THE AIRCRAFT.
- Get report number, enter report number in logbook

WHILE IN CANADA

- Access weather information and file flight plans by contacting Canadian Flight Service by calling 866-WX-BRIEF (992-7433).
- Canada's internal flight plans are based on ICAO flight plan forms - take a few copies with you for reference (https://flightplanning.navcanada.ca/awws/html/doc/autres/flight_plan.pdf)
- For online Canadian aviation weather visit <http://www.flightplanning.navcanada.ca>

MORE THAN TWO HOURS PRIOR TO DEPARTURE TO US

- File the Canada to US flight plan with Canada FSS at 866-WX-Brief (866-992-7433). File only for the border crossing leg and get border-crossing squawk code on the ground if possible or in the air from ATC.
- File eAPIS Manifest and receive approval to depart email confirmation
- Contact US Customs DIRECTLY at your first US destination and make a customs appointment. Include aircraft type and registration, commander's name, departure point, arrival airport, number of us citizens, number of aliens, estimated time. Update as necessary with FSS. *You must get his initials as proof of your call. Keep the CBP telephone number handy as you may need to radio FSS to have them call the CBP office and move your time while you are in the air and delayed. It is no big deal as long as you call them.*

Some Northeast Customs office numbers

(<http://www.cbp.gov/sites/default/files/documents/20140327%20Airports%20where%20CBP%20Inspection%20Services%20are%20Normally%20Available.doc.pdf>):

- Burlington, VT - KBTV – 802-864-5181
- Manchester, NH - KMHT – 603-628-6264
- Bedford, MA - KBED – 978-921-0782

DEPARTING CANADA HEADING TO UNITED STATES

- If you haven't gotten your border-crossing squawk-code call Canadian ATC IFR Flight Planning at 1-888-987-2633 and request one even if you are flying VFR. You can also get in the air. Do not cross US border without.
- Immediately check that flight plan has been opened by the tower or on 126.7MHz. When you open your flight plan give the off time.

ARRIVAL IN US

- Land at AoE and taxi to US Customs
- Close Flight Plan with US FSS

Wait in airplane with documentation or follow instructions from agent. Recommend having all of your passenger's passports as well as pilot's medical and license ready. Also be prepared with aircraft registration. *Make sure all passengers stay in plane until you talk to the CBP officer, and that everyone has their phones OFF.*

Quebec City – expect an instrument approach procedure going into CYQB even VMC if on an IFR plan. Also be prepared for a SID out or maybe a T route.

Montreal – Expect vectors inbound even VMC if on an IFR plan. Also be prepared for a SID upon departure.

Other Resources:

AOPA flying to Canada Checklist: <http://www.aopa.org/Flight-Planning/Canada>

EAPIS video: <http://flash.aopa.org/asf/eapis/index.cfm?keycode=FX07CRS&offercode=FX07CRS>