



This factsheet has been prepared for general information purposes only and is provided as a guide for builders and buyers of Log and Timber Structures.

October 2005

Importing to the United States

Importing your Log and Timber Products to the United States requires that the customer, distributor, or general contractor ensure that the product you are importing meets the local, regional, and state building codes, standards, and requirements for the product destination. This factsheet deals with the general procedures for having your log or timber structure imported to the United States.

- Once you have chosen your BC Log or Timber Builder and enter into an agreement/contract, it is time to finalize your house plans including engineering, obtaining permits, and beginning your site preparation. Your BC Log or Timber Builder should be able to advise you how to proceed.
- Each jurisdiction in your area may have their own rules, so it is recommended that you begin the permit process as soon as possible as some State Departments may take longer than you expected to process your permit applications.
- If engineering is required, ensure that the engineer is licensed in the state that the log or timber package is destined for. They will know your local requirements for seismic considerations, snow loads, wind factors, and any other local, regional, or state conditions that need to be engineered and built to.
- Many building departments require that the house logs are grade stamped, using an accredited grade stamp system (i.e.TPI). If grading is required, the grade stamps must be accessible for viewing by the building inspector at your building site.
- The contract you enter into with your builder should clearly specify who is responsible for design, drafting and engineering costs, shipping costs, and any taxes that may be applicable in your State or County. For contact and additional information on state tax rules and regulations visit: www.taxsites.com/state.html or www.mtc.gov .
- Shipments from Canada to the United States require the buyer's federal tax ID number. If you do not have one you will need to provide your builder with your IRS number.
- If your builder is hiring the trucks to transport your structure, your builder must make sure that the trucking company and drivers are properly licensed to enter the U.S. If you are hiring the trucks, you must make sure that the trucks have proper licensing and insurance to go into the U.S., and that they are registered in the states that they will be traveling to and through, and that they are registered for the different entry systems into the U.S.
- Remember, any conditions of the sale should be included in your contract. If you and your builder agree to changes in your order, have your contract amended, and make sure you understand the amendments.