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Importation Issues  
# : "Bear Sprays"

Date: February 23, 2000

Issue: Importation of US registered Bear Sprays for Hiker's Own Use in Canada

Regulatory Reference: section 4 of the *Pest Control Products (PCP) Regulations*

**Background:**

Section 4 of PCP Regulations allows importation of control products for the importers of own use if the product is less than 500 grams/litres and has a value of less than \$10. This was established to allow travelers to carry small amounts of insect repellents and fly sprays for personal use while traveling in Canada. Bear repellents are usually less than 500 grams but are over the price limit.

Hikers bringing US registered bear sprays into Canada for their own use have been required to leave the product at the border. As some border crossings are in wilderness areas, US hikers may not have easy access to purchase Canadian bear repellents and thus enter grizzly bear areas, such as national / international parks, without bear repellents. Canada Customs store the US products until the hikers return to the border. In most cases, however, products are abandoned and large amounts are left for disposal by PMRA.

**Question:**

Will PMRA allow importation of bear sprays for travelers to Canada for their own use under the PCP Act even if their value is greater than \$10?

**Interpretations:**

Yes. For safety reasons, and to prevent disposal problems, Compliance and Regional Operations will allow hikers to import bear sprays for their own use.

**Considerations:**

Canada Customs is in favor of this approach.

All imports must continue to be declared to Canada Customs. (PMRA regional offices will inform local customs officials of the new procedure/allowance.)

Only Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) registered bear sprays may be imported into Canada under this interpretation. These products are formulated using the same active ingredient as products registered in Canada.

This exception will not apply to dog repellent sprays.

Attachments: Compliance Briefing

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**Canada**

**Hiker's are allowed to enter Canada (and re-enter the USA) with US EPA registered bear deterrents for their own use/protection against bear attacks. (The product must return to the US and cannot be sold or remain in Canada.)**