



CARM and Obtaining Financial Security



With the CBSA Assessment Revenue Management (CARM) Release 2 proposed to come into force for all importers in May 2024, importers will be responsible for obtaining their own financial security.

What is an importer surety bond?

Importers use surety bonds to guarantee to CBSA that all duties and taxes for goods coming into Canada will be paid. A surety bond is a financial bond that enables importers to access Release Prior to Payment (RPP). RPP allows goods imported into Canada to be released prior to the payment of duties and taxes, enabling importers to defer the final accounting of goods until after release. Currently, importers who do not have their own surety bonds are able to use their customs brokers' bonds for security.

How are surety bonds changing under CARM?

Under CARM, importers will need to provide their own financial security in order to benefit from RPP. This means that importers will no longer be able to rely on their customs brokers to provide surety bonds as of May 2024. Importers should apply for their bond well in advance of Release 2.

What do importers need to do to?

When CARM Release 2 goes live, the only way for importers to communicate with CBSA and to manage payments will be through the CARM Client Portal (also known as the CCP). The first step for importers is to ensure that their business is registered in the CCP.

Once importers have established their profile in the CCP, importers will have three options for providing their own financial security prior to the CARM go live date. These options are:

1. Importers can post a cash bond online through the CARM portal
2. Importers can work with a surety company to secure a customs bond
3. Importers can post a one-time single entry bond (details on this option are still to be provided by CBSA)

Importers who choose to post a cash bond will require a financial guarantee equal to 100% of their highest monthly customs payments, while a customs bond will require only 50% of their highest monthly customs payments to be posted as security.

Importers may choose to not post security to secure release prior to payment (RPP), in which case all applicable duties and taxes must be paid before the goods will be released at the border. Payment can be made through the importer's CCP or at a CBSA office.

Importers should begin the process of applying for their surety bond now. There will be a significant demand placed on surety companies as the deadline for CARM Release 2 approaches. To avoid delays, it is strongly recommended to begin the application process now.

Have questions or need help?

The KPMG Trade and Customs team would be happy to answer any questions you have regarding CARM on a complementary basis.



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