

## CUSMA Compliance Advisory Services Initiative Eligible and Ineligible Costs

The CUSMA Compliance Advisory Services Initiative (CCASI) supports B.C. based small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) impacted by U.S. tariffs by facilitating access to the technical experts and advisory services they need to become CUSMA compliant.

Supported by the Government of Canada through [Pacific Economic Development Canada \(PacifiCan\)](#).

### What You Can Claim

Below is a list of eligible and ineligible costs for the CUSMA Compliance Advisory Services Initiative (CCASI). This guide is intended to help businesses understand what can and cannot be claimed for reimbursement.

#### ELIGIBLE COSTS

You can use this contribution to cover the following costs that help your business meet CUSMA trade compliance requirements:

- Fees for trade consultants, compliance specialists, or export advisors who assess your business' eligibility for CUSMA. These consultants may be based in Canada or the United States.  
**Please note:** For the purposes of this program, *CUSMA compliance refers exclusively to trade relations and regulatory requirements between Canada and the United States*. Activities involving Mexico are considered out of scope and are not eligible for reimbursement.
- Review and confirmation that your product meets the CUSMA Rules of Origin, including HS code classification and country of origin determination.
- Preparation or verification of a CUSMA Certification of Origin.
- Fees for applying for Advance Rulings from U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), including rulings for product classification, origin eligibility, or marking.
- Customs broker fees for reviewing or preparing classification and origin documentation.
- Support with understanding and calculating Regional Value Content (RVC) requirements.
- Legal review of contracts related to cross-border sales or compliance responsibilities.

- Advice and assistance with customs audits, verification requests.
- Review of your supply chain (e.g., sourcing and manufacturing) to ensure your product meets CUSMA origin rules.

## INELIGIBLE COSTS

The following types of costs are **not** covered by the CCASI contribution:

- General business operating expenses (e.g., rent, utilities, internet, office admin).
- Salaries or wages for any internal staff
- Marketing, advertising, or promotional costs (e.g., branding, social media).
- Purchases of physical equipment or furniture (e.g., computers, desks, printers).
- Travel, meals, accommodations, or tradeshow attendance.
- Legal, consulting, or IT services that are unrelated to customs or trade compliance.
- Receipts that are handwritten, not itemized, or lack clear proof of payment.
- Cash payments are not eligible for reimbursement under any circumstances.
- Payments made in currencies other than CAD or USD
- Taxes (GST, PST) and any government fines or penalties.
- Costs must not be artificially split across multiple invoices or service providers. Duplicate invoices or repeat charges for the same service will be ineligible.
- Training courses or certifications unrelated to CUSMA compliance.
- Costs related to purchase, licensing, or subscription of software are ineligible for reimbursement under this program.
- Services provided without a written contract or by unregistered vendors.
- The applicant or its owners cannot invoice their own business for services and claim reimbursement.
- Costs that have already been reimbursed through another federal, provincial, or municipal program.
- Basic export strategy or market research.

## IMPORTANT CONDITIONS

- Only costs incurred on or after April 1, 2025, are eligible for reimbursement.
- All submissions must include an itemized invoice and valid proof of payment (e.g., bank or credit card statement).
- If the service was paid in U.S. dollars you must include the Bank of Canada exchange rate used at the time of payment.
- Invoices must be both issued and paid in either Canadian dollars (CAD) or United States Dollars (USD). Invoices in other currencies will not be accepted.
- Expenses must be paid directly by the approved applicant business. Third-party or personal payments (e.g., by an employee or family member) are not eligible.

- All invoices and supporting documents must be submitted in English or French. This includes invoices, proof of payment, scopes of work, and any other required materials. Documents submitted in other languages require a certified translation. Note: Translation services are not provided or reimbursed by the program.
- A signed contract or service agreement must be in place with each service provider.
- Maximum reimbursement is capped at \$5,000 CAD per registered business.
- All vendors must demonstrate relevant expertise and qualifications appropriate to the services provided. Note: Proof of qualifications may be requested at any time as part of program due diligence.
- Incomplete applications will not be reviewed. Submissions must include all required documentation before the deadline.
- Any expenses related to services, activities, or providers based in Mexico are not eligible.

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