An NRI's Guide to Canadian GST/HST

Are you looking to expand into Canada, (an English-speaking market the size of California), without having a physical presence while staying compliant? If so, you can become a Non-Resident Importer (NRI) into Canada

BECOMING AN NRI CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED IN TWO SIMPLE STEPS:



Register for a Canadian Business Number (BN), which is used to identify your business.



With your BN in hand you can register for a Goods & Services Tax/Harmonized Tax (GST/HST) program account.

First time NRIs can become confused by Canada's sales taxation system, as tax rates vary among all of Canada's 13 provinces and territories. This guide will help clear the confusion surrounding Canadian GST/HST.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Once I obtain a business number, am I automatically registered for a GST/HST program account?

A: No, you are not automatically registered. You will have to do this separately.

Q: Do I need a GST/HST program account?

A: This will vary on many circumstances, such as how much money you are projected to earn in a year. It is recommended that you obtain a GST/HST account regardless.



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HERE'S THE EXAMPLE OF HOW GST/HST IS COLLECTED



NRI Imports a \$10,000 shipment







If shipment goes to Ontario*, customer is invoiced \$1300 based on provincial taxation rate (13% HST)

Farrow pays \$500 (5% GST) on importer's (NRI's) behalf at time of importation

If shipment goes to Alberta*, customer is invoiced \$500 based on provincial taxation rate (5% GST)





Any money owing is then paid to the CRA. In this example, \$800 would be paid (the \$500 paid at importation represents the remaining 8% owed of 13% total tax.)



Any money owing is then paid to the CRA. In this example, \$0 is paid (the \$500 paid at importation represents 5% tax)

* tax rates vary among each of Canada's provinces

To learn more about GST/HST in Canada and to view a full list of the taxation rates in each of Canada's provinces and territories, visit farrow.com/gst

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Is this process standard for every business?

A: No, every business has unique circumstances that may alter this process.

Q: What is the difference in taxation in Canada's Provinces and Territories?

A: Similiar to the differences between Michigan and Ohio for example, there are differences among Canada's provinces when it comes to sales taxation.

