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U.S. Begins Import Bans on Canadian Goods Early Tuesday

The restrictions target alcohol, whey products and some motorcycles after Trump responded to Canada’s retaliatory tariffs.

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The United States is set to begin new import bans on a range of Canadian goods at 12:01 a.m. Tuesday, escalating a trade fight that has already led both countries to impose penalties on each other’s products. The measures cover alcoholic beverages, selected dairy items and certain motorcycles entering the U.S. from Canada.

President Donald Trump signed the executive orders on Sept. 8. The White House said the move was a response to Canadian counter-tariffs that took effect earlier the same day. Ottawa had imposed those tariffs after the U.S. placed 50% tariffs on numerous Canadian goods. Trump also said Canada had continued to discriminate against U.S. autos, dairy and vehicles, and argued the new restrictions were in the interests of the United States and the public.

A White House fact sheet says the alcohol ban will apply to dozens of products imported from Canada, including rye, whisky, wine, beer, vermouth, tequila, vodka and rum. The list includes both packaged and unpackaged forms of some products. The measure reaches into a trade flow that is heavily tied to the U.S. market. According to Canada's Trade Commissioner Service, Canada exported $1.36 billion in alcoholic beverages in 2023, and 90% of that went to the United States. About two-thirds of that total was spirits.

The dependence on the U.S. market is especially clear in wine and beer. Wine Growers of Canada previously told Global News that Canada exported $8.3 million in wine to the United States in 2025, with ice wine accounting for 57% of that amount. Beer Canada said $28 million in beer products were exported last year, equal to about 10% of all beer produced in the country, and it identified the U.S. as the industry's top export partner.

That makes the ban important well beyond the immediate political dispute. For wine, beer and spirits producers, a sudden cutoff at the border could force changes in export routes, customs planning, contracts and inventory management for the U.S. market. Companies that rely on American buyers may have to redirect shipments or delay supply decisions if the restrictions remain in place.

Dairy is also a sensitive part of the dispute. Trade in dairy products has been a recurring point of conflict in U.S.-Canada negotiations, and American officials have repeatedly raised the issue in recent talks. The White House list indicates that whey is a main target of the new ban, including whey protein and other whey products. Whey is a byproduct of cheese production. The list also includes cane molasses and invert molasses among products that will no longer be allowed into the U.S. from Canada.

The scale of the dairy impact is still unclear. Dairy Farmers of Canada said earlier this month that the escalation in trade measures was “deeply concerning,” but it did not confirm how much of the sector’s exports to the United States would be directly hit by the new restrictions. Statistics Canada reported more than $700 million in dairy exports to the U.S. in 2024, though the available data do not show how much of that trade would fall under the ban now taking effect.

The motorcycle measure is narrower, but it expands the dispute into another manufacturing segment. The White House document lists motorcycles, including mopeds, and cycles fitted with a reciprocating internal combustion engine with cylinder capacity above 800cc among the banned imports from Canada.

There was little sign on Sunday that either side would reach an agreement before the deadline. U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer told CNBC that Trump was “comfortable” with where trade talks stood. Greer said the U.S. still conducts significant trade with Canada and is “getting what we need” in products such as oil, gas and potash. He added that Canada “periodically” approaches the United States and says it wants a deal.

Canada has not publicly indicated that a breakthrough is close. Canada-U.S. Trade Minister Dominic LeBlanc told Global News that Canada “maintains ongoing communications with our American counterparts,” but he did not say whether Ottawa had formally asked for a deal before the new restrictions begin.