

Roadmap

# RV SHIPPING



Drop-off and pick-up

In this document we describe the procedure of booking, drop-off and pick-up of our motorhome for the route Antwerp - Halifax

## STEP 1 - THE APPLICATION

- ☐ Get a quote online from a trusted broker: Seabridge (roll on-roll off road transport is cheaper than container)
- ☐ In addition to the estimated cost of the crossing, the quotation will include the additional insurance costs to be paid as well as the costs to be paid locally
- ☐ Complete the booking form and send it along with your proof of insurance "green" card, copy of passport and copy of registration certificate by mail to Seabridge
- ☐ You will receive a (SA) reference number, indicating that you are booked on the ship and not the date. The date may differ from the schedule
- ☐ You will receive lots of information about the drop-off and pick-up procedure
- ☐ You will also receive a quote to insure the motorhome, from the time of drop-off to pick-up



## STEP 2 PREPARATION FOR SHIPPING

- ☐ The motorhome must be completely car-washed
- ☐ The floor should also be completely cleaned
- ☐ The propane cylinders must be completely empty. Seabridge states in its documentation that the propane cylinders must be cleaned and checked, and that the cost for such a propane-free certificate is €500. Inquiries with shipping company ACL reveal, that this only applies to fixed, built-in gas tanks (i.e. no cylinders)
- ☐ The gas/diesel tank may only be  $\frac{1}{4}$  full
- ☐ No loose items in the camper. Everything must be stored in the cabinets/compartments or lockers. Doors must be tightly closed. Nothing should be lying around in the RV.
- ☐ You can choose to wrap the chairs in plastic covers and cardboard the floor if necessary.
- ☐ **The following products are prohibited from shipping:**
  - ☐ Food, drink, flammable liquids
  - ☐ Drugs, soft drugs, hard drugs
  - ☐ Lithium batteries, including those used in E-bikes. Motorhome battery is allowed
  - ☐ No cash money



### STEP 3 - DROP-OFF MOTORHOME IN PORT ANTWERPEN

- ☐ Check **ACL cargo**, click on RORO, fill in the departure port and arrival port. A schedule will appear, click on the departure port to see what the return date is. Check with Seabridge if this is up to date and indicate when you plan to drop-off the RV. Last drop-off is 3 days before sailing
- ☐ Drop-off address: AET Terminal, de Blikken, kaai 1333, Antwerp
- ☐ Just before arrival, we visited ANAC Car-Wash Noorderlaan 91 Antwerp, Belgium. We washed the motorhome again. They don't check for it in Antwerp, they do that in Canada. There they are very alert to bringing dirt residue. In case of rejection, the motorhome must be re-cleaned and inspected, at our own expense (CAD 65).
- ☐ Upon arrival, you park the motorhome and go to the office. You report that you are dropping off a motorhome. You will receive a form, on which you fill in the reference number you received by mail, some personal information, the port of arrival and your signature. You also fill in some data on a touch screen and scan your passport. When that's done, you report back to the counter. You hand over the form and show the RV registration certificate.
- ☐ After processing the information, you will receive a copy of the form and the number of the gate to drop-off the motorhome. Only 1 person may enter the port area with the motorhome. You must wear a safety vest.
- ☐ The port employee weighs the vehicle and gets it measured automatically. A sticker with a bar code is placed on the driver's door. The employee tells you in which parking lot to park the motorhome, then you walk back to the port employee's office and turn in the motorhome key
- ☐ With us, the employee did not record any damage. We did ask about that, but he didn't. We all took pictures and videos ourselves in the parking lot. The diesel tank, the propane tanks, the interior were all not checked. The employee did check the chassis number. The port employee signs off the form and you get a copy as proof of issue
- ☐ If you have a garage, you do not turn in that key, just the key to the front doors/ignition. The camper is locked on the property. The camper insurance taken out for the crossing goes into effect as of now.



## STEP 4 - DEPARTURE SHIP AND PREPARATION PICK-UP

- ☐ Once the RV is loaded and the ship has left port, you will receive an email with invoice from Seabridge
- ☐ Upon receipt of payment, you will receive a data freight receipt. This document is also sent to the forwarder, who will ensure on behalf of Seabridge that the motorhome is handed back to you. Seabridge indicates in its documentation, that you should contact forwarder Mather Logistics. But this forwarder already made contact with us.
- ☐ You will receive a preliminary invitation from them indicating the ship's expected arrival time and the date and time you can come to the Mather Logistics office to pick up the motorhome
- ☐ Mather Logistics asks you to confirm the appointment via e-mail and also sends a bill for "documentation and handling fee" of CAD 150, which you can pay by credit card. You will receive a receipt immediately.
- ☐ After arrival of the ship, customs needs 48 hours (working days) to release the motorhome



## STEP 5 - PICK-UP MOTORHOME AT HALIFAX PORT

- ☐ Bring the following: passport, driver's license, RV title, data freight receipt and a safety vest
- ☐ The first visit is to Bethanie Milner, Freight Forwarder for Mather Logistics. She is temporarily holding office at the Comfort Inn hotel in Halifax. Here you will receive documents for customs and for the port.
- ☐ The second stop is the customs office, address: 263 Susie Lake Crescent Bayers Lake, Halifax, NS. Here you must answer the following questions:
  - Do you have food, alcohol, tobacco, drugs, or weapons in the RV?
  - What is the reason for importation? Be clear that it is for tourism!
  - How long do you plan to stay in Canada?
  - Does the vehicle stay in the same county for more than 30 days? Answer NO! If you answer YES, then the vehicle must be registered in that province. Indicate that you are also going to the United States and therefore a longer stay is not applicable.
  - Don't tell customs that you want to stay longer, leave the vehicle in Canada and fly back yourself and then let your relatives drive the motorhome....**Keep all the documents you receive from customs.** You will need them again when you ship the motorhome back or travel to a different country!
- ☐ With the documents you received from customs, go to the last stop, the pickup location at the port: 6708 Bayne Street, Halifax, NS. The fastest way to get there is by cab.
- ☐ In the office, you will receive a visitor's pass and be driven to another office. There you hand over the papers, pay CAD 99,99 and a staff member walks you to your RV.
- ☐ Check the motorhome inside and out for damage. After you have left the port, you can no longer claim for maritime insurance, the shipping company is not liable. If there is any damage, report it immediately to the port employee. Make sure that, a damage report is made at the port immediately. Also take photographs. The insurance papers received will tell you how to report the damage.
- ☐ If everything is agreed, you start the engine and sign off for agreement. You ride back to the entrance and hand in the safety jacket and harbor pass.

☒ **Your journey can begin!**



## SOME USEFUL TIPS

- ☐ We have a propane system with outside fill-up connection. We never change our lightweight bottles, but fill them up (just like a car running on propane). There are not many filling stations in the Halifax area where you can fill up with propane this way, but atHome Hardware store 1000 Cole Harbour Rd, Dartmouth you can do so
- ☐ Should you have removable cylinders, you can choose to purchase cylinders in Canada/America. You can thus exchange anywhere
- ☐ In Canada and America, everything is 110 volts. To connect your RV to the electrical grid, it is necessary to purchase an inverter from 110 volts to 230 volts. We bought one with a capacity of 3000 VA
- ☐ We bought an extension cord with a thick cable. We can then place the inverter, out of the sun and dry, under the motorhome
- ☐ We have signed up with Harvest Host/Boondockers welcome. For an annual fee of US\$139.20 (including a 20% discount), you can then camp at no cost "free" at farms, vineyards and individuals, among others
- ☐ We bought a Samsung lite tablet for navigation and downloaded the RVlife-pro navigation. Fuel, campsites, reviews and the navigation are included. Software cost per year US 48 (incl. 20% discount)

For RV insurance information, see this [blog](#).

## FINALLY OUR EXPERIENCE

- ☐ The gas free certificate is not necessary (according to ACL)
- ☐ Upon handing in the RV, there is no check for damage, gas cylinders, diesel tank. The only check is that of the chassis number
- ☐ You hand in the keys, the vehicle stays locked during the time in the harbour
- ☐ You do not hand in the keys to your garage
- ☐ On arrival, Customs checks the motorhome and puts a seal on each door and hatch. Customs is not able to check the garage/ hatches
- ☐ At the port, your motorhome is unlocked. The keys to your motorhome are lying loose on the driver's seat. Door is only secured with a sticker seal
- ☐ You can get to the appointment with Mather Logistics earlier, the papers will be handed over, once you get in line
- ☐ Order an Uber to customs and the port!

