Canada Border Services Agency | Agence des services frontaliers du Canada

CARM Client Portal

User Guide

Onboarding to the CARM Client Portal

Canada

2025-09-19

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Purpose of this guide

This guide will explain the process for setting up individual and business accounts in the CARM Client Portal. This includes the detailed steps to be followed for accessing the portal either through a GCKey or Sign-In Partner, registering for multi-factor authentication and setting up user profile.

Important note:

It is important that users log in to the portal on a regular basis. For security purposes, user accounts created in the portal will be deactivated after 180 days of inactivity.

Audience

This guide is for users of the CARM Client Portal. If you are a non-resident business you must obtain your 9 digit business number (BN9) from the Canada Revenue Agency before proceeding with onboarding to the CARM Client Portal.

Preamble

The portal is the site that everyone involved in importing goods into Canada uses to do business with the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA). Every user needs to be connected to a business. Every business needs to be enrolled in at least one CBSA program.

This user guide has instructions for both new users who have never done business with the CBSA before and for existing users who are already in one or more CBSA programs.

Contact

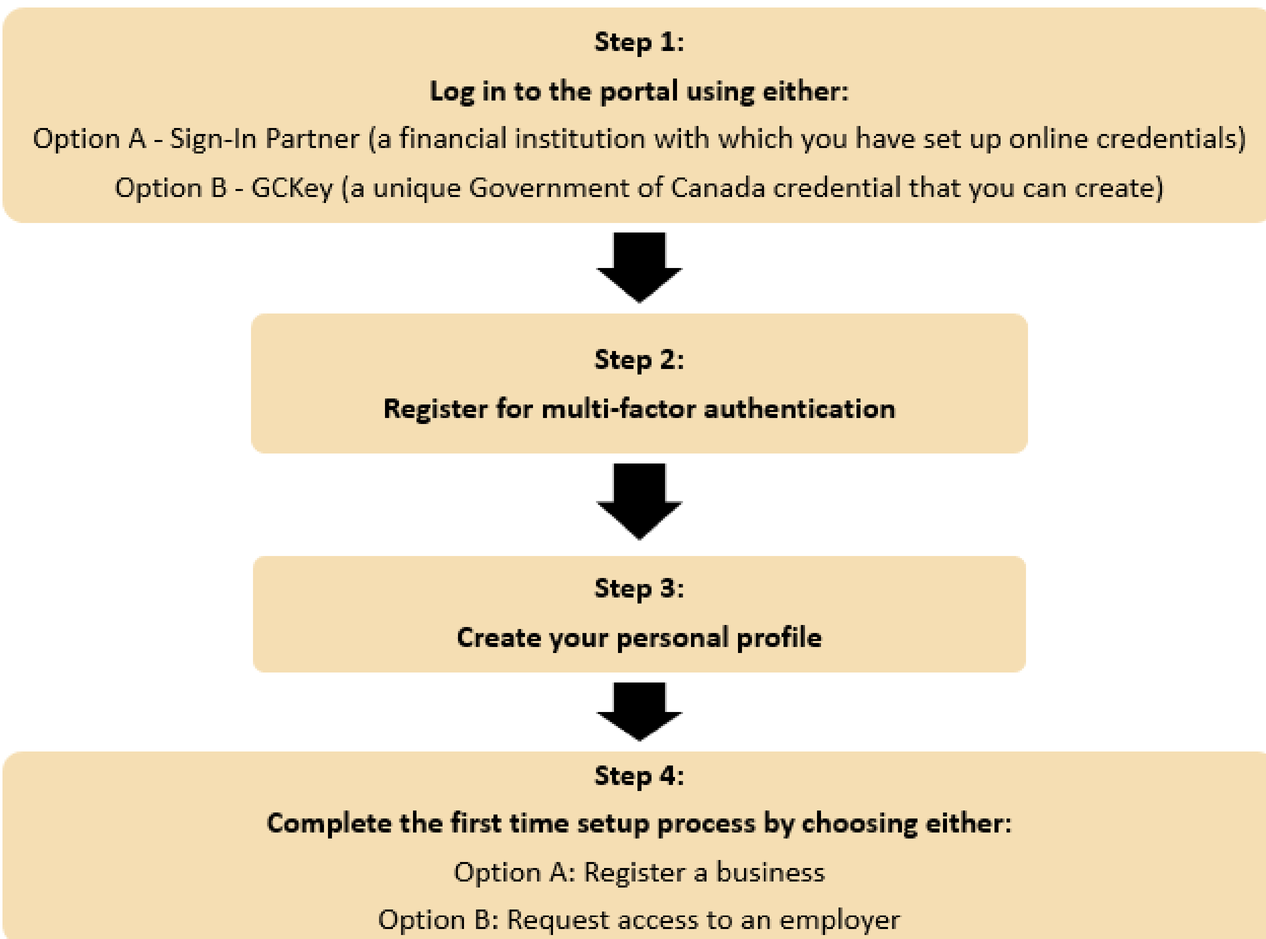
Contact the CARM Client Support Helpdesk if you need additional support.

1. Onboarding to the CARM Client Portal

1.1 Overview

The portal serves as the primary hub for accounting and revenue management with the CBSA.

To onboard to the portal, users will need to complete the following processes:



1.2 Accessing the CARM Client Portal

To access the portal, individuals must first open the CBSA webpage, the link to which can be found below:

Click here to access the CARM Client Portal

Upon launching the portal, you will see the homepage. This page has many resources available to you that do not require logging into your portal account.

Important note:

All trade chain partners (TCP) can begin onboarding to the portal by following the steps in this user guide. If you encounter problems, please contact the CBSA by filling out the Client support contact form or call 1-800-461-9999.

For **non-resident businesses** to obtain a 9 digit business number, you need to contact the Canada Revenue Agency's non-resident registration and security line by calling:

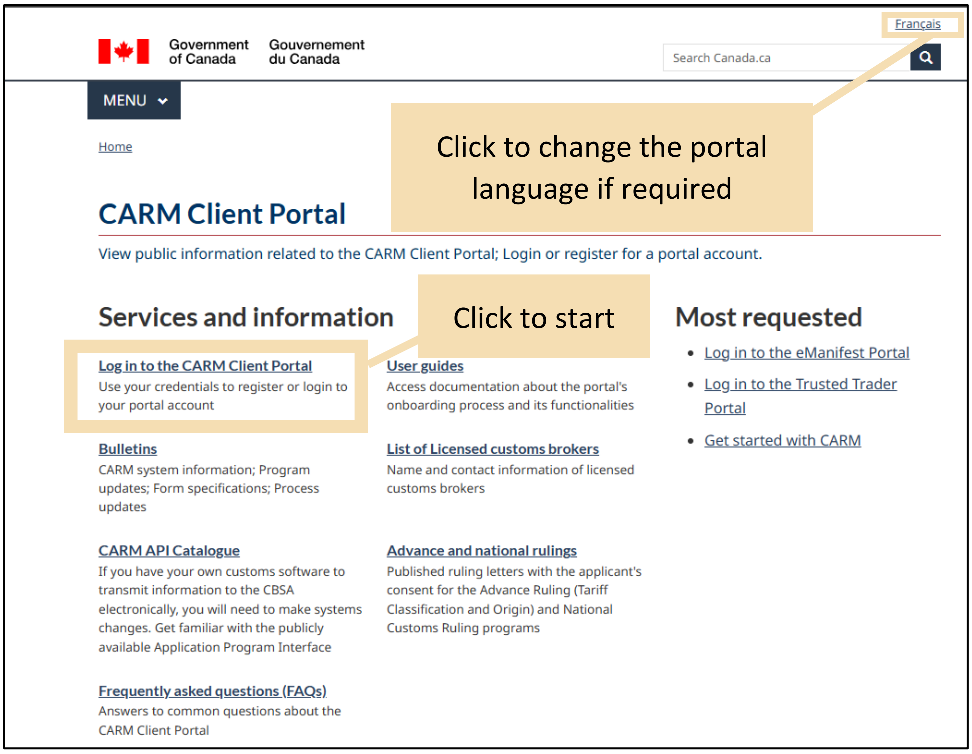
Within Canada: 519-252-4705
Toll free (Canada / United States): 1-866-453-0452
Outside Canada / United States call collect: 1-613-221-3039

Hours of service are Monday to Friday 8 am to 4:30 pm (EST).

Once you have obtained your business number you can refer to the First time set-up – Register my business user guide for guidance before registering your business on the CARM Client Portal and enrolling in a CBSA RM Program Account.

For more information, please visit Register for or modify an import-export program account.

In order to create and/or access your portal account, go to the **Log in to the CARM Client Portal** link under **Services and Information**.



Note that in order to access all available features of the portal, individuals and businesses must first go through the initial setup process. Once you have selected the **Log in to the CARM Client Portal** link, you will be taken to the portal access page where you will be prompted to log in using one of the following options:

- Continue to Sign-In Partner
- Continue to GCKey

Steps for logging in using both methods are detailed on the following pages.

Curious to learn more about the CARM Client Portal Login process? Reference the following walkthrough video:

- **How to Create Login Credentials in the CARM Client Portal**

Government of Canada Gouvernement du Canada

Search Canada.ca

Home > CARM Client Portal

Access the CARM Client Portal

Option 1

Continue to Sign-in Partner

- Use the same sign-in information you use for other online services (for example, online banking).
- If you have a joint bank account, only one of the two people can register for CCP with the shared account. The second person must use a different Sign-In Partner account or create a GCKey account.
- None of your information (for example, financial, banking) will be shared with CBSA. Your Sign-In Partner will not know which government service you are using.
- You will temporarily leave the CBSA site to use your Sign-In Partner.

▶ View list of Sign-In Partners

Option 2

Continue to GCKey

- Sign-in with a GCKey user ID and password if you do not use one of the Sign-In Partners.
- Register for a GCKey user ID and password if you do not have one.
- Your GCKey user ID can be used to access other Government of Canada departments and agencies. GCKey user IDs created on other federal government sites can be used on CBSA.
- If you have forgotten an existing GCKey user ID you will need to create a new one.

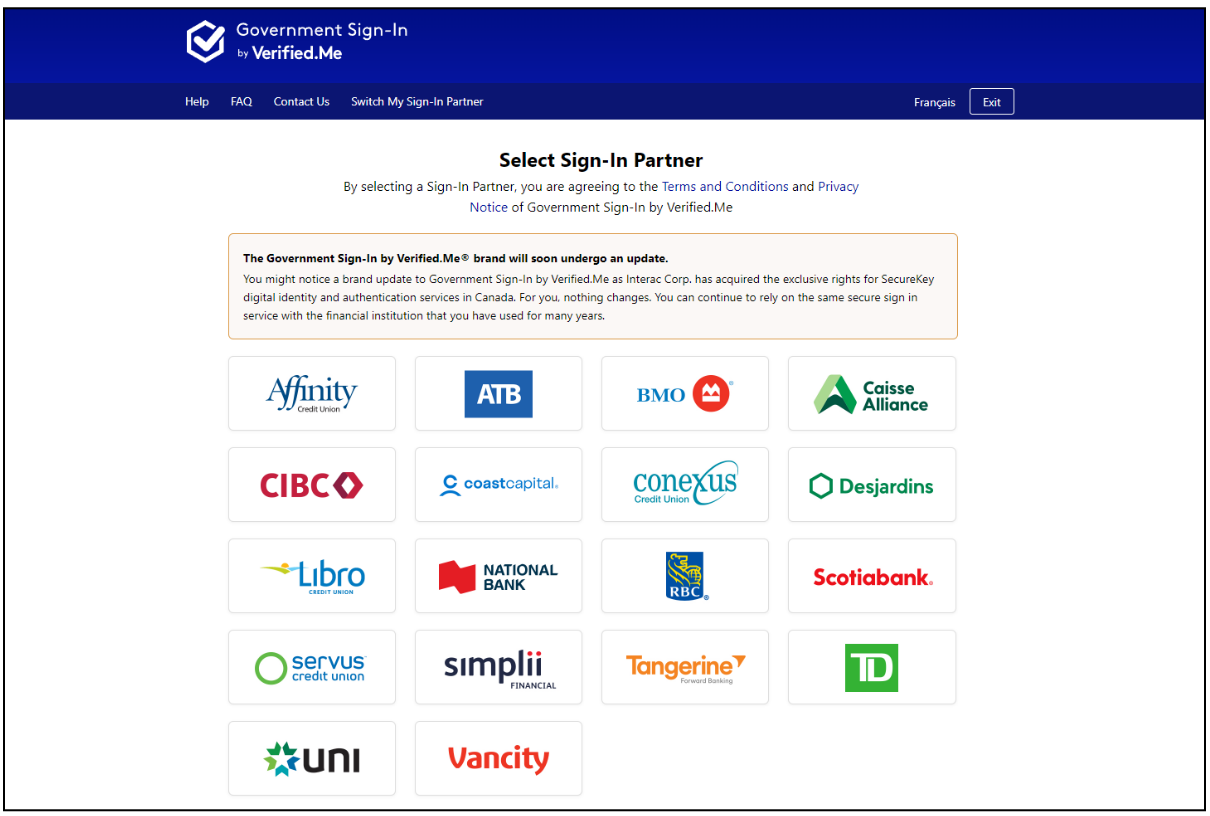
1.3 Logging in with a Sign-In Partner

The **Sign-In Partner** option allows users to log in through the web portal of their financial service provider. Sign-In Partners are financial institutions and banks that have partnered with SecureKey Technologies to enable their customers to use their online credentials to log in to other secure sites.

All individuals and businesses who use this option must have a pre-existing account with the selected partner.

After selecting your Sign-In Partner from the list of available institutions, you will be directed to the Partner's sign-in page to log in using your credentials.

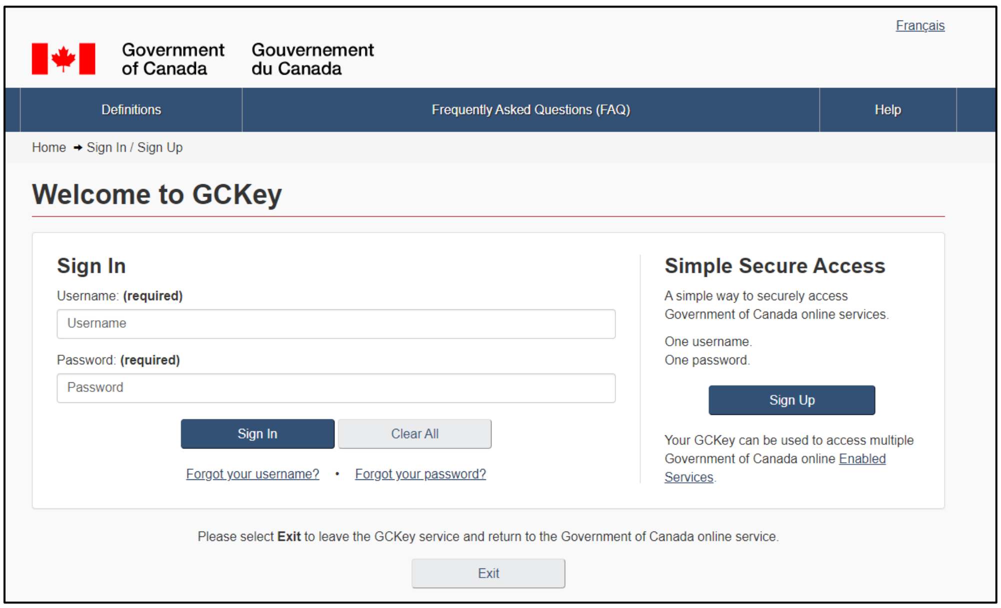
The full list of available Sign-In Partners can be found by clicking the following link: [List of Sign-In Partners]



1.4 Logging in using an existing GCKey

A GCKey is a unique credential that protects your communications with online Government programs and services.

On this page, you will have the option to sign in using an existing GCKey, or you may create a new one.



Important note:

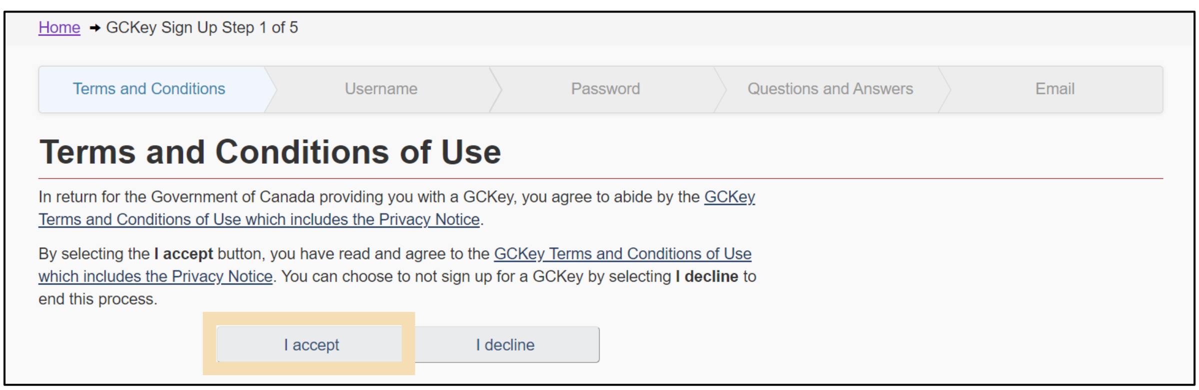
While you may use existing GCKey credentials from certain other Government of Canada portals, note that some exceptions (such as MyCRA) may apply. If this is the case, you will need to create a unique GCKey to access the CARM Client Portal.

1.5 Creating a new GCKey

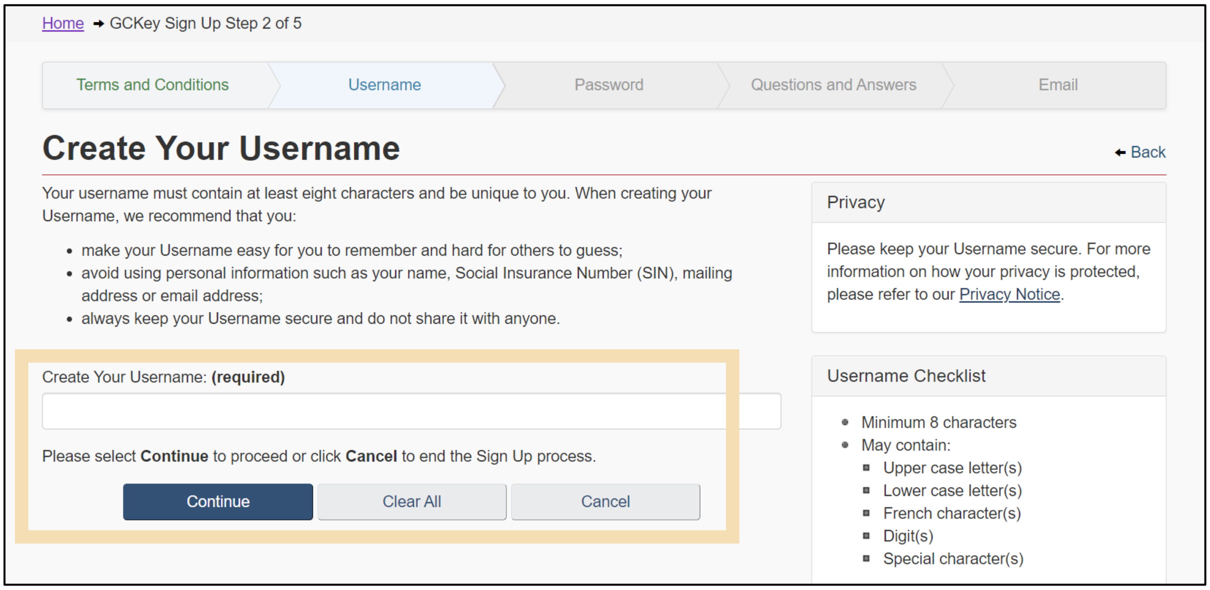
To create a new GCKey, follow the steps below:

1. Click on the **Sign Up** button.

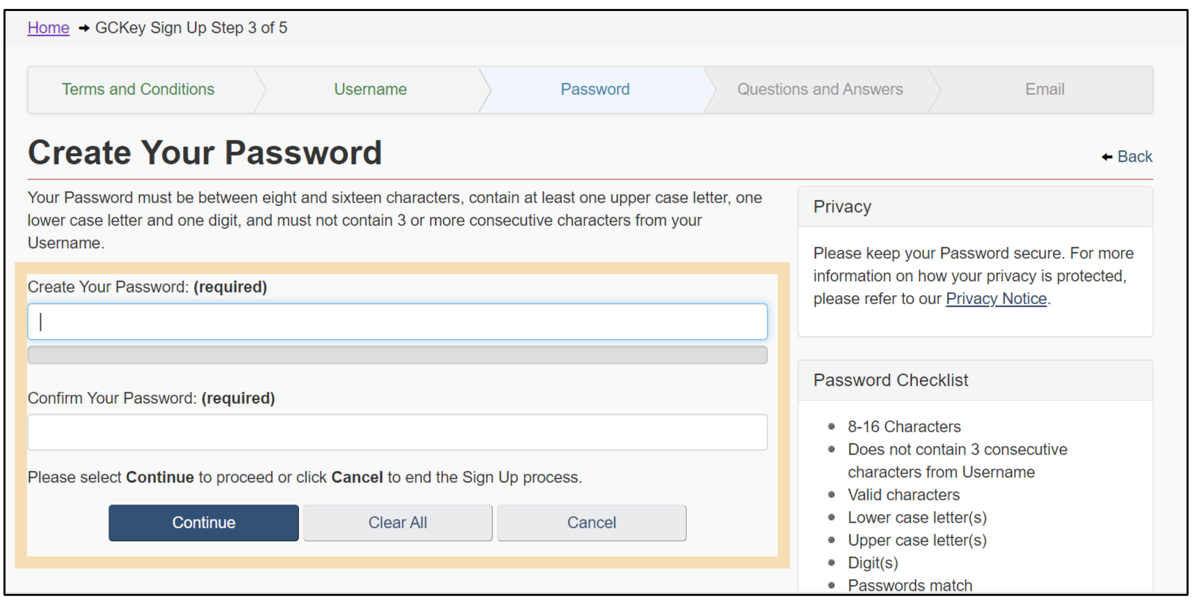
2. If you agree with the **Terms and Conditions of Use** after reading, click the **I accept** button to continue.



3. Create your username as per the specifications provided in the **Username Checklist** and click the **Continue** button.



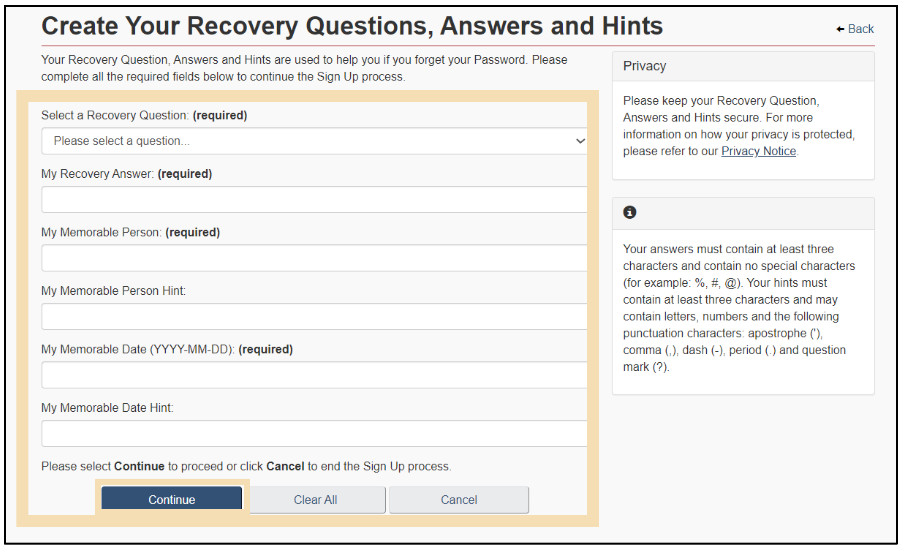
4. Create your password as per the specifications provided in the **Password Checklist** and click the **Continue** button.



Important note:

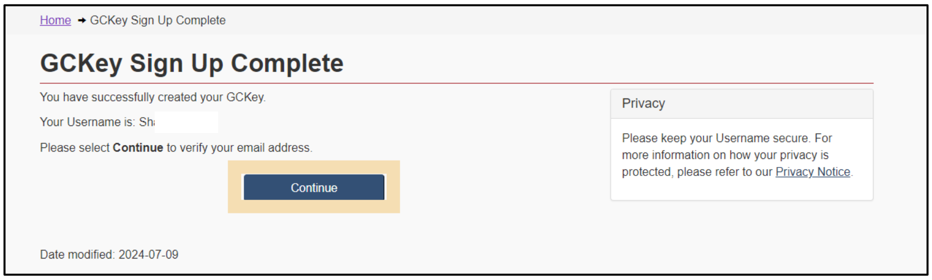
Throughout each step of this process, some indications will be provided at the right side of the screen (for example username and password checklists, recovery questions and answers guidance). It is important you pay attention to these.

5. Create your recovery questions and click the **Continue** button.



Next, there is an **Option Account Recovery** step which will help you with recovering your username and password, via your email. Either fill in your email and click the **Continue** button to receive a one-time code or clik on **Skip**.

6. Click the **Continue** button on the confirmation page to finalize the process.



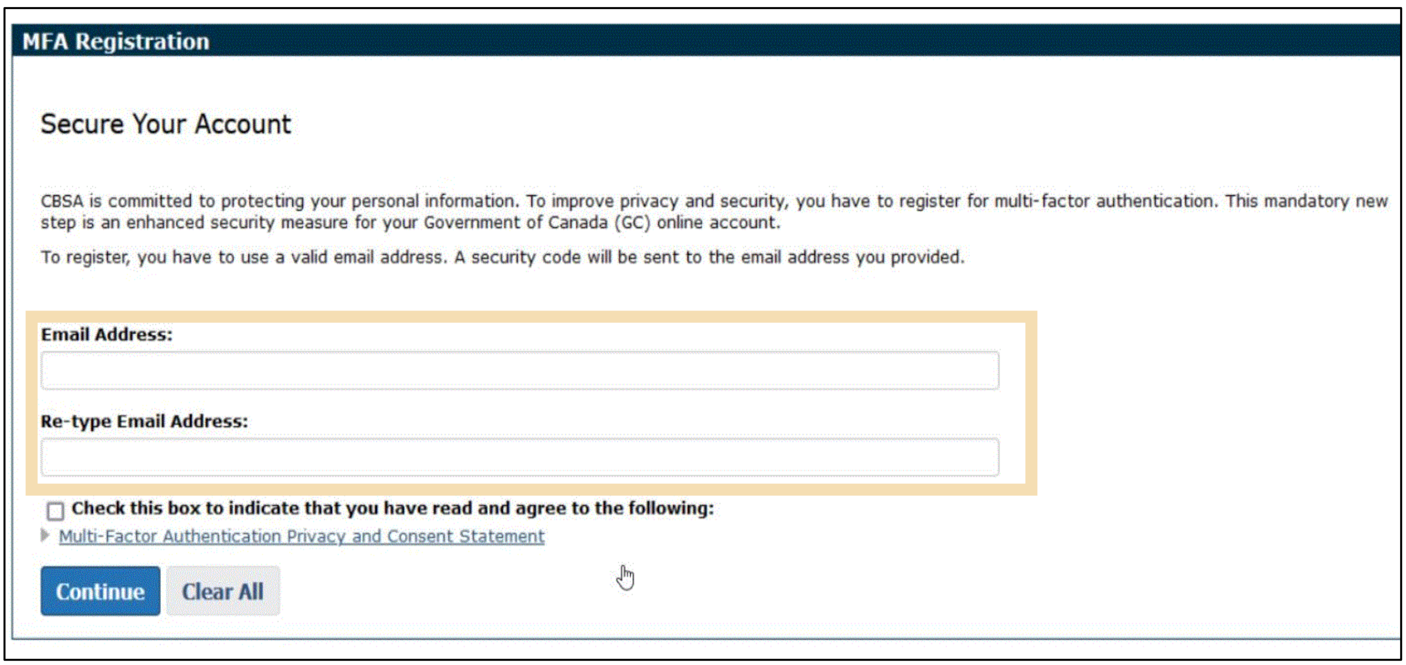
If you did fill in the email recovery option, you will see the **Email Recovery Complete** message and will need to click on **Continue**. Then you will see a **Welcome** page and will be asked to click on **Continue** to return to the Government of Canada online services.

1.6 Registering for Multi-Factor Authentication

Once you have signed in using either a Sign-In Partner or GCKey, you will be taken to the multi-factor authentication registration page.

To use the portal, you will automatically be prompted to register for multi-factor authentication if you have not previously completed the registration process.

1. On the multi-factor authentication registration page, enter your email address in the fields provided:



Important note:

Multi-factor authentication for the portal only uses email at this time. Multi-factor authentication passcodes cannot be sent by text message.

2. Check the box to indicate that you have read and that you agree to the multi-factor authentication privacy and consent statement. It is recommended that you click the link below it to read it first. Then, click **Continue**.

☑ **Check this box to indicate that you have read and agree to the following:**

Multi-Factor Authentication Privacy and Consent Statement

CBSA is committed to protecting your personal information. To improve privacy and security, you have to register for a multi-factor authentication.

This mandatory new step is an enhanced security measure against an unauthorized access to your business account associated with the commercial portal(s).

You have to provide a valid email address, which will be shared with a third party (2Keys), so they can send you an email with a security code for the second factor authentication.

If you:

- have read the above statement completely,
- understand that Canada Border Services Agency will protect your personal information in accordance with the Privacy Act,
- understand that your personal email address will only be used for sending you the security code by 2Keys for in-transit data transmission,
- your email address will not be permanently stored by 2Keys once the security code is sent, rather your email address will be deleted permanently,
- allow Canada Border Services Agency to disclose your personal email information to 2Keys, and
- you would like to proceed with the MFA registration,

please check the box above.

Note: As a consequence of withholding the consent, you will not be able to access the commercial portal(s).

3. Check your email for a one-time passcode. The passcode is a **six-digit number**.

Verify Your Login

Your one-time passcode to log in to your Government of Canada service is:

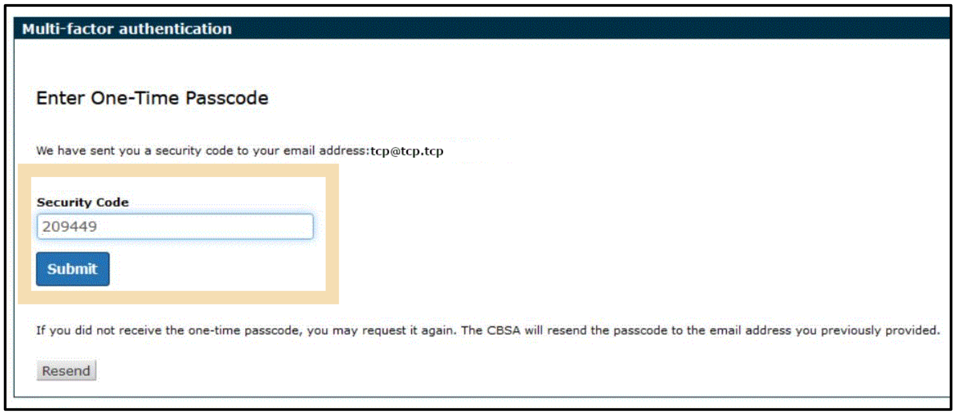
209449

This email was sent to tcp@tcp.tcp

You received this email because you signed up for a Government of Canada login account.

For more information or if you received this email in error please visit: https://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/eservices/multifactor-help-aide-multifacteur-eng.html

4. Enter this passcode in the **Security Code** field. Then, click the **Submit** button.



Important note:

If you receive an email with a passcode and you did not try to log into the portal, it might mean that your GCKey or Sign-In Partner password has been compromised. You should investigate and if necessary, change your password.

Important note:

The multi-factor authentication passcode changes each time you try to log in to the portal, and each time you press the **Resend** button. Always use the most recent multi-factor authentication passcode that was sent to you.

Important note:

Some e-mail domains, especially company domain names, are taking longer to receive the email with the one-time passcode. This delay is causing the passcode to be received outside of the validity period which renders it invalid.

If you are receiving your passcode outside of the range of validity and then an expired passcode reject thereafter, please have your company IT department review this information and have the following email address be recognized as trusted if possible:

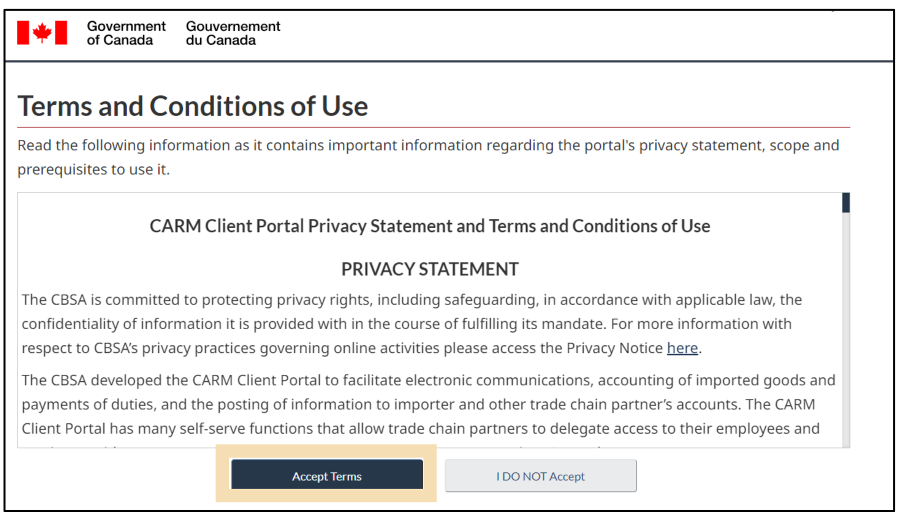
CBSA-ASFC@auth.canada.ca

Otherwise, update the email address that you have registered with to a different email address (for example, an email address not linked to the company).

5. The registration screen will inform you of successful registration for multi-factor authentication.

If you click **Change MFA email**, you will need to repeat this process. If you click **Continue to CARM Client Portal**, you will be taken to the **Terms and conditions of use** page.

6. Click the **Accept Terms** button to continue.



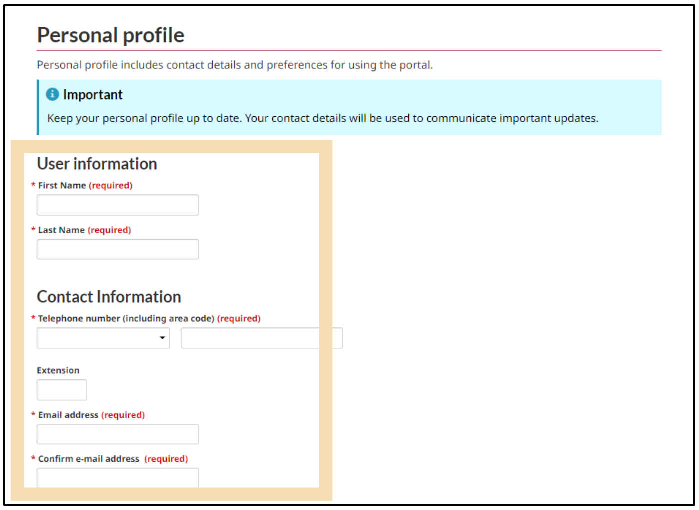
Important note:

If you encounter challenges using the multi-factor authentication, review the [Multi-factor Authentication Help for Secure Online Services] page for more information.

If, after reviewing the information, you are still having issues, contact [CARM Client Support Helpdesk] using the **Client support** link on the CARM webpage.

1.7 Creating your personal profile

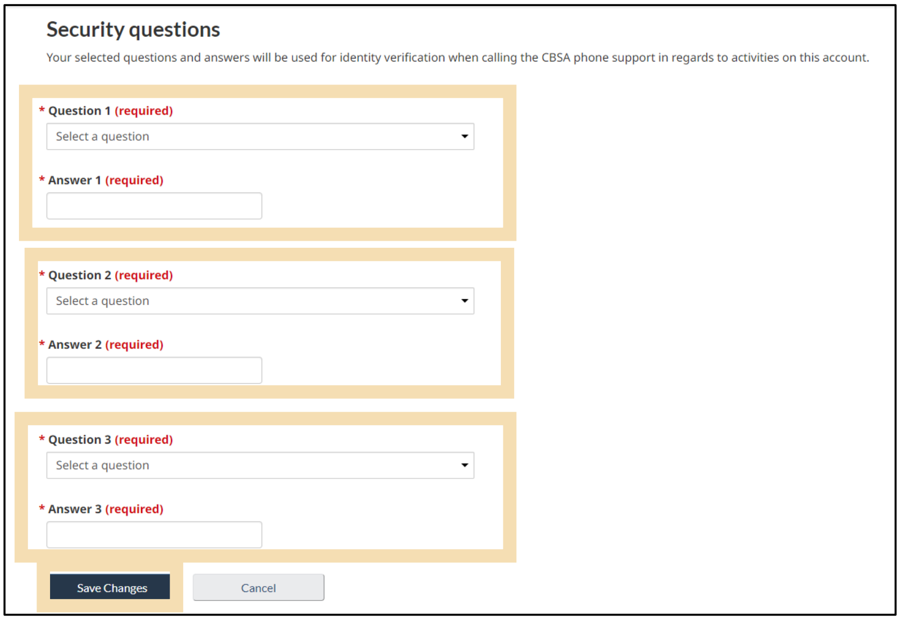
When you first log in to the CARM Client Portal (using either the **Sign-In Partner** or **GCKey** option), you will be prompted to create your personal profile. Your personal profile contains your contact details, as well as settings and preferences.



- To learn more about subscribing to email notifications, see **Section – Setup of notifications**.
- While using this portal, you must fill in each line that has a red asterisk (*).
- Click on every drop down arrow that you see and select the best option for your situation.

Note that you will be able to update this information in your Account Settings at a later time if required.

Once you have added your personal information and have identified your preferences for notifications and preferred language, you will be prompted to create security questions and answers for subsequent identity verification attempts. Click **Save Changes**.



1.8 Register my business

The business must be registered on the CARM Client Portal in order to continue.

Registering a business is intended for authorized users with access to privileged information and will allow the user to set up and complete registration for a business on the portal.

It is important to note that the user who completes the registration of the business on the CARM Client Portal will automatically become the associated Business Account Manager (BAM), or the person with ultimate account authority. A business account can only be registered once, but its Business Account Manager can assign other users a BAM role (or other user roles) through the employee management page.

See the user guide [First time set-up – Register my business scenarios] for explanations of the different situations that can occur for businesses when registering on the CARM Client Portal (CCP) for the first time.

The portal is very specific, depending on the various situations for both resident businesses and non-resident businesses. There are 5 general scenarios that are explained.

- Scenario 1 – Business has no BN9 and no CBSA program account
- Scenario 2 – Business has BN9 but no CBSA program account
- Scenario 3 – Business has BN9 and has an active RM
- Scenario 4 – Business has BN9, no RM, and has another CBSA program account
- Scenario 5 – Business has no BN9, no RM and has another CBSA program account

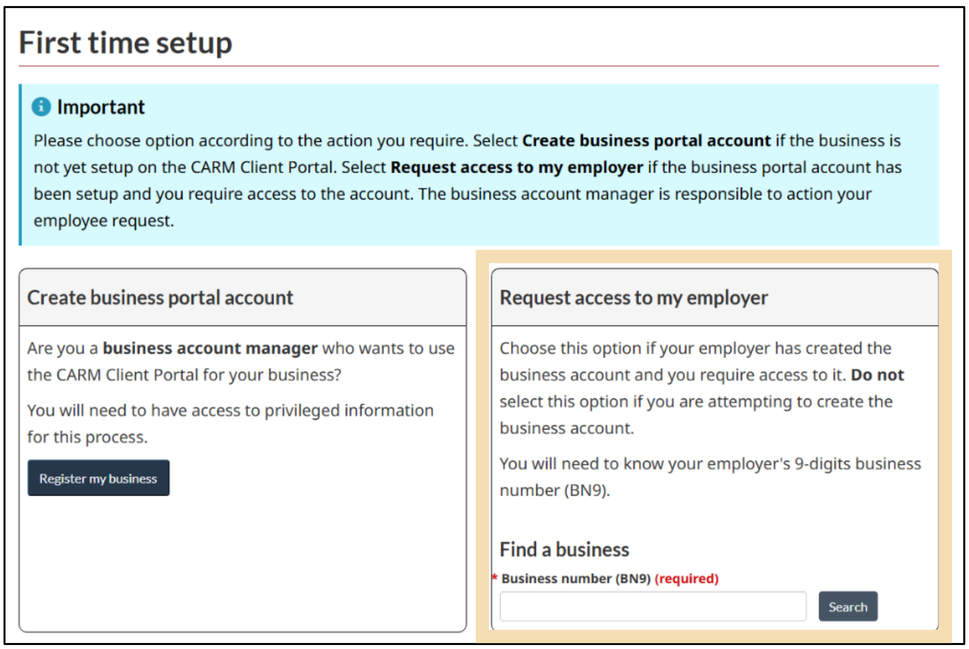
Finding the correct business scenario before registering the business on the CARM Client Portal is very important to avoid complications and delays with this registration process.

If you are an employee and want to find a business already registered on the CARM Client Portal, see section 1.9.

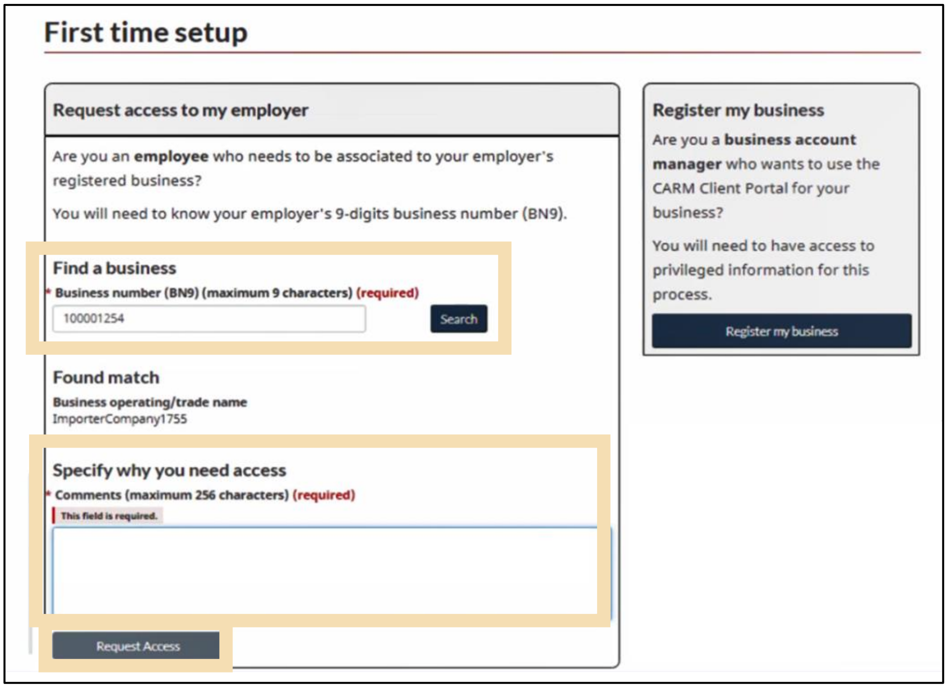
1.9 Employees requesting access to a business number

If you are accessing the CARM Client Portal for the first time, you must first complete Sections 1.2 to 1.7 listed above. In order to request access to your employer, you must type in the business number in **Find a business** then click on **Search**, under the **Request access to my employer** section.

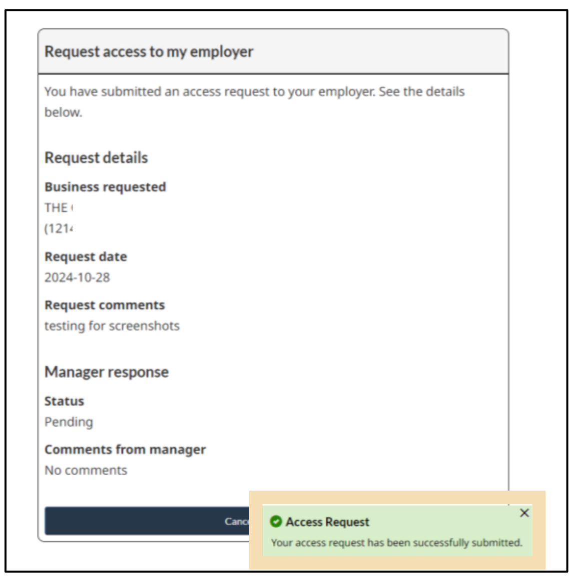
If clicking on Search in the below screen presents an error *EC 1004: Business not found*, ask your employer to complete the **Register my business** process. Please refer to the user guide [First time set-up – Register my business scenarios].



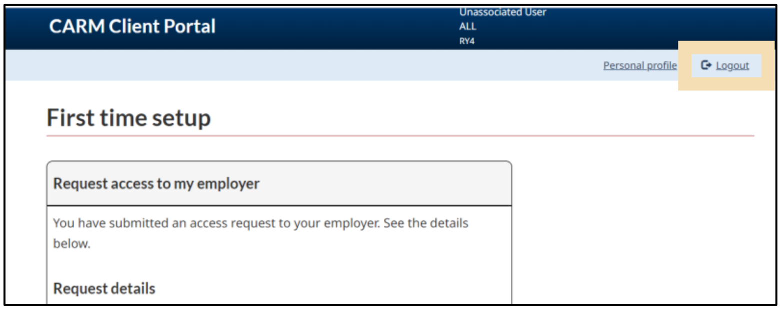
Employees will be asked to enter the **Business Number (or BN9)**, provide a reason **why you need access** and click on **Request Access**.



An **Access Request** message will popup to confirm that your request was successfully submitted.



Logout of the CARM system and inform your employer that this request is completed. After they accept your request, the next time you log into the CARM Client portal, you will be on your business homepage.



Curious to learn more about linking your Individual User Account with your Business Account? Click the link below to access the following step by step walkthrough video:

- **How to connect a user account to a business account**

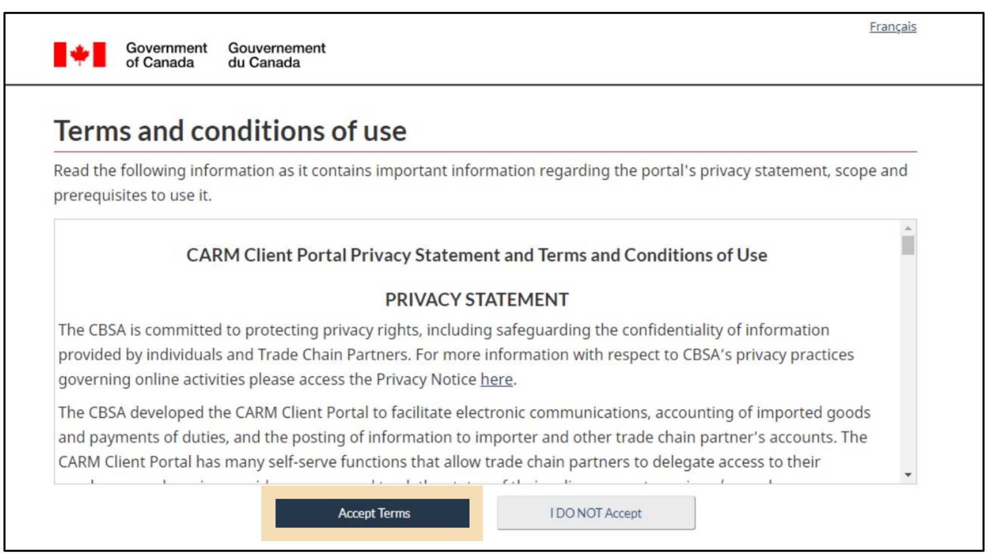
If your employer would like to learn more about the role of the Business Account Manager as well as the Delegation of Authority process, please refer to the **User guide – Delegation of Authority.**

2. Basic navigation and features of the CARM Client Portal

2.1 Login navigation and features

For GCKey users, a successful login page is displayed prior to reaching the CARM Client Portal home page. As a GCKey user you will be shown a standard welcome message that details your last sign in date, as well as a few links through which you can change your password, change your recovery questions, or revoke your GCKey.

Once you click the **Continue** button on the GCKey welcome page, you will be directed to the **Terms and Conditions of Use** screen of the CARM Client Portal.

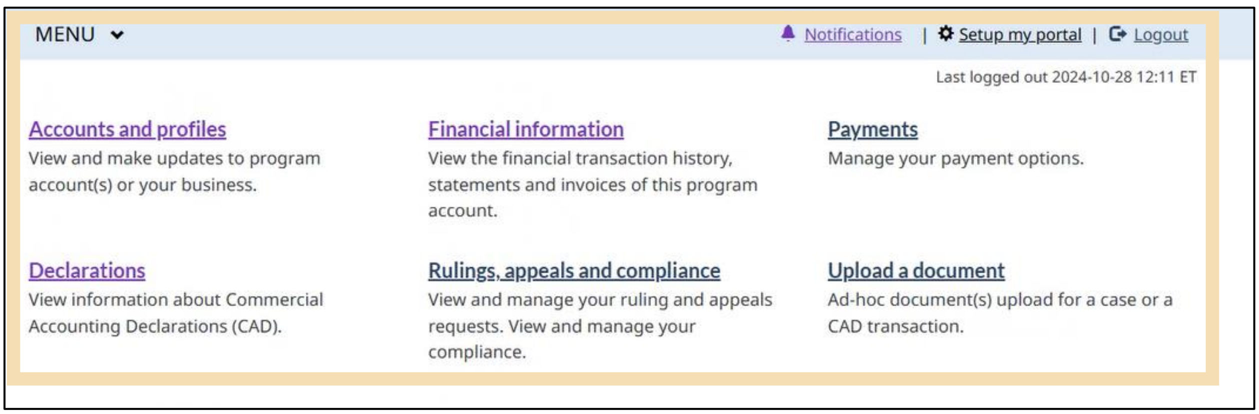


These terms and conditions of use will be displayed every time you log in to the CARM Client Portal. It is important that you read and understand these fully prior to proceeding.

- Selecting the **Accept Terms** button will take you to the CARM Client Portal home page.
- Selecting the **I DO NOT Accept** button will cancel the process.

2.2 Functions available on the home page

The home page of the CARM Client Portal displays several quick access links that will allow you to easily navigate to various functionalities and features found on other pages in the CARM Client Portal.



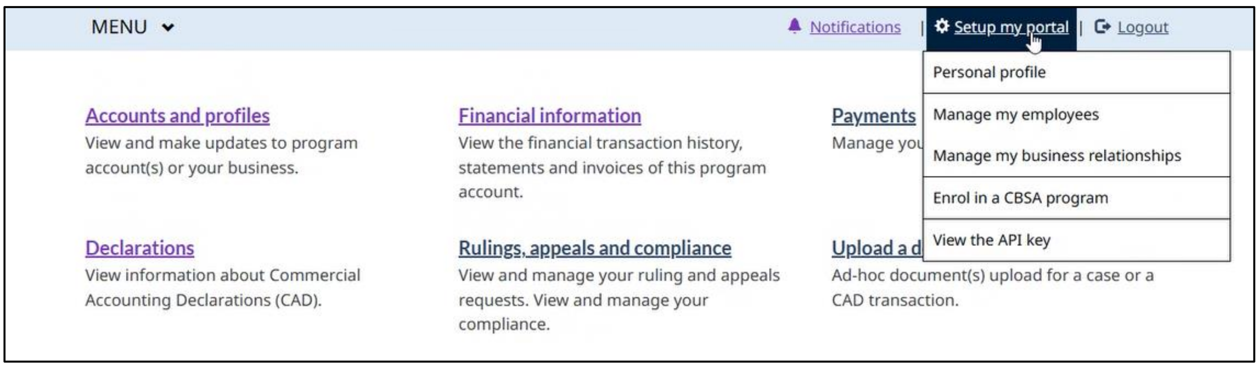
Alternatively, each of these pages can also be accessed by selecting them from the drop-down **MENU** located on the top left of the home page.

Additional information about these functions is outlined in further detail on the following pages.

1. **Setup my portal**

This link will direct you to the **Setup my portal** landing page. From this page, you will be able access the following options:

- **Personal profile**
- **Manage my employees**
- **Manage my business relationships**
- **Enrol in a CBSA program**
- **View the API key**



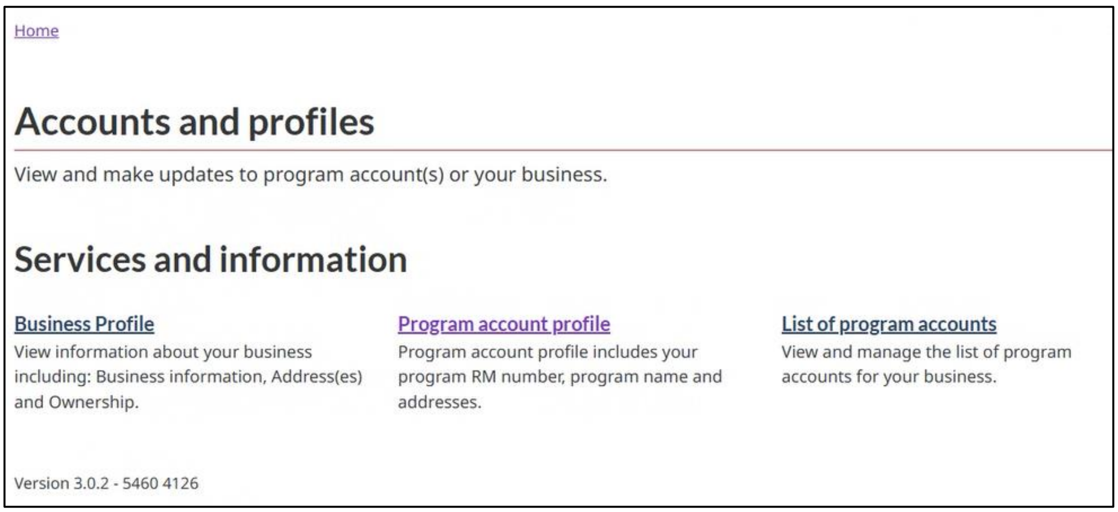
To learn more about the management of employees and clients, please reference the following guide:

- **User guide – Delegation of Authority**

2. Accounts and profiles

This link will direct you to the **Accounts and profiles** landing page. From this page you will have the ability to view and/or make updates to your profiles through the following links:

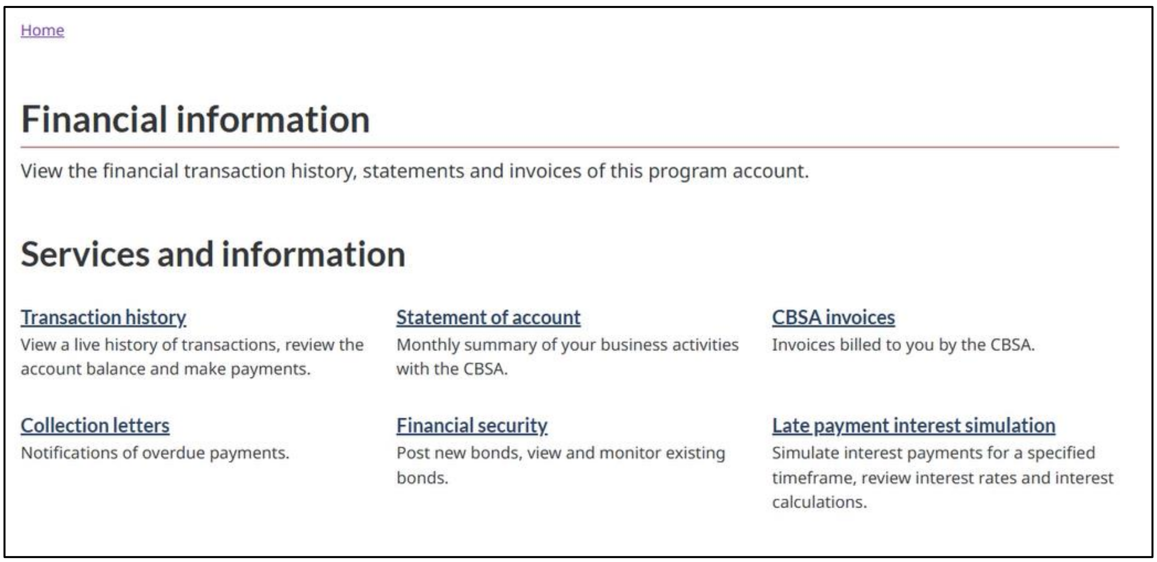
- **Business profile**
- **Program account profile**
- **List of program accounts**



3. Financial information

This link will direct you to the **Financial information** landing page. From this page you will have the ability to view detailed information about your account history, statements, and invoices through the following links:

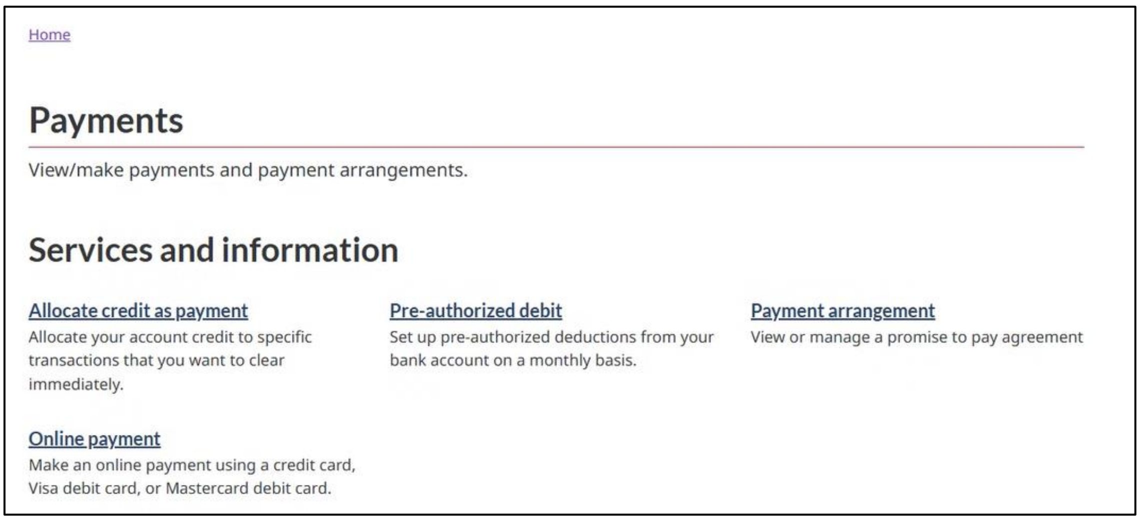
- **Transaction History**
- **Statement of account**
- **CBSA Invoices**
- **Collection letter**
- **Financial security**
- **Late payment interest simulation**



4. Payments

This link will direct you to the **Payments** landing page. From this page you will have the ability to view and make payments and payment arrangements through the following links:

- **Allocate credit as payment**
- **Pre-authorized debit**
- **Payment arrangement**
- **Online payment**



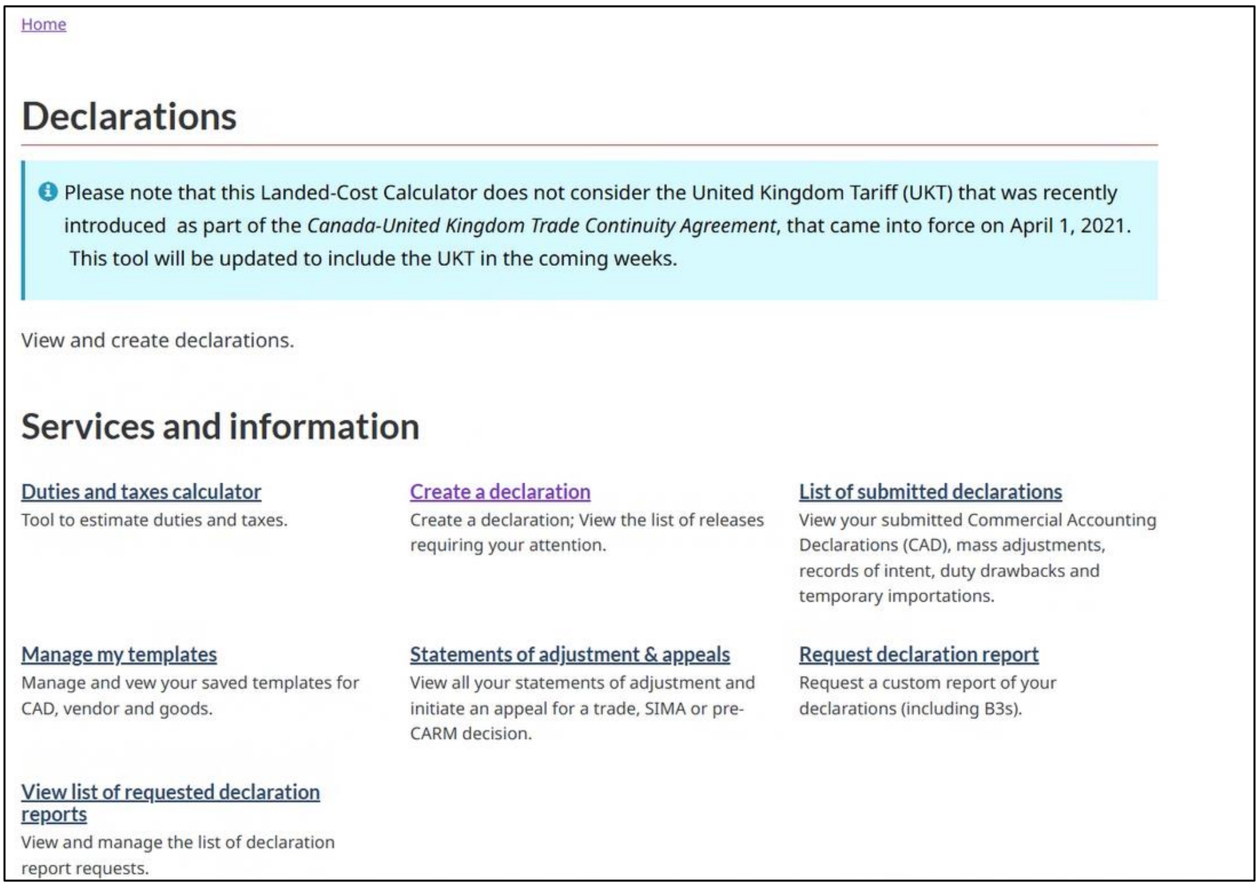
To learn more about financial information, processes, and payments, please reference the following guide:

- [User guide – Financial information, payment processing and tariff tools in the CARM Client Portal]

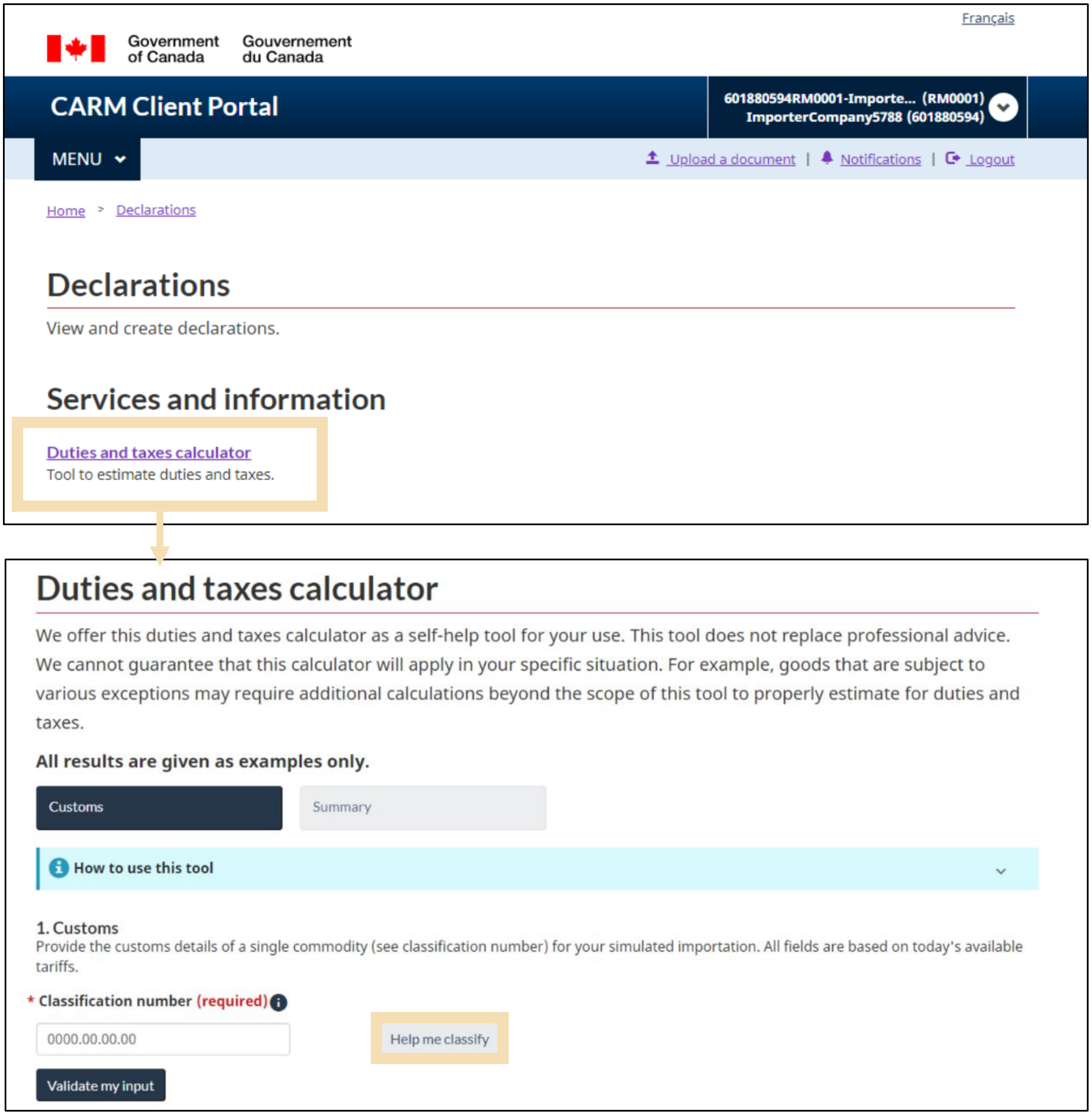
5. Declarations

This link will direct you to the **Declarations** landing page. From this page you will have the ability to view, create, manage and make requests through the following links:

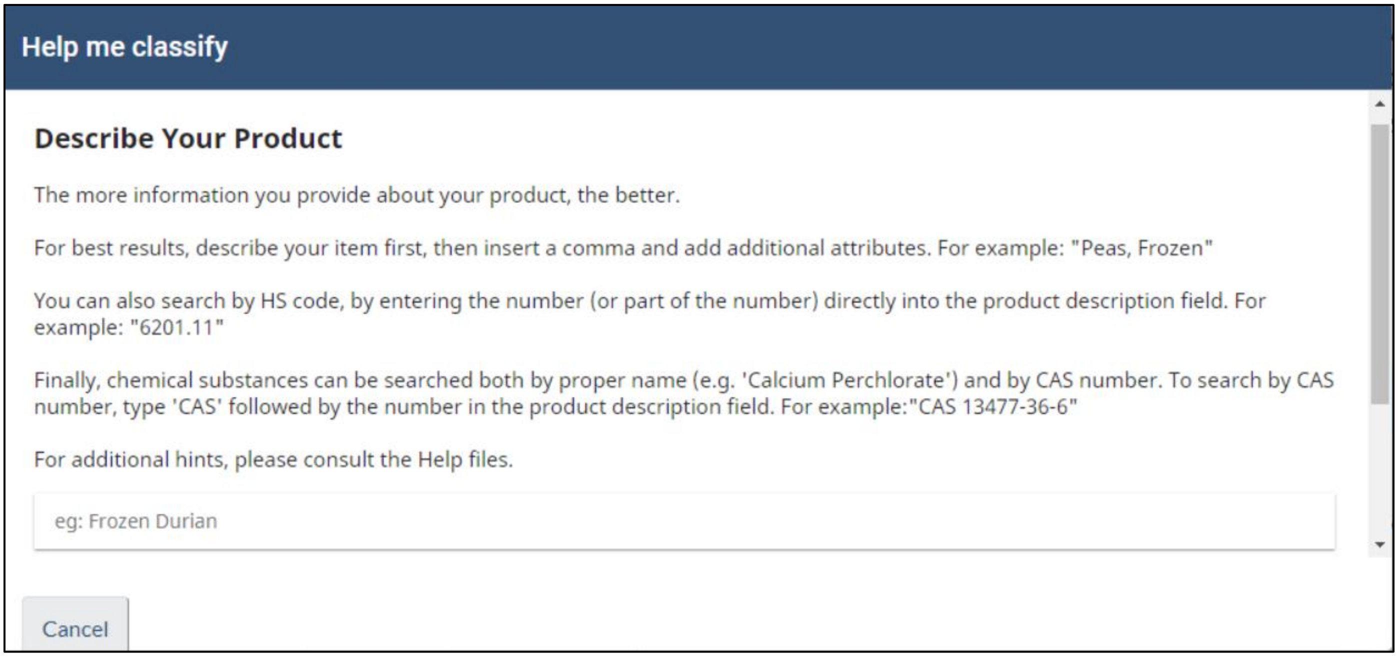
- **Duties and taxes calculator**
- **Create a declaration**
- **List of submitted declarations**
- **Manage my templates**
- **Statements of adjustment and appeals**
- **Request declaration report**
- **View list of requested declaration reports**



The **Duties and taxes calculator** is a that tool can be used for estimating the duties and/or taxes that will be owed for goods before they are imported.



Selecting the **Help me classify** button within the **Duties and taxes calculator** will direct you to an embedded classification tool. This tool will allow you to input known information about your goods/products in order to receive a tariff classification number for the goods.



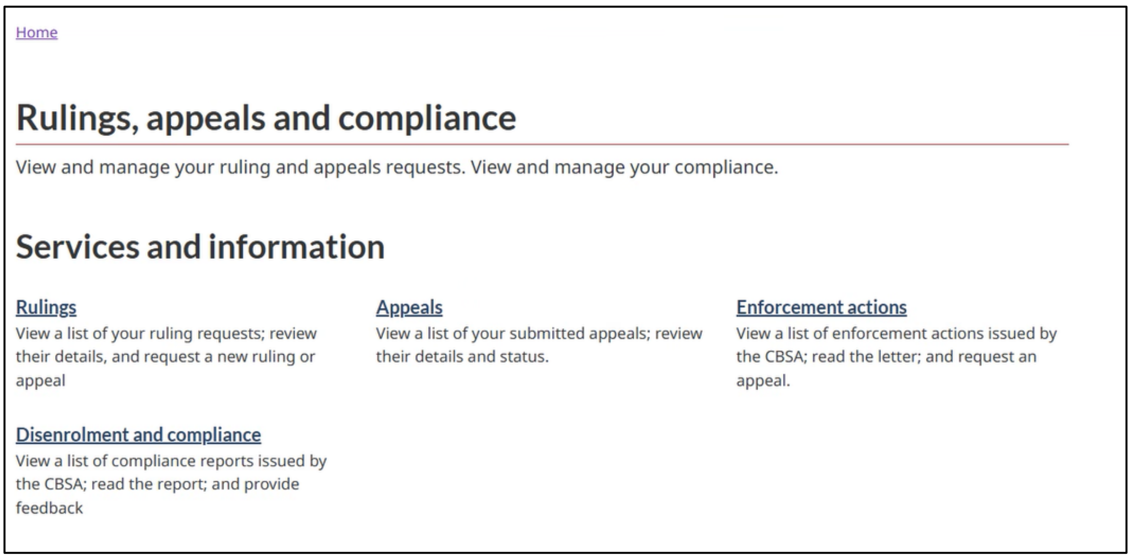
Additional information about the Duties and taxes calculator, and the classification tool can be found in both the below document and the below video:

- User guide – Financial information, payment processing and tariff tools in the CARM Client Portal
- **Video –** How to use the Duties and taxes calculator in the CARM Client Portal

6. Rulings, appeals and compliance

This link will direct you to the **Rulings, Appeals and compliance** landing page. From this page, you will be able to view and manage all of your ruling requests within the following links:

- **Rulings**
- **Appeals**
- **Enforcement actions**
- **Disenrolment and compliance**

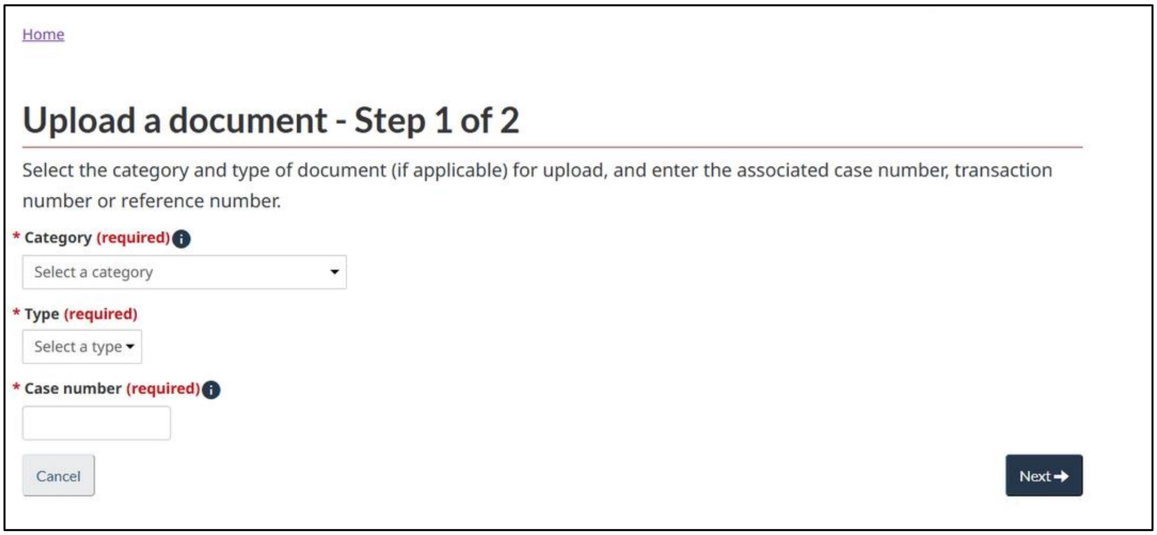


Additional information about rulings processes can be found in the below document and the below videos:

- User guide – Managing Rulings
- **Video –** Understanding Ruling statuses in the CARM Client Portal
- **Video –** How to submit a Ruling request in the CARM Client Portal

7. Upload a document

This link will direct you to the **Upload a document** landing page. From this page, you will be able upload and manage your files within the portal:



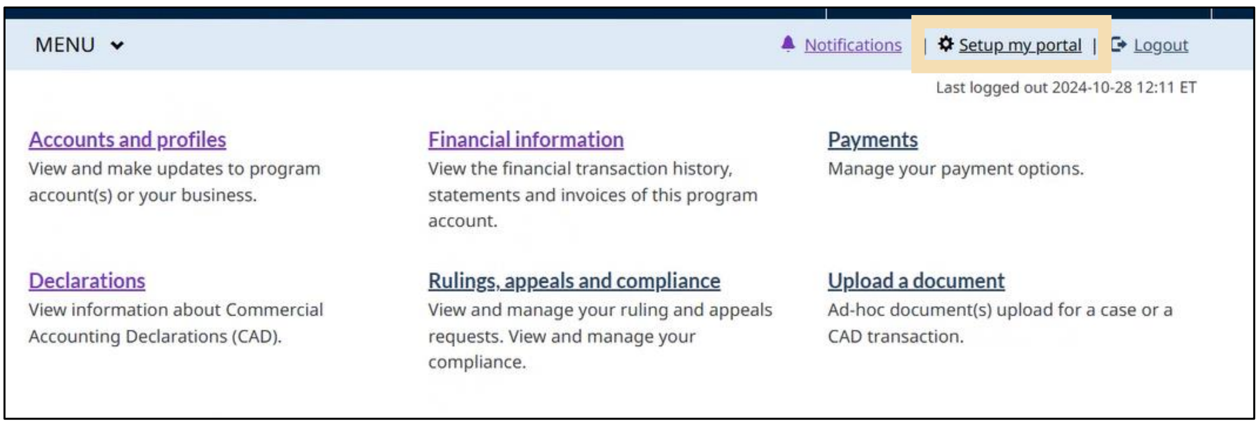
2.3 Setup of notifications

Setting up notifications within the CARM Client Portal is a useful way to ensure that you do not miss important communications from the CBSA.

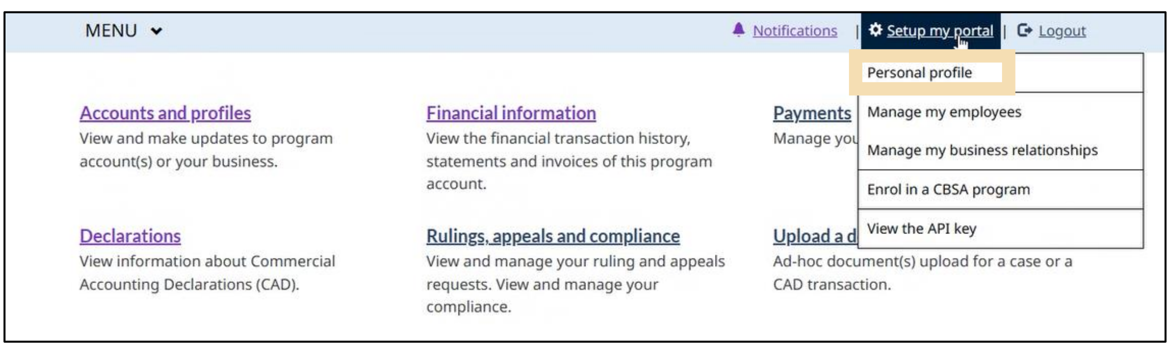
Note that even if you do not subscribe to all notifications, **you will still be notified if important communications that require timely action on your part are received**.

To setup notifications, follow the below steps:

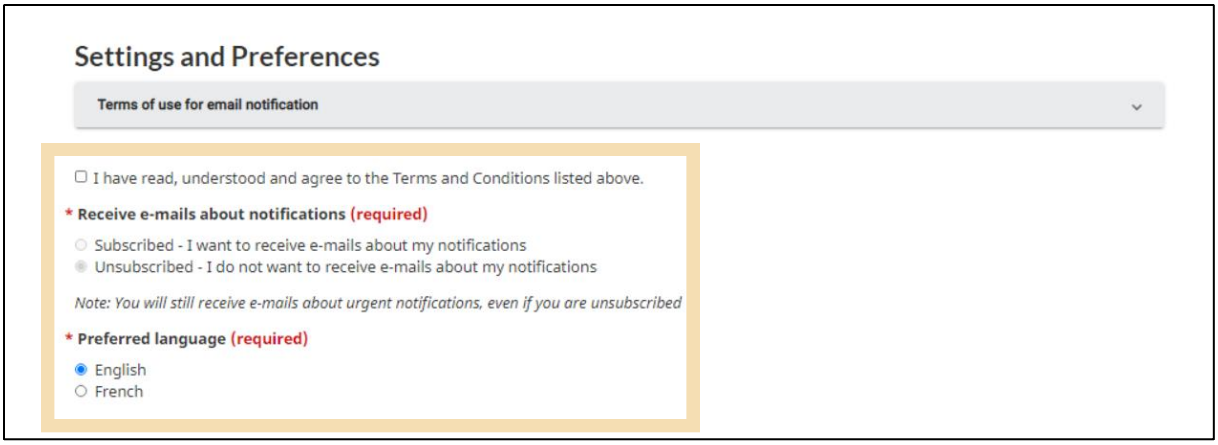
1. Select **Setup my portal** from the home page.



2. Click on the **Personal profile** link.



3. From the **Personal profile** screen, scroll down to **Settings and Preferences** and complete the following:
    - Read the **Terms and Conditions** in the drop-down menu, and confirm your acceptance by checking the box
    - Select the **Subscribed** button
    - Select **English** or **French** as your preferred language



Once notifications are set to **Subscribed**, you will begin receiving e-mail notifications from CBSA.

Important note:

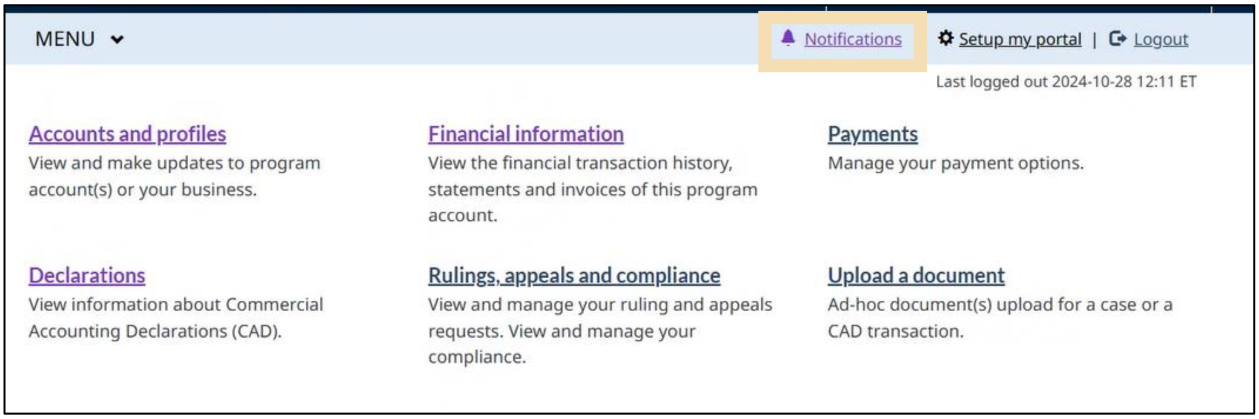
Notifications will be sent in bulk by CBSA. The only options available to users will be to either receive all notifications or to receive none. This option can be modified at any time following the above process.

Remember that urgent notifications will be sent to you regardless of the notification option selected.

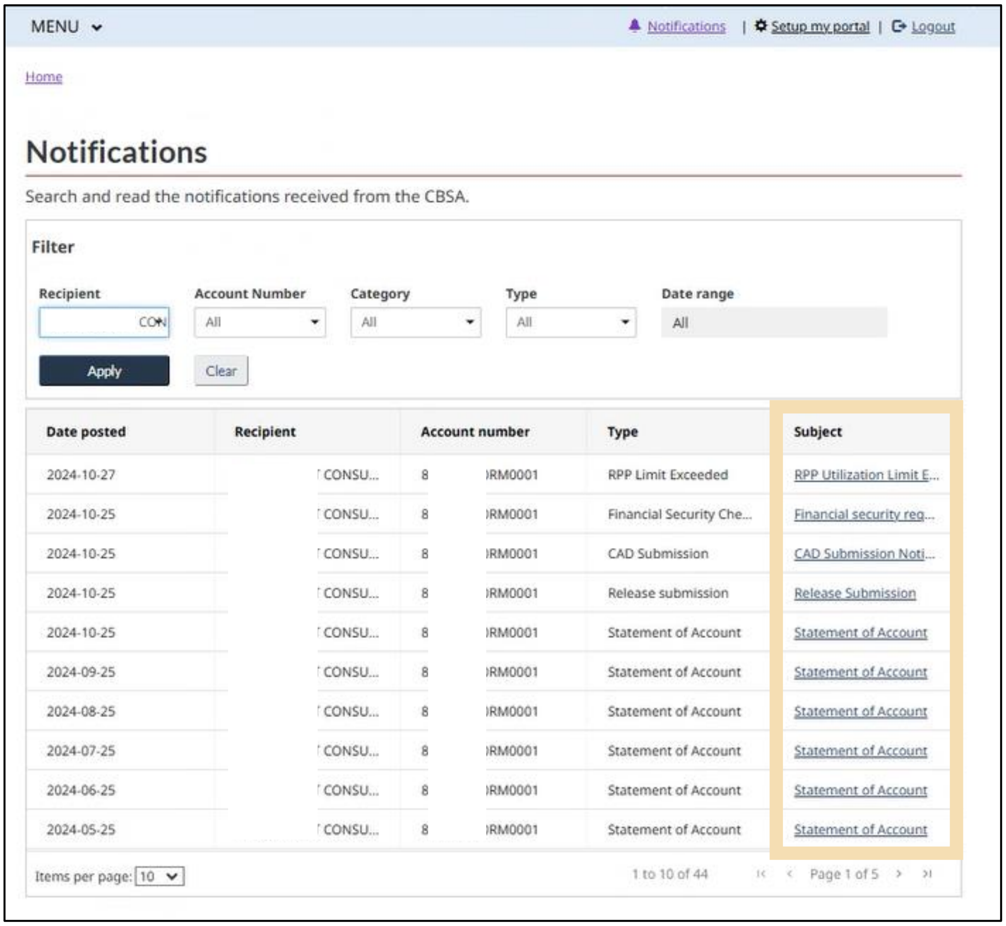
2.4 Notifications (view)

To view your notifications in the CARM Client Portal, follow the below steps:

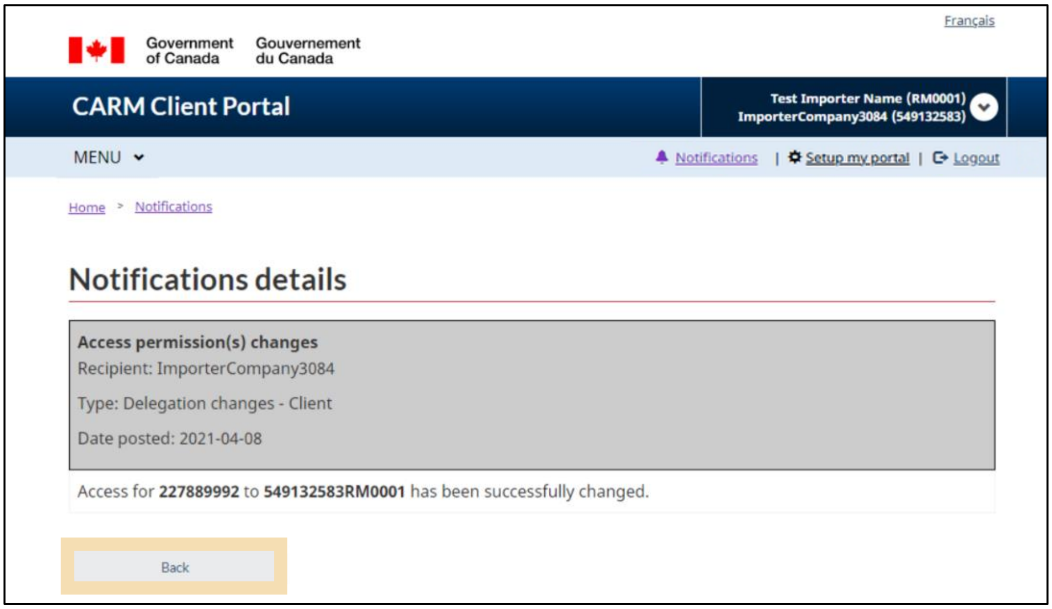
1. Click the **Notifications** link. A list of notifications will display.



2. Click on the **Subject** link to view the details of a notification.

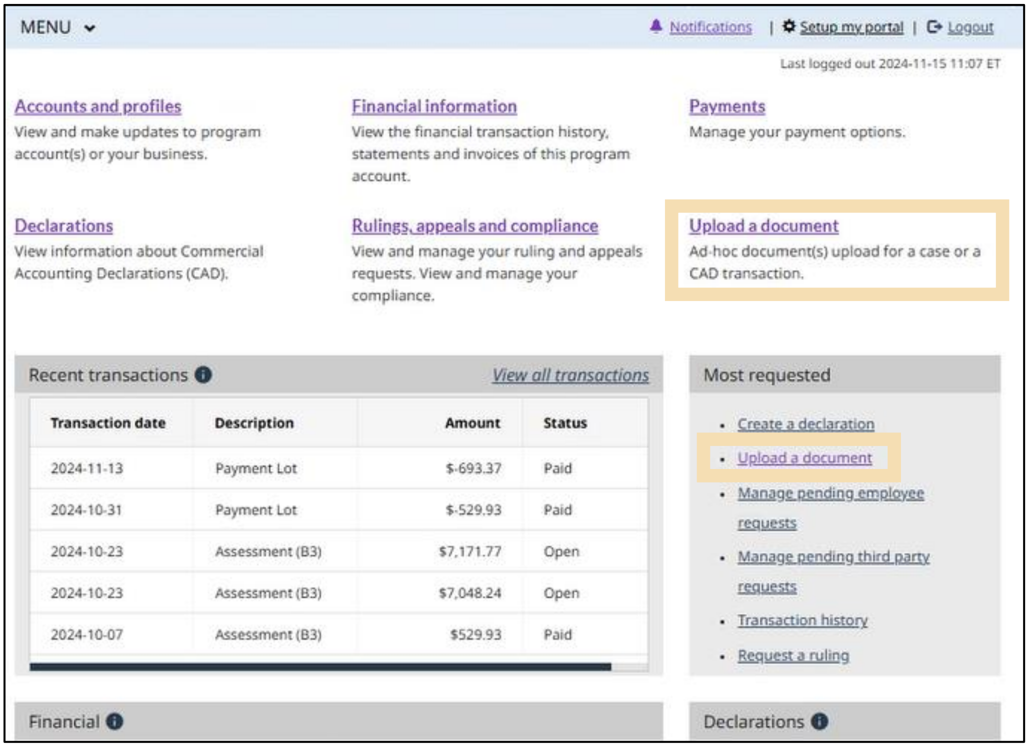


3. The notification details selected will then be displayed. Click the **Back** button to return to the notifications list once you are done reviewing the notification.



2.5 Uploading documents

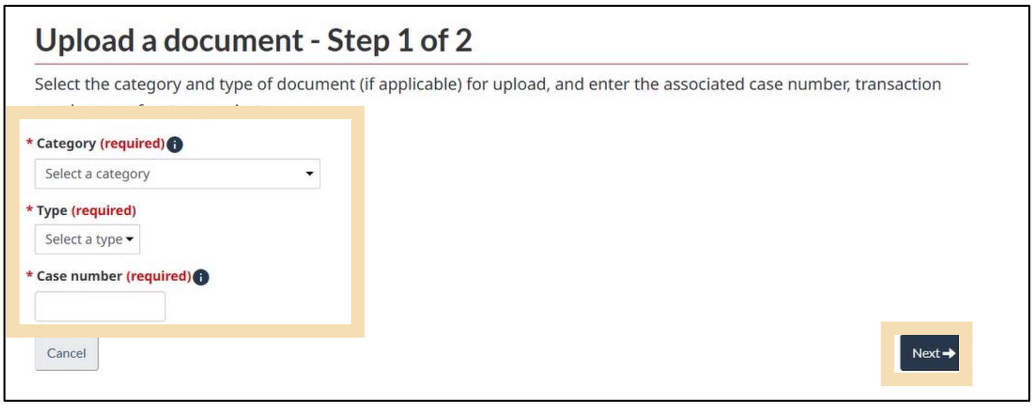
Including additional documents helps the CBSA with their rulings decisions. Where possible, documents that support a ruling request should always be included with the initial request. If the CBSA feels that they have insufficient information to render a decision, they may request that you provide additional information in order to proceed with your ruling request.



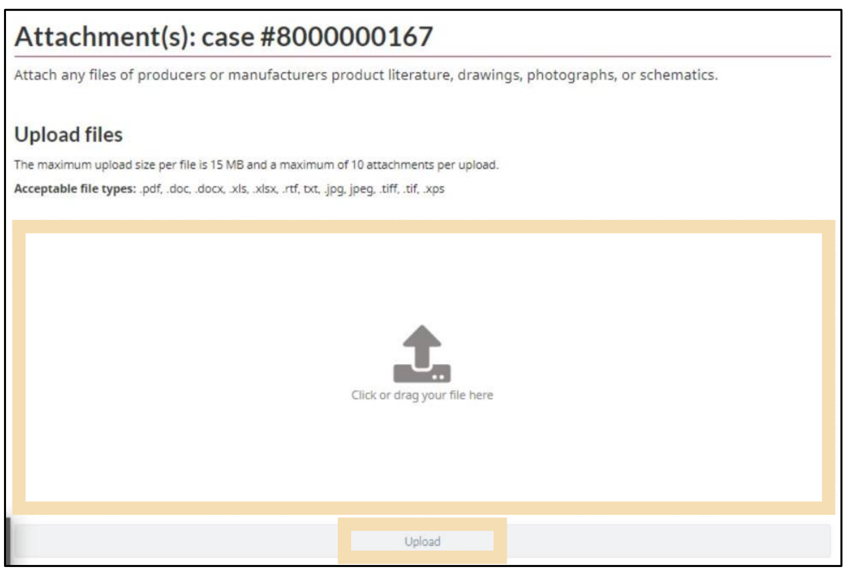
For the purposes of this guide, we are showing the page that will appear after selecting either of the **Upload a document** links.

From this page you may proceed with the following steps:

1. Select the **Category** and **Type** from the drop-down menu.
2. Enter the **Case number** of the document you are uploading for it to be associated with/attached to and then click on **Next**.



3. Drag and drop the file from the specified location and click **Upload** to complete the upload process.



Important note:

You can only upload PDF, Word, Excel, RTF, JPG, TIFF and XPS documents to the CARM Client Portal.

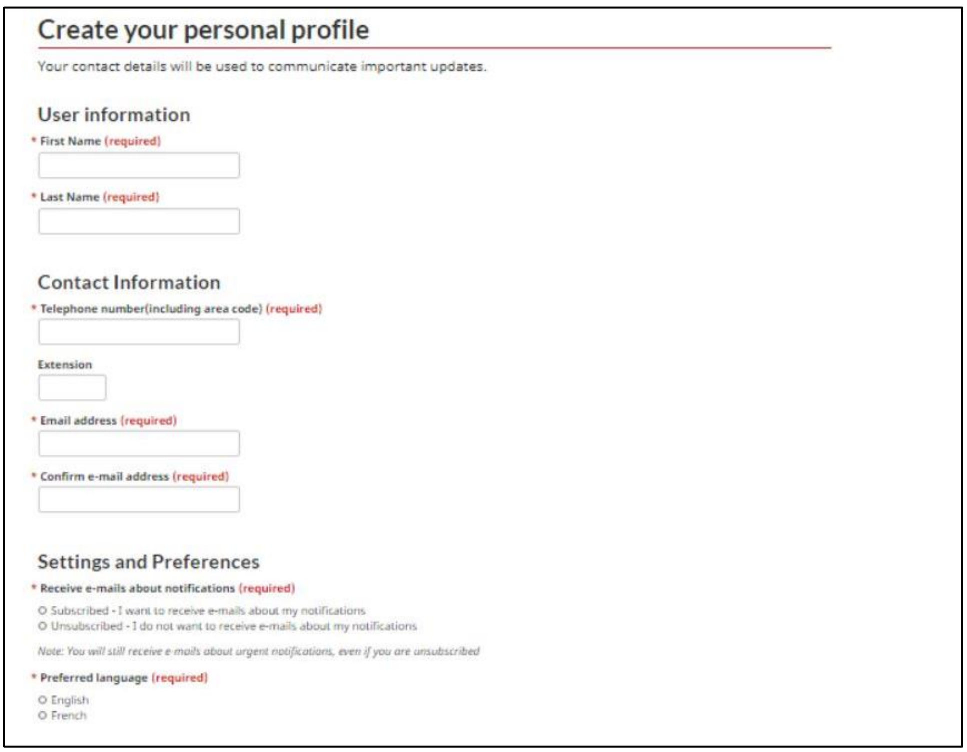
3. Requesting a new business relationship

3.1 Account types

Within the CARM Client Portal, there are two types of accounts: **Individual accounts** and **Business accounts**.

Individual account:

In order to access a business account, it is mandatory to first have an individual account. This account requires users to complete their personal profile for the user to be granted access to the CARM Client Portal.



Create your personal profile

Your contact details will be used to communicate important updates.

User information

* First Name (required)

* Last Name (required)

Contact Information

* Telephone number(including area code) (required)

Extension

* Email address (required)

* Confirm e-mail address (required)

Settings and Preferences

* Receive e-mails about notifications (required)

○ Subscribed - I want to receive e-mails about my notifications
○ Unsubscribed - I do not want to receive e-mails about my notifications

Note: You will still receive e-mails about urgent notifications, even if you are unsubscribed

* Preferred language (required)

○ English
○ French

To learn more about setting up your Individual account and Personal Profile, see **Section – Creating your personal profile** of this document.

To learn more about setting up your notifications, see **Section – Setup of notifications**.

Business account:

Accounts for businesses exist for:

- Organizations that provide services to clients – such as a Service Provider
- Business account that has at least one program account and performs activities as a customs broker or third party.
- Client organizations such as importers, carriers and warehouses.
- Any business account that has delegated their authority to a service provider.

3.2 Business relationships

Business relationships are established between a service provider and its client(s). A client (such as importer) can delegate access to the service provider (such as customs broker) for them to act on their behalf and manage their account(s) within the CBSA by establishing a relationship.

Service providers must first establish a business relationship with their clients to be able to transact with the CBSA on their behalf. Only then will the service provider be able to assign its employees to the clients' accounts to carry out the activities agreed upon in their service.

Important note:

The client determines the relationship type to grant to its service provider(s).

Within the CARM Client Portal, there are two business relationship access types that can be established between a service provider and a client.

These are:

- Business management relationship
- Program management relationship

This table shows the activities and access permissions associated with the Business management relationship and Program management relationship:

Activities	Allowed or Restricted	View as Read-only or View and Edit
View business account profile (general information, ownership, addresses, business activity, settings and contacts)	Allowed	Read-only
View all Program accounts profile (general information, addresses, contacts, owners and sub-programs)	Allowed	Read-only
View the list of programs	Allowed	Read-only
View financial security information	Allowed	View and Edit
View information regarding requests (e.g., Rulings) and transactions (e.g., CAD) on the client's behalf	Allowed	View and Edit
Commonly restricted actions	Allowed	Refer to below

1. **Business management relationship:** This relationship delegates access to all program accounts to the service provider, including any programs added in the future. Commonly restricted actions within a Business management relationship include the following:

    - editing the Business account or Program account information
    - viewing or editing pre-authorized debit authorizations
    - viewing collection-related notifications and payment arrangements
    - viewing or editing the client's access requests, and its employees' accesses
    - viewing or editing the client's pending business relationship requests, and its list of active business relationship

2. **Program management relationship:** This relationship delegates access to only selected program accounts to the service provider. This table shows the activities and access permissions associated with the Program management relationship:

Activities	**Allowed or Restricted**	**View as Read-only or View and Edit**
View program account profile (general information, addresses, contacts, owners and sub-programs)	Allowed	Read-only
View information regarding requests (e.g., Rulings) and transactions (e.g., CAD) on the client's behalf	Allowed	View and Edit
View Business account profile	Restricted	Not available
View list of programs	Restricted	Not available
View financial security	Restricted	Not available
Commonly restricted actions (refer to previous page)	Restricted	Not available

To learn more about managing business relationships, please reference the following guide:

- User guide – Delegation of Authority

4. Resources

There are several resources that are available surrounding the CARM Client Portal to help support new users:

1. **Instructional videos:**
   - Dedicated instructional videos for portal utilization including step-by-step videos on: Creating and linking individual and business accounts, Delegating authority, Financial information, and more.

2. **FAQ:**
   - The CBSA has provided answers to frequently asked questions that clients may have regarding the portal.

3. **User guides:**
   - These guides will help TCPs understand how to use the CARM Client Portal, with information on the key benefits and capabilities that the portal offers.