

Implications of Legalized Marijuana on International Travel.

On April 13, 2017 the Canadian Federal government introduced legislation that would legalize the distribution and use of marijuana for recreational use. Although marijuana can be prescribed for medical use (Marihuana for Medical Purposes Regulations MMPR, 2013) the universal legalization will have important implications for cross border travel.

One important consideration occurred recently at a border crossing from British Columbia into Washington State. A Canadian traveller was asked by the American Customs and Border Protection Officer if he used drugs, to which the Canadian replied "yes I have a prescription to take marijuana for medical purposes", aware that marijuana is legal in Washington State.

To the Canadians' surprise he was denied entry into the USA and faces the possibility of a permanent ban; a decision left up to the discretion of individual border guards.

The Reason: Border guards enforce federal laws - and marijuana is still restricted by the U.S. government - so Canadians who disclose that they use or plan to try legal pot south of the border could be turned away - or barred from the U.S. indefinitely!

Today drug screening is simple and non-invasive and the urine dip test can screen for *multiple drugs of abuse* with results in minutes.

