

- letter of representation from the exporter granting the rights of representation to the importer, legalized by a Mexican Consul;
- sanitary licence number and the line handled by the importer's warehouse;
- formula of the product on the exporter's letterhead;
- physical, chemical and microbiological analysis provided by a accredited lab in the exporting country;
- free sale certificate prepared by a sanitary authority in the exporting country;
- packaging description; and,
- name of the exporter, product origin and name and address of the importer, representative or distributor.

Once the goods are shipped, the importer or customs broker must obtain an import franchise from the Secretariat of Health on every shipment. To obtain such a franchise, the invoice, packing list, bill of lading and health registration letter must be presented to the Secretariat of Health. There is a one percent fee based on the value of the invoice. As of June 1991, the importation of foodstuffs does not require a previously mandatory sanitary registration number.

Mexican and sanitary health regulations are complex. Therefore, an exporter should contact the importer or customs broker at least three months in advance of shipping agricultural products, livestock, foodstuffs and beverages to make the necessary arrangements.

IMPORT PERMITS

Import permits are necessary (and could be subject to import quotas) for some products. The list includes:

- used machinery and cars;
- some agricultural products vital to Mexico's economy;
- natural gas, petroleum and gasoline;
- cars, trucks, tractors and some of their parts;
- some chemical and pharmaceutical products;
- arms and guns; and,
- some luxury items.

