

WANT MORE INFO?

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- Agri-Food Trade with Mexico, pg 4
- InfoMex White Paper
- EMAR - Mexico
- Customs Guide to the Americas

For products that come under NAFTA, such as corn, barley, beans, fresh potatoes and animal fat, certificates are generally allocated on a historical basis by allowing for 5% of the total to be given to new importers. For poultry, eggs and dairy, certificates are allocated according to the rules of the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

It normally takes a month or two, sometimes longer, to obtain the licence. It is important to note that the licence is tied to predetermined quantities. There are heavy fines for non-compliance

US TRANSIT AND EXPORTATION BOND

If the shipment will travel by land through the US, the Canadian broker must contact an associated American broker to obtain a transportation and exportation (T&E) bond. This bond must be cancelled by American authorities at the export yard, before the goods enter Mexico. Transportation must be made by a bonded courier.

CUSTOMS PROCEDURES & BORDER CLEARANCE

Customs duties are collected by Mexican customs offices, such as those located in Laredo and along the US-Mexican border in the case of land and rail transport. All customs duties must be paid by the Mexican importer or the customs broker immediately upon the goods crossing the border.

Shipments arriving at the border usually clear customs the next day, but can be cleared the same day if they arrive early in the morning, and if all the documentation has been prepared and is in order.

About one truck in ten is randomly selected by computer and is pulled over for customs inspections, which involves unloading the trailer. Rail shipments are treated similarly, except that goods transported on American rolling stock are not normally unloaded and reloaded. Shipments arriving by sea are unloaded at government docks and kept in a customs warehouse until they are cleared. Air shipments go to a bonded storage area, which is normally operated by the carrier or by a customs broker. From here, customs clearance procedures are similar to those for goods brought in by truck.

DEALING WITH CUSTOMS OFFICIALS

Customs officials may ask how the imported goods are to be used or what material they are made from. The answer to these questions should be carefully considered, since it could have an impact on the level of duty charged on the goods. Such requests should be checked with the customs broker, who should be asked to deal with any challenges to a change in duty rate or value. Under some circumstances customs duties can be deferred or avoided, and some imports are dealt with under special rules.

WANT MORE INFO?

CLICK BELOW

- Export-1, Business Guide Moving into Mexico, pg 87-88
- Agri-Food Trade with Mexico, pg 3