

Under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), product testing can be done in all three countries, but Mexico has four years to comply and until then testing must be done in Mexico. Only three Mexican labs are open to any producer: the *Cámara Nacional de la Industria Textil (CANAINTEX)*, National Chamber of the Textile Industry, the *Instituto Politécnico*, Polytechnic Institute, and *InchScape*. *Aurrera* has its own labs. Another six labs are recognized but they belong to textile and fibre companies. Canadian textile exporters will need assistance from the Mexican customer or agent to obtain certificates of compliance.

## DOCUMENTATION OF ORIGIN

All products imported into Mexico must be supported by documentation which identifies its origins. For shipments from Canada, the required documents are: a North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) certificate of origin, a NAFTA certificate of eligibility, or a declaration of origin from a non-NAFTA country which meets the requirements of the Mexican government. Otherwise, the goods may be subject to countervailing duties assessed against certain Asian countries. For example, some textile products from China are subject to duties of more than 500 percent

In the case of textile products, the requirements needed to qualify for the NAFTA preference are relatively complex. An original certificate must be presented; a copy is not acceptable. The exporter must consult the detailed rules of origin for the product involved.

## LABELLING

In addition to the *NOM* requirements, the Labelling Decree of March 7, 1994 sets out specific labelling requirements for textile products. As with other products, labels must be in Spanish, but for textile and leather products, labels must be affixed to the product and not just to the packaging.

In late 1994, the Mexican government issued new draft regulations for textile products. These amendments, expected to become effective in mid-1995, will add the requirement that the importer's Mexican taxation registration number appear on the label. The amendments specify that sizes must be in Spanish according to the general system of measures. In addition, instructions for product care will have to include the following information:

- washing: hand, machine wash, dry cleaning or special process, water temperature, use of soaps and detergents, any prohibitions;
- drying: wring out, sunlight, hanging, horizontal, use or prohibitions of special equipment, special recommendations;

### MINIMUM LABELLING REQUIREMENTS FOR TEXTILE PRODUCTS NOM-004-SCFI-1993

- product description
- fibre content (percentages in descending order)
- size
- handling instructions (symbols are permitted in this case provided that they do not require legends)
- country of origin

Source: Government of Canada translation of Article Four (I) of the March 7, 1994 Labelling Decree *Secretaría de Comercio y Fomento Industrial (SECOFI)*, Secretariat of Commerce and Industrial Development.