

## CLOTHING AND TEXTILES

Clothing, textiles and accessories are presently covered by *NOM-004-SCFI-1994*. Draft 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.
- *Ironing*: warm, hot or steam, or no ironing, any special conditions.
- *Bleaching*.
- *Special Recommendations*.

The new rules will apply to all textiles, clothing and accessories including linen, towels, curtains and rugs.

## IMPLEMENTATION

The latest decrees covering generic products, and food and beverage products were first published on June 20, 1994 and June 22, 1994, respectively. The decree amending the labelling regulations for clothing and textiles was published December 23, 1994. In both cases there is a 90 day period of public consultation.

The proposed changes provoked considerable debate within Mexico, as well as submissions from the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) trading partners. As a result, the Zedillo administration is now drafting new legislation. It is expected to follow the general pattern of the earlier decrees, with some changes to avoid needless trade barriers. Once the draft regulations are released, there will be another 90-day public consultation period, followed by a 45-day government review. Therefore, it is expected that the final version of the new legislation will not be implemented until the beginning of 1996.