

been totally eliminated and import permits are required on only 325 of the total 11,950 items in the Mexican Tariff Act, only one of which correspond to this industry (lobster). Mexico adopted the Harmonized System of Tariff Nomenclature on July 1, 1988.

Imports of fresh and frozen fish, crustaceans, molluscs and their products are subject to a 20% ad valorem duty assessed on the F.O.B. invoice value. Canned products pay a 20% duty, fish oils 10% and flours and meals 15%. In addition, a 0.8% customs processing fee is assessed on the invoice value. The 15% value added tax assessed on the cumulative value of invoice plus the above taxes is waived in the case of fresh and frozen products. All imported products within this study require a special permit from the Secretariat of Health (Secretaría de Salud) and fresh and frozen products additionally require a permit from the Fishing Secretariat (Secretaría de Pesca). The documents needed to obtain this import permit are a letter from the exporter naming a representative in Mexico for the product, the formula of the product on the exporter's letterhead, a physical, chemical and microbiological analysis of the product, a certificate of origin and a certificate of free sale (that the product is sold in the country of origin), the packaging description, including the original label and the label for distribution in Mexico.

The Secretariat of Health is in the process of issuing new regulations superseding previous ones, which should basically simplify the importation of fish and fish products through the elimination of the SSA registration number. Additionally, it seems the prior import permit presently required on lobster will be eliminated in the near future.

There are no official metric requirements applicable to imports into Mexico. However, since the metric system of units is by law the official standard of weights and measures in Mexico, importers will usually require metric labeling for packaged goods, although the English system is also used. Dual labeling is acceptable. Imported products should be labeled in Spanish containing the following information: name of the product, trade name and address of the manufacturer, net contents, serial number of equipment, date of manufacture, electrical specifications, precautionary information on dangerous products, instructions for use, handling and/or product conservation and mandatory standards. Mexico adheres to the International System of Units (SI). Electrical standards are the same as in Canada. Electric power is 60 cycles with normal voltage being 110, 220 and 400. Three phase and single phase 230 volt current is also available.

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