

The exclusion of capital and intermediate goods is established by a letter of clarification from the *Secretaría de Comercio y Fomento Industrial (SECOFI)*, Secretariat of Commerce and Industrial Development, dated March 10, 1994 which states that this intended use must be demonstrated by a sworn statement. Capital goods, however, are not exempted from certification requirements, if any are applicable.

Exporters can apply to *SECOFI* for authorization to ship unlabelled products under exceptional circumstances, but such exemptions are unusual.

ENFORCEMENT

The labelling decree contains a number of errors and vague points that led to difficulties and delays at the border during the first few days after it was issued. *Secretaría de Comercio y Fomento Industrial (SECOFI)*, Secretariat of Commerce and Industrial Development, the agency responsible for enforcement, issued a series of clarifying letters in March of 1994. Customs officers were given some latitude for flexibility during an unofficial grace period. Some officials have reportedly allowed the importation of products with Spanish labels provided separately, to be affixed in Mexico. Canadian officials in Mexico advise exporters to expect the regulations to be fully enforced, and suggest that Spanish labels should be applied before the product leaves Canada.

EXPECTED CHANGES TO LABELLING REGULATIONS

In 1994, new labelling decrees were published for "public consultation". They included proposed new regulations for generic products, food and beverage products as well as textiles, clothing and accessories. These proposed changes have not yet become law, but they provide an indication of the intentions of the Mexican government.

GENERIC PRODUCTS

The decree establishes a new *norma*, official standard, *NOM-050-SCFI-1994*, which sets out the minimum commercial information that must be provided on product labels. The new rules will apply to all products not covered by another *NOM* or regulation.

Under the new rules, Spanish-language labels will have to be "included from origin". This will formally eliminate the practice of affixing Spanish stickers to English labels. The labels may include other languages as well, but they must meet the metric system requirements.