

- a) number of packages;
- b) detailed list of merchandise contained in each package (as described on the invoice);
- c) net, gross and legal weight in metric equivalents of each package and of the total shipment; and
- d) volume or measurements, in metric, of each package and of the total shipment.

### **BILLS OF LADING**

Bills of lading should be consigned to the Mexican importer or customs broker. Although each carrier will have particular forms, the bill of lading should show the quantity of shipments, the types of packages making up the shipment, weight and measurements, as well as marks. It will also customarily include:

- a) the name, type and address of shipper, name and address of the Mexican importer, consignee or customs broker;
- b) port of origin and port of destination;
- c) description of the goods;
- d) listing of freight and other charges;
- e) number of bills of lading in the full set and date; and
- f) signature of the carrier's official acknowledging receipt on board of the goods for shipment.

The information on the bills of lading should correspond with that the information on the invoice, as well as the packing list.

### **SPECIAL CERTIFICATES**

All fish products, foodstuffs and beverages require a health certificate, certificate of origin and certificate of free sale. Products which are subject to sanitary regulation for which prior authorization to import into Mexico is required include all fish products, dairy products, vegetable and plant products, fish fats and oils, vegetable fats and oils, lactose and food preparations (vegetable-based dietetic and diabetic foods; jams, jellies, marmalades, fruit or nut purees/pastes of citrus fruits; milk protein concentrates; custard and gelatin powders for diabetics).

Secretaría de Salud (SS) no longer provides a registration (Reg. SSA No.) number for imported products. However, importers must apply to the SS for an "*Autorización Sanitaria Previa de Importación*" for all products subject to sanitary regulation as indicated above. Products falling outside this category require that the importer present an "*Aviso Sanitario de Importación*" at the customhouse on entry of the goods, together with other certifying documents. Fresh and frozen fish products require a permit from the Secretariat of Fishing (*Secretaría de Pesca*).

It is also possible to obtain a special permit to import a relatively small quantity of fish, foods and beverages to test the Mexican market before the registration procedures are undertaken. Once the goods are shipped, the importer or the customs broker need to obtain an import franchise from the Secretariat of Health on every shipment. This is granted with the presentation of the invoice, packing list, bill of lading and Secretariat of Health registration letter and the payment of a 1% fee on the invoice value.