

2. PACKING LIST

A packing list is necessary when more than one package is shipped. This document should be sent, together with the commercial invoice(s), to the buyer or customs broker as consignee. The number of copies needed can vary between 4 and 7, according to the means of transportation and the exporter should always retain a copy. The packing list may be included within the invoice. The list should include:

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

3. BILLS OF LADING

These vary according to the carrier. A bill of lading is required on maritime shipments and generally consists of three originals plus a varying number of copies. These should be sent, through an international messenger service, to the importer in Mexico, together with the other documents. An airway bill of lading accompanies air shipments, while truck or train shipments are accompanied by a similar document handed out by the individual carrier covering the goods shipped. The exporter should always keep one set of lading bills for any future reference and send one original to the importer and one to the customs broker.

Any one of the various 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 the name, type and address of shipper, name and address of the Mexican importer, consignee or customs broker, port of origin and port of destination, description of the goods, listing of freight and other charges, number of bills of lading in the full set and date and 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 shown on the invoice and the packing list.

4. SPECIAL CERTIFICATES

Different types of sanitary certificates are required by the Secretariat of Agriculture and Hydraulic Resources (Secretaría de Agricultura y Recursos Hidráulicos SARH) on shipments of livestock or animal products, and for most seeds, plant and plant products. A phytosanitary certificate is often, but not always, the only document required for shipments of seeds and certain plants. However, in the case of livestock shipments, requirements may include an official health statement issued by the veterinarian, legalized by the Mexican consulate (see Appendix 5), including information on absence of certain diseases, vaccines, insemination, quarantines, etc. and specific requirements on identification of livestock shipped (see Appendix 2). Many agricultural