

MEXICAN STANDARDS (NOMs)

Official standards, known as *Normas Oficiales Mexicanas (NOMs)*, apply to a wide range of consumer products and capital goods, including leather, textiles, electrical appliances and electronic equipment, building and construction materials and chemicals, as well as medical equipment. These standards are administered by the *Dirección General de Normas (DGN)*, Bureau of Standards, which is part of *Secretaría de Comercio y Fomento Industrial (SECOFI)*, Secretariat of Commerce and Industrial Development. Goods subject to *NOM* standards must be accompanied by a certificate of compliance to enter Mexico. *DGN* publishes catalogues of products and quality standards required for a *NOM* certificate. Exporters should consult with their customs broker or freight forwarder to determine if a product conforms to *DGN* standards and is eligible for a *NOM* certificate.

AGRICULTURAL STANDARDS

Agricultural regulations cover unprocessed agricultural and animal products. The regulations include phytosanitary and animal health certificates, and some products may require a prior sanitary authorization. These regulations are administered by the *Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería y Desarrollo Rural (SAGAR)*, Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock and Rural Development.

HEALTH STANDARDS

Health regulations cover fish and fish products, processed foods and materials used to produce food, and fertilizers and pesticides as well as medicines and health and personal care products. Specified products must be approved for import and must be accompanied by a sanitary authorization. These regulations are administered by the *Secretaría de Salud (SS)*, Secretariat of Health.

OTHER STANDARDS

Mexican standards for capital goods, machinery and industrial equipment are generally similar to those in most other industrialized countries. Mexico uses the standards set by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), the American Society for Testing of Materials (ASTM) and the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE), but all measurements and standards are expressed in metric units.

SECOFI has issued two decrees, on March 8, 1994 and August 29, 1994, listing products which require special certificates under the categories listed above. The regulations covering these requirements are subject to change. Exporters should