

The authorizations are valid for three months, and they may cover as many shipments as the importer requests for a given 3-month period. The original of the authorization is given to the Mexican customs broker to be presented when the goods cross the border.

SECRETARIAT OF AGRICULTURE SANITARY IMPORT AUTHORIZATION

The products requiring prior sanitary authorization by the *Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería y Desarrollo Rural (SAGAR)*, Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock and Rural Development, include a variety of unprocessed plant or animal products. The application procedures are slightly different for agricultural products and animal products.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

For agricultural products, an application form called a *Solicitud de Autorización Sanitaria*, Health Authorization Application, is submitted by the importer to the *Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería y Desarrollo Rural (SAGAR)*, Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock and Rural Development. It simply describes the products to be imported. The response from *SAGAR* will include requests for any phytosanitary certificates or other documentation required. For some products, application can be made only in Mexico City.

The agricultural sanitary authorization from *SAGAR* may include restrictions such as quarantine zones. Some products, such as grains, are restricted to certain ports of entry, and these will also be specified in the authorization. Some fruits and vegetable products are prohibited altogether under various "exterior quarantines". Few of these products are grown in Canada, although they do include some types of potatoes and rice.

ANIMAL PRODUCTS

The *Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería y Desarrollo Rural (SAGAR)*, Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock and Rural Development, uses separate application forms for import authorizations for live animals and animal products. In addition to product descriptions, the forms require a specification of the intended use of the product. The authorization received from *SAGAR* will specify requirements for health and sanitation certificates and any restrictions.

The *SAGAR* sanitary import authorizations for agricultural and animal products do not restrict quantities, and the application can cover any number of shipments on different dates, but they are valid for only one port of entry. The original of the permit is sent to the Mexican customs broker. Each time a shipment enters Mexico, the broker produces the authorization and the amount is deducted from the total on the permit. If shipments will travel by different routes, each customs house involved must be provided with a separate authorization.