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Requirements for Food and Beverage Labels for Imported Products under NOM-051-SCFI-1994

Name of the product, or a generic description, unless it is identifiable by sight (principal display panel)	Must conform to specific legal requisites regarding food names, including definitions of generic names.
Quantity statement, unless the quantity is identifiable by sight (principal display panel)	Quantities must be described by the metric system according to <i>NOM-008-SCFI</i> . For products packed in liquid, net drained content is also required, as specified in <i>NOM-030-SCFI</i> .
List of ingredients	List in declining order of content.
Country of origin of the product	The label must bear the designation " <i>Hecho en Canadá</i> " or " <i>Producto de Canadá</i> ," or other designation recognized in NAFTA.
Name and address of the manufacturer	For imported products, this information must be provided to <i>Secofi</i> .
Lot number	This is assigned by the manufacturer.
Nutritional information	Only if required nutritional benefits are claimed.
Expiration date or optionally "best before" date	Includes any storage conditions required for the validity of the date, such as "keep frozen."
Warnings	Included if they are required by regulation for ingredients with risks related to digestive intolerance, allergies or toxicity.
Name or registry number and address of the importer	This item may be affixed to the product after it has entered Mexico. The manufacturer's name must be provided to <i>Secofi</i> by the importer and need not appear on the label of imported products.

labels is voluntary unless some claim of nutritional benefit is made. If a nutritional statement is made, there are several compulsory items. They must be expressed per 100 grams, or per serving, or per package for single-serving containers:

- energy content;
- amount of protein, available carbohydrates and fat;
- amount of sodium;
- amount of any other nutrient for which nutritional statements are made; and
- quantitative or qualitative statement of nutritional properties or ingredients. Such statements are subject to detailed requirements set out in the regulation.

These items are not compulsory if the product is regulated under any other legislation.

TEXTILE AND APPAREL PRODUCTS

Textiles, apparel and accessory products are subject to a special product-specific *Norma Oficial Mexicana (NOM)*, official standard, issued by the *Secretaría de Comercio y Fomento Industrial (Secofi)*, Secretariat of Commerce and Industrial Development. *NOM-004-SCFI-1993* includes specific labelling requirements.

On 7 March 1994, *Secofi* issued a decree specifying a list of about 400 products for which *NOMs* had been issued, which would be enforced at

the border. This included import classification numbers for a long list of products covered by the textile and apparel *NOM*.

Later in 1994, the government drafted a set of revisions to the textiles and clothing regulations, which were originally intended to go into force on November 22, 1995. The amendments were issued under a new number (*NOM-004-SCFI-1994*). There were many complaints, however, and the draft regulation was withdrawn the following month. This regulation was reissued by publication in the *Diario Oficial de la Federación*, Official Gazette of Mexico, on 24 January 1996.

Most of the complaints about this regulation concerned the provisions regarding country of origin of the materials used to make the product and also Mexico's metric system of size specifications. The origin of materials must be calculated according to rules set out in the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Mexico's general system of measurements is defined in *NOM-008-SCFI*. Both provisions were retained in the final version of the regulation. The implementation of the origin requirements was delayed by six months and the size requirements by one year. The entire regulation is now in full force.

Aside from the complexities of specifying material origin, the principal distinction of textile and apparel labels is that they must be affixed to the product and not just to the package. Also, they must reveal the fibre composition of the product.

This specific regulation includes detailed requirements for the provision of handling instructions, including acceptable symbols. The regulations are also subject to revision. Exporters should, therefore, consult the full regulation before designing labels.