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country, so some form of transfer is inevitable. Exporters should know the arrangements that their trucker has in place.

In any event, it is strongly recommended that the transfer of goods from one trailer to another be avoided. The potential for loss, damage or delay to goods is greatly increased compared to movements which take place in a single trailer from origin to destination.

There is currently no customs preclearing system in place for motor transport across the Mexico-U.S. border. Depending on customs and transshipment delays, total transit times from major Canadian cities to Mexico City can range between 6-15 days.

Trucks carrying bonded shipments to the maquiladoras (Mexican export-assembly plants along the U.S. border) are an exception. They are cleared through Mexican customs faster than normal shipments and within 24 hours (including transshipment) goods are usually on their way into Mexico.

When the Mexican government enacted new federal transport regulations which dramatically liberalized the domestic transport industry in January, 1990, the trucking sector was opened up to new competition, licensing procedures were simplified and route and freight restrictions were eliminated. Mexican shippers are now free to book transport services with the carrier of their choice. Exclusive agreements with carriers are no longer mandatory, freight rates are set by market forces and the maximum length of semitrailers has been extended from 40 to 48 feet. Lastly, the system of granting exclusive licenses for freight handling in the border zone was eliminated, although to date no non-Mexican trucking lines have obtained operating licenses to service the maquiladoras directly. In total, these sweeping changes introduced a significant improvement in trucking services in Mexico.

Canadian truckers and the Canadian Trucking Association have become very active in exploring and entering the Canada/Mexico trucking market. Several Canada-based truckers have integrated operations through a variety of arrangements such as strategic or interlining agreements with U.S. and Mexican truckers. Canadian truckers providing a complete transport package include *Cabano-Kingsway*, *Can Pac International Freight Service*, *Canadian Freightways*, *Challenger Motor Freight*, *Frederick Transport*, *Future Fast Freight* and *Trimac*.