

name and location, the exporter's name and the scientific name of the species. Trees will be inspected at the border for pests and damage. They can be imported only through eleven specified ports of entry.

Secretariat of Health Sanitary Import Authorization

The *Secretaría de Salud (SS)*, Secretariat of Health, regulations encompass a variety of processed foods and beverages, chemicals, pesticides, fertilizers, and personal or health care products, including cosmetics. Most processed foods no longer require prior authorization.

Under the *Ley General de Salud*, Public Health Act, every food importer must register with the *Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería y Desarrollo Rural (SAGAR)* Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock and Rural Development, and provide notice of all food products to be imported. The importer is also responsible for obtaining authorization for products that require a prior sanitary import authorization.

If such registration is necessary, an application form called a *Solicitud de Autorización Sanitaria Previa de Importación*, must be submitted to SAGAR, by the importer, along with the following documentation:

- a sanitary certificate, or if one cannot be obtained, a certificate of origin, Certificate of Free Sale, or a report of physiochemical and microbiology analysis. Some products also require an analysis of metal and peroxide content, vibro cholerae or radioactive contamination;
- the original product labels in Spanish, either for individual packages, or for bulk containers; and
- an invoice or pro-forma invoice.

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

Secretariat of Agriculture's 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 and animal products.