

CANADA AND THE NORTH AMERICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT (NAFTA)

THE MEXICAN MARKET

- ◆ Although Mexico is considered a developing economy, services represent about the same share of its economy as they do in Canada and in the U.S.
- ◆ Many elements of the Mexican infrastructure are poorly developed, including telecommunications, utilities, power and sewerage, and land and maritime transportation services. Upgrading will require international service sector expertise.

CANADIAN EXPORT INTERESTS IN MEXICO

- ◆ Architecture, design, geomatics, engineering and environmental services
- ◆ Financial, transportation and communications services and training, and tourism services
- ◆ Management consulting, accounting and franchise services

COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Under the NAFTA, will Mexican and U.S. professionals, such as engineers or lawyers, be free to work in Canada?

No. The NAFTA encourages the professional licensing authorities of the three countries to develop mutually agreeable criteria and standards for the licensing of professionals. Foreign professionals can only work in Canada if they meet the requirements of the licensing authority and are on the list of professionals granted temporary entry.

Have there been any changes to the temporary entry provisions of the FTA which service sellers have been using to cross into the U.S.?

The temporary entry provisions of the FTA have been improved under the NAFTA. Business persons can now bring their equipment with them duty free, regardless of the origin of that equipment. The Agreement now uses plainer language to make the provisions more transparent and understandable. Coverage has been extended to over 60 professions, including oceanographers, geographers and statisticians, and professionals conducting seminars or training.

What about temporary entry for spouses?

The NAFTA provides for a Working Group to consider providing temporary entry rights for spouses of business persons entering each of the NAFTA countries.