
6. International Trade

6.1 Imports in general

Mexican import controls have been significantly liberalized in recent years. Most products no longer require prior import permits. Import duties have also been reduced. Duties are generally assessed against the transaction value of the products imported into Mexico.

6.2 NAFTA and other regional trade agreements

Mexico has negotiated and continues to negotiate trade agreements with other countries. Mexico is a party to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the NAFTA and free trade agreements with, among others, Chile, Venezuela, Colombia and Costa Rica. These agreements, among other things, will reduce import duties on products imported into Mexico originating from any of the signatory countries. Under the NAFTA, for example, duties on many American and Canadian products imported into Mexico have been eliminated as of January 1, 1994, and duties on the remaining products will be phased out on a five- ten- or fifteen-year schedule.

6.3 Foreign trade law

Mexico has enacted a new Foreign Trade Law (FTL), effective July 28, 1993. The FTL regulates international trade and prohibits unfair trade practices such as dumping and trade subsidies. The FTL generally follows the principles established in the GATT and conforms to the requirements of the NAFTA.