
interline services of U.S. carriers such as *American Airlines, Delta, Northwest* and others to connect from points in the United States to points in Mexico.

With all the uncertainties facing the international airline community, it is difficult to project the future of air routes to Mexico other than to say that charters will most likely continue to dominate the market, at least on the passenger side. One should also note that flight schedules to Mexico have historically been subject to frequent change by commercial carriers.

Administrative and customs clearing procedures at Mexican airports can be accomplished within hours with the proper documentation, otherwise the procedure can take up to 3 days.

(g) Freight Forwarders

In many instances, and especially for new exporters, the services of a freight forwarder are recommended. The freight forwarder can consolidate shipments as needed, advise on the mode of transport that best serves the exporter's needs, and arrange for customs documentation, the services of a Mexican customs broker, and transport, warehousing and distribution within Mexico.

While individual transport companies can in some cases make similar arrangements, they are often geared more towards exporters with large, frequent shipments and do not always offer the full range of services provided by a freight forwarder.

Freight forwarders offer a unique service package to first-time exporters as well as established ones. For example, when individual shipments do not fill a truck trailer, railcar or marine container, the exporter could use a freight forwarder, who will consolidate a variety of small shipments bound for Mexico. By consolidating many small shipments, the forwarder may be able to obtain cost savings for the exporter on his transportation bill.

In many instances, and especially for new exporters, freight forwarders can be indispensable as they can simplify the overall business of exporting to Mexico.

With the recent reform of Mexican transport regulations, the system of granting exclusive licenses for freight handling in the border zone has been eliminated and freight forwarders (through Mexican affiliates) are increasingly active in Mexico. Increased competition has also led to better service.