

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR SPANISH LABELS — ALL CONSUMER PRODUCTS

1. Name of the product or good (including a product description, if not described in the name of the product or good).
2. Name or trade name and address of the importer (this information may be displayed on a separate label and may be added after importation).
3. Country of origin of the product.
4. Net contents in accordance with official Mexican standard *NOM 030-SCFI-1993*.
5. Warnings or precautions in the case of dangerous products.
6. Instructions for use, handling and/or preservation of the product.

Source: Government of Canada translation of Article Five of the March 7, 1994 Decree, as amended by letters of clarification from the *Secretaría de Comercio y Fomento Industrial (SECOFI)*, Secretariat of Commerce and Industrial Development.

GENERAL LABELLING REQUIREMENTS

The new regulations apply to all goods intended for sale to consumers, with certain exceptions which are discussed below. All such products must be labelled in Spanish when they arrive at Mexican customs. The label must contain specific information identifying the product, the importer and the exporter as well as instructions for use and care.

The labels must be legible, and must be "attached to the product, container or package, depending on the circumstances of the product and how it is to be marketed". Normally, the label will be affixed to each individual package offered for sale to consumers. If the product will be sold as a container of smaller containers, the individual packages do not need to be labelled. There are no specific requirements for label size or location.

A letter of clarification dated March 10, 1994 says that the requirement for the label to include the country of origin was "mistakenly" included in the Executive Decree. Nonetheless some authorities believe that it is still required since the decree did not repeal the relevant stipulations in other laws. Until a revised decree is formally published, exporters would be wise to include this information, in addition to the other requirements set out in the Executive Decree.

LABELLING REQUIREMENTS FOR FOOD AND BEVERAGE PRODUCTS

Labelling requirements for food and beverage products have been established by the *Secretaría de Salud (SS)*, Secretariat of Health. Food and beverage labels must include the following:

- product description;
- date of expiration;
- list of ingredients; and
- nutritional content (if nutritional quality is claimed).

These requirements are in addition to the requirements for generic product labelling.