

the *Centro Impulsor de la Construcción y la Habitación A.C. (CIHAC)*, Promotion Centre for Construction and Housing.

In most cases, companies find that Canadian and U.S. building codes meet or exceed Mexican codes. However, some regions have more rigorous requirements. For example, in some sections of Mexico City, the building code calls for a Seismic 4 design. Construction along the Gulf areas of Mexico must resist wind loads of 115 m.p.h.

Canadian companies have found that although building codes in Mexico are quite detailed, the extent to which they are enforced can vary.

BUILDING CODES IN MEXICO

Type	Purpose
Zoning and building design	building size and types allowed
Service infrastructure	sanitation systems water systems electrical systems combustible fuels installations
Structural integrity	earthquake resistance load capacity design and construction of concrete structures design and construction of metal structures design and construction of wooden structures designs that are wind resistant

TARIFF RATES

Since 1986, Mexico's maximum import tariff has been cut from 100 percent to 20 percent. Tariffs on construction products average about 10 percent.

Under the NAFTA, most tariff barriers within North America will be eliminated over a period of ten years. A list of tariff rates, phase-out periods and rules of origin for construction products is provided in the report, NAFTA and the Construction Materials Sector, available through Industry Canada and the InfoCentre, DFAIT.

PRODUCT LABELLING

The Mexican government has begun enforcing a law under which certain products must be labeled in Spanish prior to importation into Mexico. This applies mainly to pre-packaged consumer products. Bulk products are generally exempt from these regulations. Mexican representatives, customs agents and freight forwarders can usually provide information on current and proposed labelling requirements.

