

The new regulations will also broaden the range of products excluded from the labelling requirements to include the following:

- products imported by duty free shops
- imports into border cities and zones
- live animals
- books, magazines and newspapers

The new regulations also formalize exemptions for a number of other products, such as courier packages, presently included in "letters of clarification".

These regulations will be enforced by a new government entity called *Unidad de Verificación*, Verification Unit. This organization has not yet been established.

Food and Beverages

Food and beverages are presently covered by specific *NOMs* or by other regulations issued by the *Secretaría de Salud (SS)*, Secretariat of Health. Proposed general regulations (*NOM-051-SCFI-1994*) were published in June 1994, covering all food and beverage products, except those sold in bulk. The final version of this standard was published on January 24, 1996.

The regulations require that the labels be in Spanish and that they be affixed at origin. In addition to the present regulations for generic products, food and beverage labels will have to include a list of ingredients, the lot number, the expiry date and special instructions for preservation. A "best before" date is optional.

The name and address of the manufacturer must be included on the label, and this information must also be provided to *SECOFI*. Outside packages or wrappers must contain all of the required information, or must allow for the visibility of inside labels. If inside packages do not contain all required information, they must be labelled "not for individual sale" and must include lot and expiry information.

The new regulations also specify certain claims that may not be made on a food or beverage label. These include claims that a balanced diet does not supply adequate nutrition, claims that cannot be proven, and claims that contravene the *Ley General de Salud*, Public Health Act. There are new requirements for nutritional information, but implementation of this provision will be delayed until January 1, 1998.