

There is an emerging market for computer software to protect access to sensitive information. The leading company in this field is OmniGuard de Axent Technologies Inc., represented in Mexico by *Insys*.

SECURITY CONSULTING

There are few specialized security consulting companies operating in Mexico. Consulting services are provided mainly by security equipment distributors and public agencies. This suggests opportunities for Canadian security specialists who could form joint ventures with Mexican companies already in the market. The best opportunities will be for companies with knowledge of high-technology solutions.

THE REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT

The federal and state governments are heavily involved in public safety and security. Occupational health and safety is also subject to extensive regulation.

WORKER HEALTH AND SAFETY

Policy concerning occupational health and safety is defined and enforced by the *Secretaría del Trabajo y Previsión Social (STPS)*, Secretariat of Labour and Social Welfare, through its *Dirección General de Seguridad e Higiene*, Safety and Hygiene Division, and in accordance with the *Ley Federal del Trabajo*, Federal Labour Law.

The *Dirección General de Seguridad e Higiene (STPS)*, Safety and Hygiene Division of the *STPS*, controls the *comisiones de seguridad e higiene*, safety and health commissions, in each company. These are mandatory joint committees which, except for the participation of government representatives, are similar to those mandated under Ontario's Occupational Health and Safety Act. Any company with more than 20 employees must have such a commission, and they are regulated by the *Normas Oficiales Mexicanas (NOMs)*, official standards, *NOM-019-STPS-1993*. Each company is responsible for designing and setting-up training courses for all employees every year. The commission in every company is responsible for supervising these procedures and reporting to the Safety and Hygiene Division of the *STPS*.