
Administrative and customs clearing procedures at Mexican airports take approximately 3-4 days.

Freight Forwarders

Freight forwarders can arrange shipments by any transport mode for Canadian exporters to Mexico. They offer a unique service package to first-time exporters as well as to established ones. For example, exporters whose shipments do not fill a truck trailer, railcar or marine container will often use a freight forwarder to consolidate shipments bound for Mexico. This can also lead to cost savings. Freight forwarders can advise on the mode of transport best serving the exporter's needs, and arrange for customs documentation, the services of a Mexican customs broker, and transport, warehousing and distribution within Mexico if required. In many instances, and especially for new exporters, freight forwarders are indispensable as they can simplify the overall business of exporting to Mexico, taking care of details otherwise left up to the exporter.

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 services. Finally, under recent trade liberalization legislation, the number of items requiring import permits has dropped from 11,950 to 325 and the former Mexican official import price system has been eliminated.

Appendix C, provided by Industry, Science and Technology Canada through its Business Opportunities Sourcing System (BOSS), lists active freight forwarders in Canada who have agents or offices in Mexico.

Warehouse Facilities

As unit transportation costs can often be lowered if shipment sizes are increased, the availability of reasonably priced, secure, duty-free warehousing in Mexico is important. At such facilities, merchandise shipped in quantity can be stored for short periods of time before distribution in Mexico. In addition, exporters can use warehouse stocks to shorten order response times. This is especially important when shipments are being caught up in congested border crossing. Appendix D lists several warehouse companies in Mexico which should be able to provide Canadian exporters with the facilities and services best suiting their business requirements. The Commercial Division of the Canadian