

Some agricultural chemicals, including DDT, are restricted and may be purchased only with written authorization from a government technician who will supervise their application. A number of other agricultural chemicals are prohibited altogether by a decree published in the *Diario Oficial*, National Gazette, of January 3, 1991.

## PROHIBITED CHEMICALS

Acid 2-,4-,5-T	Aldrin	BHC
Cianofos	Cloranil	DBCP
Dialifor	Dieldrin	Dinitroamina
Dinoseb	Endrin	EPN
Erbon	Formotion	Fumisel
Kepone/Clorecone	Mirex	Monuron
Nitrofen	Schradan	Sodium fluoracetate
Toxafeno	Triamifos	

Source: United States Department of Commerce.

## INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

The production of chemicals, especially specialty chemicals, often involves the use of proprietary technology. Canadian companies operating in Mexico, especially those involved in joint ventures, need to protect their trade secrets and patents. Mexico's *Ley de Fomento y Protección de la Propiedad Industrial*, Law for the Promotion and Protection of Industrial Property and the *Ley Federal de Derechos del Autor*, the Mexican Copyright Law, provide protection in this area. Amendments in 1993 brought the law into line with the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Moreover, NAFTA's chapter on intellectual property makes specific enforcement provisions. The amendments also removed provisions which allowed government regulation of technology transfer agreements. Trade secrets are now explicitly protected and the law provides both civil and criminal sanctions.

Patents are protected for 20 years and trademarks for renewable 10-year periods. In 1991, pharmaceuticals, fertilizers and pesticides, which were not previously protected, became patentable. To be legally binding, licences or assignment of patent or trademark rights must be registered with *Secretaría de Comercio y Fomento Industrial (Secofi)*, Secretariat of Commerce and Industrial Development.