

Product Labelling

PACKAGING

Minimum Requirements for Spanish Labels

- ↻ name of product or good
- ↻ name and address of importer
- ↻ country of origin
- ↻ net contents (e.g. NOM 030-SCFI-1993)
- ↻ warnings or precautions
- ↻ instructions for use, handling, preservation




 Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
 Ministère des Affaires étrangères et du Commerce international

17 of 25
 Shipping

Any product being exported to Mexico must have labels designed for the Mexican market. This means translating existing labels and ensuring they meet Mexican regulations. The labelling regulations have been in a state of disarray since early 1994, and exporters are advised to verify the specific requirements for their products in consultation with their customers.

In part, product labelling in Mexico is governed by the *Ley de Protección al Consumidor*, Consumer Protection Act. Article 34 of that law required that all information contained on a product or its labels, containers and packages must be in Spanish. The same requirement applied to product advertisements. Nonetheless, the labelling decree of June 19, 1987 allowed “pre-packaged” goods to enter Mexico with foreign labels, as long as minimum Spanish labelling was added by affixing stickers. Pre-packaged goods have been defined as those that are packaged without the consumer present.

In addition to these generic requirements, many products have long been subject to specific standards, known as *Normas Oficiales Mexicanas (NOMs)*. Compliance with the *NOM* certification and labelling requirements has, until recently, been the responsibility of the importer. Clothing and textiles, leather products, electrical appliances, medical equipment and supplies, foods and beverages, and pesticides are among the products subject to these specific labelling requirements.

In the past, Canadian exporters of most consumer products were able to satisfy both the generic requirements and those specified in *NOMs* by arranging to have Spanish stickers applied to the original English/French labels by the Mexican importer or agent after importation and prior to resale.