

valid for one year, renewable annually for an additional four years. An application for an FM-3 must be accompanied by the following documents:

- a letter in Spanish addressed to the immigration authority (It must contain the applicant's full name and address, request an FM-3 visa and refer to attached documentation.);
- a passport;
- a certification from your local police force stating that you do not have a criminal record;
- a medical certificate stating that you are free of communicable diseases;
- up to eight photographs;
- cash or money order for the application fee;
- copies of any divorce decrees;
- a certified copy of your marriage licence, if applicable; and
- a copy of a valid tourist card, if the application is made in Mexico.

The applicant must also provide details of his or her employment

relationship or other source of income in Canada and Mexico. If the circumstances of the employment change, the FM-3 permit is no longer valid and a new one must be obtained. The requirements vary by category and are described below.

If applying in Canada, four copies of each document must be sent to a Mexican consulate. The original passport will be returned along with the visa, which is a small booklet. An immigration office in Mexico must validate the visa within 45 days of arrival. If applying in Mexico, the procedures are slightly different, and details can be obtained from an immigration office.

The FM-3 can be renewed annually four times at an immigration office in Mexico. After five years, a new FM-3 can be obtained, but some long-term visitors elect to upgrade to an FM-2 visa at that time. This is discussed in the section, *Living in Mexico*.

Specified Professionals

All persons in the professional categories specified in Appendix 1603.D of the NAFTA are exempt from the normal job-validation process. In this case, you must