New certificates must be obtained for each lot. They must demonstrate that the product has been approved for human consumption and complies with all health regulations. Products must originate from establishments registered with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada; the Department also issues sanitary certificates; they do not normally have to be notarized.

SECRETARIAT OF HEALTH'S SANITARY IMPORT AUTHORIZATION

The *Secretaría de Salud (SS)*, Secretariat of Health regulations encompass a variety of processed foods and beverages, chemicals, pesticides, fertilizers and personal or health-care products, including cosmetics. Most processed foods no longer require prior authorization.

Under the *Ley General de Salud*, General Health Law, every food importer must register with the *Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería y Desarrollo Rural (SAGAR)*, Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock and Rural Development, and provide notice of all food products that will be imported. Regardless of the product involved, the importer is also responsible for obtaining authorization for products that require a prior sanitary import authorization.

If such registration is necessary, an application form called a *Solicitud de Autorización Sanitaria Previa de Importación*, sanitary certificate, must be submitted to *SAGAR* by the importer, along with the following documentation:

- a sanitary certificate; if one cannot be obtained, a certificate of origin, certificate of free sale, or a report of physiochemical and microbiology analysis must be used; some products also require an analysis of metal and peroxide content, vibro cholerae or radioactive contamination;

- the original product labels must be in Spanish both for individual packages and for bulk containers; and

- an invoice or pro-forma invoice.

The authorizations are valid for three months, and they may cover as many shipments as the importer requests for a given three-month period. The original of the authorization is given to the Mexican customs broker to be presented when the goods cross the border.