

Urban demographics have created many enclosed residential areas. Entrances to residential compounds are typically controlled by private guard services that are connected to the central police. Equipment to support such systems is in demand.

PROTECTION AGAINST THEFT OF VEHICLES AND CONTENTS

The most popular products for vehicle protection are car alarms, steering-wheel locking devices, and digital door locks. Such devices are proving inadequate, especially because of the rise in vehicle hijackings. Frequently, wealthy occupants of vehicles are kidnapped for ransom. The thieves are usually heavily armed and often belong to organized crime groups. This trend has created a demand for tracking devices, smoke-emitting devices, delayed-response alarms, tempered glass and armoured vehicles.

PROTECTION AGAINST PERSONAL ASSAULT

Mexican law does not allow citizens to carry a firearm without a permit and so there is a demand for legal self-defence weapons. The law concerning the use of weapons by civilians has many vague points and it will be liberalized under the government's new public security program. The main criterion is whether a weapon causes permanent effects. On these grounds Mace® and tear-gas related products are not permitted. Pepper spray, on the other hand, is regarded as a natural product causing no permanent damage, and is permitted. Electric-shock guns may or may not cause secondary effects and there are no specific laws regulating their use in Mexico. Traditionally, the marketing of these types of products has been targeted at middle-class women.

PROTECTION AGAINST SHOPLIFTING

As the consumer market has become more sophisticated in Mexico, retail businesses have implemented more elaborate anti-shoplifting measures. Besides the standard guard services, false mirrors and closed-circuit television systems, stores are increasing their use of magnetic, electromagnetic, and radio-frequency sensors on merchandise.

PROTECTION AGAINST INDUSTRIAL THEFT

Industrial theft is most often perpetrated by employees. This is an area of increasing sensitivity, and large potential demand. The most popular products are closed-circuit television systems, metal detectors and electronically-controlled doors, but there are major opportunities for other cost-effective solutions.