

Valuation letters may also be necessary for used machinery, equipment or cars. These letters have to be legalized abroad and endorsed by a Mexican Consul. Import licence applications usually require between one and two months to process and are valid for nine months. It is advisable to avoid shipping until receiving confirmation that the licence will be issued.

Special labelling requirements apply to silver and nickel plated goods, wearing apparel, leather goods, packaged foodstuffs, beverages, pharmaceuticals, fertilizers, prepared feeds, and insecticides. For these products, consult with the customs broker, representatives of the Mexican Trade Commission in Canada, or the Mexican government agency regulating imports in the relevant sector.

CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN

A Certificate of Origin is not currently a required document when shipping a product by sea, land, air or rail to Mexico. However, a certificate may, from time to time, be requested by an importer or bank. When requested, a generalized form may be used and should be signed by a responsible member of the exporting company and should be certified by a chamber of commerce. Note that the chamber will likely require an additional notarized file copy. The number of copies required will vary with the importer or the customs broker.

To acquire the necessary documents please contact:

- External Affairs and International Trade Canada (EAITC)
- Industry and Science Canada (ISC)
- Canadian Exporters' Association
- Canadian Chamber of Commerce
- Trade Offices of the Embassy of Mexico and Mexican Consulates

See Section 6 for addresses and contact numbers.

CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATION UNDER NAFTA

INTRODUCTION

If NAFTA is ratified, several provisions dealing with customs administration will come into effect. Chapter Five of NAFTA is devoted exclusively to customs procedures.

From their experience with the first four years of the Canada-United States Free Trade Agreement (FTA), the Canadian and U.S. governments have learned the importance of describing customs administration and procedures precisely. This detail makes it easier for officials to interpret, administer and enforce the rules of origin and deal with other customs matters.

