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- Focus on Mexico
- InfoMex White Paper, Sec 3
- Customs Guide to the Americas

Once the goods are in a bonded warehouse, they are immune to any subsequent limitations on imports or changes in customs regulations. The value of the merchandise, for the purpose of assessing import duties, is frozen when the merchandise enters the warehouse. Any subsequent devaluation of the Mexican currency does not increase the dutiable value in pesos. This provision is especially important, considering that the Mexican inflation rate remains relatively high by Canadian standards.

Shipments to a bonded warehouse must be accompanied by a letter from the warehousing company certifying that space is available. This letter must be presented to customs officials when the shipment enters Mexico.

Transportation and storage facilities in the food distribution system are generally adequate for handling dry and canned products, but inadequate for chilled or frozen foods. A lack of refrigeration and frozen storage equipment is evident at the border, importer, retailer and food service levels. It's vital that frozen and chilled food exporters verify that adequate storage facilities are available at all points before shipping products.

CUSTOMS BROKERS & FREIGHT FORWARDERS

FREIGHT FORWARDERS

Freight forwarders are independent companies that handle export shipments for a fee. They provide advisory, administrative and physical services to facilitate exports. Freight forwarders can arrange shipments for Canadian exporters using any mode of transportation. They offer a complete service package that can be especially valuable to the first-time exporter; are an excellent source of information on regulations, documentation and shipping methods; and can save the exporter money on transportation rates because of economies of scale.

First time exporters may find the complete service package offered by a reputable freight forwarder especially worthwhile. The services typically include the following:

- Providing or arranging shipment handling, including packing and crating, marking, inspection and storage;
- Preparing documents for shipping and customs, as well as translating, certifying and transmitting documents, and obtaining permits, licences and certificates;
- Providing financial assistance such as negotiating letters of credit (L/Cs), arranging collections, placing insurance and filing insurance claims;
- Prepaying and collecting freight charges;
- Providing advice about foreign requirements, transportation, government regulations, customs procedures, and project management; and
- Assisting with transportation arrangements, including selecting routes and carriers, negotiating rates, booking transportation space, securing charters, consolidating shipments, arranging local delivery, tracing shipments and leasing equipment.

WANT MORE INFO?

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For more information on freight forwarders and shippers in Canada, Contact the:

- Canadian International Freight Forwarders Association Inc. (CIFFA)