

Special certificates fall into three main categories:

1. *Normas Oficiales Mexicanas (NOMs)*, official standards, for such products as textiles, leather, electrical appliances, building materials and chemicals. They are administered by the *Secretaría de Comercio y Fomento Industrial (SECOFI)*, Secretariat of Commerce and Industrial Development. Goods subject to *NOMs* must be accompanied by a certificate of compliance in order to enter Mexico.
2. Health regulations that are administered by the *Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería y Desarrollo Rural (SAGAR)*, Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock and Rural Development. The products covered include unprocessed agricultural and animal products. These regulations include a general requirement for phytosanitary and animal health certificates, as well as special regulations requiring a prior “sanitary authorization” for specific shipments of certain products.
3. Health regulations that are administered by the *Secretaría de Salud (SS)*, Secretariat of Health. These affect all fish and fish products, as well as many processed foods and materials used to produce food, such as fertilizers and pesticides. They also cover medicines, health and personal care products. Specified products must be approved for import before they can enter the country and must be accompanied by a sanitary authorization.

### Certificate of Compliance

Many products sold in Mexico have long been subject to specific quality standards, known as *Normas Oficiales Mexicanas (NOMs)*, official standards. These deal with a variety of product-specific technical issues, and some of them also include special product-labelling requirements. In most cases, certificates of compliance are required to demonstrate that the product satisfies the standard. Clothing and textiles, leather products, electrical appliances, medical equipment and supplies, food and beverages, and chemicals are among the product categories that may be subject to these specific requirements.

Until recently, compliance with the *NOM* certification requirements was the responsibility of the importer. In March 1994, the Government of Mexico published an Executive Decree, which stated that *NOM* certification, as well as general labelling requirements, will be enforced at the border. This means that compliance with the *NOMs* has effectively become the responsibility of the Canadian exporter.