



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Mexico enters to the Wassenaar Arrangement on dual-use goods

New Scheme of Certified Companies (NEEC) for foreign trade in Mexico

Single Window for foreign trade in Mexico

MEXICO

Trade Balance

Financial and Economic Indicators

BUSINESS

Mexico Official Journal

EU Official Journal



Mexico enters to the Wassenaar Arrangement on dual-use goods

Mexico was admitted as a full member to the Wassenaar Arrangement on Export Controls for Conventional Arms and Dual-Use Goods and Technologies (WA) as a result of a consensus decision taken last December by the 40 member countries of the Arrangement.

The favorable decision on the Mexican membership is based on its firm and traditional commitment with disarmament and non-proliferation, as well as on the positive evaluation of the operation and effectiveness of the national export control system that the Government of Mexico has put in place in conformity with the Arrangement guidelines.

At a national level, Mexico has implemented the highest international safety standards for the control of exports, which are reflected in the *“Agreement in which the export of conventional weapons, their parts and components, dual-use goods, software and technologies that could be diverted for the manufacture and proliferation of conventional arms and weapons of mass destruction are subject to a prior permission from the Ministry of Economy”*, published in the Mexican Official Journal on June 16, 2011.

As a member of the WA, Mexico will have access to new markets and cutting-edge technology, which will improve its competitiveness and attract investment in strategic and high-technology sectors.

Mexico believes that export control regimes for dual-use materials and technologies complement actions adopted in multilateral fora on disarmament and -proliferation, as the application of controls prevent the diversion of sensitive equipment and materials. In other words, both approaches are mutually reinforcing towards international peace and security.

For this reason, during 2012 Mexico will continue with the admission process to the Australia Group (chemical weapons) and to the Nuclear Suppliers Group (nuclear products and technologies for peaceful purposes).

For further information, please visit : <http://www.wassenaar.org/>

New Scheme of Certified Companies (NEEC) for foreign trade in Mexico

Mexico has launched the New Scheme of Certified Companies (NEEC) as part of its commitment to create tools for facilitating international trade and economic growth.

NEEC is a program in line with the World Customs Organization (WCO) guidelines, established in the Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade (SAFE).

NEEC will strengthen the supply chain security of international trade by introducing, in coordination with the private sector, internationally recognized standards on security matters.

Thanks to NEEC the crossing-boarder of merchandises will be more efficient and expedite, protecting shipments efficiently and speeding up export (from Mexico) and imports operations (in third countries), increasing the level of competitiveness of the participant companies.

Enterprises wishing to be part of this scheme will be required to comply with certain fiscal, customs and security provisions. In return, these companies will obtain important benefits such as: exclusive lanes, expedited customs clearance, simplified administrative procedures, extraordinary services, and inspection with high technology equipment, among other.

It is expected that around 2,000 entities will be certified this year. NEEC is a scheme focused on exports, and in a first stage, is directed to manufacturing and trading companies.

To be considering as certified company, certain minimum standards has to be complied, for example:

1. Supply chain security planning: The company must elaborate documented procedures and policies for carrying out a risk analysis of its supply chain.
2. Physical security mechanisms in the facility: The company must consider mechanisms addressing to deter, avoid or identify the entrance of non-authorized personnel to the facility.

3. Access control to the factory: The company must apply procedures or mechanisms to entrance control of employees and visitors and company's inventory protection.

4. Commercial partners and suppliers: The company must establish written and verifiable procedures for selecting or contracting either commercial partner or suppliers, demanding of compliance of certain security measures.

5. Procedural security mechanism: The company must establish control measures to guarantee the security of merchandises during its transport, management, customs clearance, and cargo storage throughout the supply chain.

6. Customs management: The company must develop documented procedures establishing internal and operative policies.

7. Transport vehicles and containers security: The company must maintain the security on the transports vehicles protecting them from the access of non-authorized personnel or materials.

8. Personnel security: The company must establish documented procedures for record keeping and evaluation of people wishing to work for the company and establish methods allowing periodical verifications of employees.

9. Information and documentation security: The company must establish preventive measures for keeping information and generated documents under confidentiality and integrity.

10. Security training: It must exist a program established and maintained by the security personnel aimed to identify terrorist threats and smugglers throughout the whole supply chain.

For further information, please visit :

http://www.aduanas.gob.mx/aduana_mexico/2008/tramites/140_21436.html

Mexico's Total Trade in November (billion US\$)			
	2010	2011	%
Total	56.4	62.3	10.4
Exports	28.2	31.0	10.1
Exports (excluding oil)	24.0	26.0	8.3
Imports	28.3	31.2	10.6

Source: Banco de México

Mexico's Trade with EU and EFTA (million US\$)			
January - November	2010	2011	%
Exports to the EU	12,817.1	17,618.0	37.5
Imports from the EU	29,538.6	34,782.1	17.8
Exports to the EFTA	836.7	1,195.5	42.9
Imports from the EFTA	1,582.1	1,583.6	0.1

Source: Banco de México

Single Window for foreign trade in Mexico

On January 16th, the President of Mexico, Felipe Calderon Hinojosa, launched the operations of the Single Window (Ventanilla Unica), which main objective is to facilitate and simplify information flows between government agencies and all participants involved in cross-border trade.

The Single Window is a tool that allows economic operators to send electronic information, only once to a single entity, to comply with all requirements of foreign trade. This is possible through the standardization and automation of business processes including the simplification of 40 documents, 165 proceedings and 200 different data elements.

It will benefit approximately 30 stakeholders including government offices, exporters, importers, carriers and customs officers.

Through this project the time invested in paperwork proceedings is reduced by more than 90% and the time for the customs clearance diminishes in more than 11%, with which the transport sector can increase its operations in 50%, and the merchandise dispatch process is more efficient.

The Mexican Minister of the Economy, Bruno Ferrari, highlighted that the launching of the Single Window strengthens the combat and defense of unfair commercial practices, and a bigger competitiveness is impelled for the companies, especially SMEs, facilitating its access to cheaper inputs with better quality that help its exports.

All these actions will contribute to the good performance that Mexico has had in this matter, as it is shown in the World Bank's evaluations. Since 2007 Mexico has improved 27 positions in the Trading Across Borders sub-index of the World Bank's *Doing Business Report*.

In this way, Mexico seeks to impact in the competitiveness of the economy through faster, easier and more secure foreign trade processes.

The operation of the Single Window involves four steps:

1. The applicant access to www.ventanillaunica.gob.mx using its electronic signature and registers online the digital information relating to the import, export and transit of goods.
2. The digital information is sent to the relevant government offices for approval and authorization.
3. Taxes are calculated and deducted automatically from the applicant's bank account.
4. The transport company presents a simplified customs declaration and then the customs inspector consults the information via a handheld device and releases the goods.

Additionally, the foreign trade operators should comply certain technological specifications to use the Single Window.

For further information, please visit:

<https://www.ventanillaunica.gob.mx/envucem/index.htm>



The President of Mexico, Felipe Calderón Hinojosa, accompanied by the Minister of the Economy of Mexico, Bruno Ferrari, executing the first custom clearance using the Foreign Trade Digital Window.

Mexico's Economic Indicators

Inflation rate: 0.82% (January, 2011);
3.82 % (2011, annual)
Industrial Production: 3.2% (November 2011 / November 2010)
Manufacturing: 3.8%; **Construction:** 4.4%, **Mining:** -0.4%
Global Index of Economic Activity: 3.75% (Nov. 2011 / Nov. 2010)
Consumer Confidence Index: 90.8 pts. (January 2011)
-0.4 percentage points (January 2011 / January 2010)
Open unemployment rate: 4.51 % (January 2011) *Source: INEGI*

Mexico's Financial Indicators

Foreign exchange rate: 13.17 peso/dollar (January 24, 2011)
International reserves: \$145,175 million dollars (January 20, 2011)
Mexican stock market index (IPC): 36,853 (January 24, 2011)
Interest rate treasury bonds CETES 28 days:
4.24% (January 26, 2011)

Source: Banco de Mexico

Mexico's Official Gazette Notices

- **06/12/2011** Third resolution amending the General Rules for Foreign Trade for 2011 and its annexes 1 and 22.
- **13/12/2011** Agreement modifying the Agreement establishing export licenses issued by the Ministry of the Economy, for conventional weapons, their components and parts thereof, dual-use goods, software and technologies liable for using in the elaboration and proliferation of conventional weapons and weapons of mass destruction.
- **15/12/2011** Fourth resolution amending the General Rules for Foreign Trade for 2011.
- **15/12/2011** Decree amending, adding and abolishing certain provisions of the Foreign Investment Law, General Commercial Association Law, Federal Public Administration Law, Federal Fees Law, Federal Administrative Procedures Law and the Federal Law for the Promotion of the Micro-industry and Handcraft Activity.
- **26/12/2011** Decree amending the Mexican Tariff Schedule and the Decree establishing Sectoral Promotion Programs.
- **26/12/2011** Decree enacting the Agreement between Mexico and Hungary for the avoidance of double taxation and prevent of fiscal evasion in terms of income taxes, done in Mexico City on June 24, 2011.
- **30/12/2011** Agreement that publicizes the tariff rate quota to import for 2012 duty-free powdered milk originating from the WTO.
- **30/12/2011** Agreements that publicizes the established in quota tariff rate to import for 2012 dairy products containing over 50% weight of milk solids, other than products covered by the Mexican tariff item 1901.90.04.

EU Official Journal

- **7/12/2011 L324** Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1267/2011 of 6 December 2011 amending Regulation (EC) No 1235/2008 laying down detailed rules for implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 as regards the arrangements for imports of organic products from third countries
- **7/12/2011 L324** Council Decision of 30 November 2011 establishing the position to be taken by the European Union within the General Council of the World Trade Organization as regards requests for granting and/or extending certain WTO waivers
- **9/12/2011 L327** Council Decision of 8 November 2011 on the conclusion of the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and the Kingdom of Norway concerning additional trade preferences in agricultural products reached on the basis of Article 19 of the Agreement on the European Economic Area
- **10/12/2011 L328** Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1287/2011 of 9 December 2011 repealing Regulation (EC) No 2014/2005 on licences under the arrangements for importing bananas into the Community in respect of bananas released into free circulation at the common customs tariff rate of duty

Mexico-EU Trade Links is a monthly informational newsletter published by the Mexican Mission to the EU, Representative office of the Ministry of the Economy. Av. Franklin Roosevelt 94, 1050, Brussels, Belgium.

For more detailed information or questions regarding this issue please contact us: e-mail info@economia-bruselas.be, fax: 32 (02) 644 04 45, or visit our website at: <http://www.economia-bruselas.gob.mx>