



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

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## Mexico

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards

### Mexico to Overhaul Import Requirement Procedures for Animals and Animal Products

2004

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**Report Highlights:**

Mexico's Secretariat of Agriculture is moving ahead with plans to convert its Hojas de Requisitos (Import Requirements Sheets) for animals and animal products to formal regulations. The transition is expected to take place in early May. Officials at the Secretariat of Agriculture indicate that they are considering mechanisms to help smooth the transition and minimize confusion. Exporters and importers should be alert to changes in import requirements over the next few weeks.

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Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
Mexico [MX1]  
[MX]

Officials at the Secretariat of Agriculture (SAGARPA) have indicated that they are moving ahead with plans to convert all of the current Hojas de Requisitos (HRZs or Import Requirements Sheets) to federal regulations. The proposed change was initially announced on May 16, 2003, in the Federal Diary and is based on a recommendation from the Federal Commission for Regulatory Improvement to eliminate SAGARPA's internal procedure "SENASICA-01-11" which establishes procedures for issuing HRZs. The change will also bring SAGARPA into compliance with Article 28 of the Animal Health Law, which does not provide for the use of HRZs.

SAGARPA currently publishes hundreds of HRZs for specific products and specific countries. These requirements are often modified in response to changing animal health conditions in foreign countries and Mexican domestic laws and regulations. While HRZs are valid for a period of 60 days, requirements may change several times over a two-month period, requiring importers to purchase a new HRZ with each change in import requirements. The Regulatory Commission's intent is for SAGARPA to simplify and streamline the import process.

The conversion could take place as early as May 1, 2004. SAGARPA is now working on an approach to fold the hundreds of HRZs that have been issued for specific products and countries into a single regulation. It appears that future policy changes to import requirements will follow the longer more formal procedure of modifying a regulation. However, officials have indicated that technical changes could be made through a more timely temporary mechanism that would allow for swifter modifications. Officials at SAGARPA have indicated that they will likely provide for some type of transition mechanism that would extend the validity of current HRZs for a period of time beyond the date of the conversion. Importers and exporters should be alert to shifting import requirements in the coming weeks. The Office of Agricultural Affairs will continue to monitor this situation.