



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

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## Mexico

### Solid Wood Products

## Mexican Regulation on Imported Christmas Trees is amended

2004

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**Report Highlights:**

On June 21, 2004 the Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) published in the *Diario Oficial* (Federal Register) a draft to amend the official phytosanitary standard regulating the importation of cut natural Christmas trees (NOM-013-SEMARNAT-1997). The amendment incorporates all species of the genus *Pinus* and also regulates potted Christmas trees, outline new sampling and implementation procedures, and broaden the list of quarantined counties. The amendment includes the modification of the standard name to NOM-013-SEMARNAT-2004. A 60-calendar day comment period began on June 21, 2004.

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

**Introduction:** This report summarizes an official announcement published in Mexico's "Diario Oficial" (Federal Register) on June 21, 2004.

**Disclaimer:** This summary is based on a  *cursory* review of the subject announcement and therefore should not, under any circumstances, be viewed as a definitive reading of the regulation in question, or of its implications for U.S. agricultural export trade interests. In the event of a discrepancy or discrepancies between this summary and the complete regulation or announcement as published in Spanish, the latter shall prevail.

**Executive Summary:** On June 21, 2004, the Mexican Secretariat of the Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) published in the  *Diario Oficial* (Mexico's "Federal Register") a draft to amend NOM-013-SEMARNAT-1997, an official phytosanitary standard regulating the importation of cut natural Christmas trees of the species  *Pinus syvestris*,  *Pseudotsuga menziesii* and of the gender  *Abies*. The amendment includes the modification of the standard name to NOM-013-SEMARNAT-2004. In addition to the aforementioned species and genus being regulated under NOM-013-SEMARNAT-1997, NOM-013-SEMARNAT-2004 will also regulate potted Christmas trees and all species of the genus  *Pinus*, outline new sampling and implementation procedures, and broaden the list of quarantined counties.

There is a 60-calendar day comment period for this regulation, which started on June 21, 2004 and will end on August 19, 2004. This regulation applies to all parties who import this product for commercial or non-commercial purposes.

**Title:** Proposal of Modification to the Mexican Standard NOM-013-SEMARNAT-1997, which regulates the sanitary importation of cut natural Christmas of the species  *Pinus syvestris*,  *Pseudotsuga menziesii* and of the genus  *Abies*, into the new NOM-013-SEMARNAT-2004, which will regulate the importation of natural and potted Christmas trees of all of the species of the genera  *Pinus* and  *Abies* as well as the species  *Pseudotsuga menziesii*.

**Type of Rule:** Proposed

**Products Affected:** Natural cut and potted Christmas trees of all the species of the genera  *Pinus* and  *Abies* and the species  *Pseudotsuga menziesii*.

**Important Dates:**

**Comment period:** 60 days after publication date

**1. Publication Date:** June 21, 2004

**2. Effective Date:** August 19, 2004

**Comments in Spanish should be sent to:**

The National Consultative Committee of Normalization of the Environment and Natural Resources at:

Ave. Periferico Sur #4209 Floor 5  
Colonia Jardines en la Montaña  
Tlalpan  
Mexico D.F., 14210

Or to the following e-mail:

[navidad.consulta@semarnat.gob.mx](mailto:navidad.consulta@semarnat.gob.mx)

**Important features of the regulation:**

Main changes in reference to the previous version;

This Mexican official rule is being amended to incorporate new sampling and implementation procedures for the pest *Cylindrocopturus furnissi* and the pathogen *Phytophthora ramorum*. This pathogen was not included in the previous rule. SEMARNAT officials stated they are now including it because its presence has been detected in Oregon, which is one of the U.S. states that exports Christmas trees to Mexico. Similarly, the sampling and implementation procedures were not included in the previous official rule.

This amendment will also broaden the scope of the rule to include all species of the genus *Pinus* as well as potted natural Christmas trees and will help to reduce the risk of the introduction of regulated quarantine pests. The previous rule applied just to Christmas trees of the *Pinus sylvestris* but not to potted natural Christmas trees nor to all species of the genus *Pinus*.

The rule takes the following facts into consideration:

- (a) The fresh foliage of Christmas trees of the above-mentioned species means that, with their importation, there is a high risk of quarantine pests and diseases being introduced into the national territory of Mexico.
- (b) The pests *Lymantria dispar* and *Tomicus piniperda* exist in the United States of America and Canada.
- (c) An annual average of approximately 800,000 natural Christmas trees of the species of the genera *Pinus* and *Abies* and the species *Pseudotsuga menziesii* are imported into Mexico.

SEMARNAT officials indicated that the objective of amending the standard is to change the wording so as to facilitate its implementation. In addition, the list of counties quarantined has been modified due to the prevalence of some pests (see Appendix 1 and 2) in some U.S. states. For example, eighteen additional counties of Virginia are now included on the list of quarantined counties due to the presence of gypsy moth (*Lymantria dispar*).

**For More Information:**

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Mexico's equivalent of the Department of Agriculture (SAGARPA) can be found at [www.sagarpa.gob.mx](http://www.sagarpa.gob.mx) and Mexico's equivalent of the Department of Commerce (SE) can be found at [www.economia.gob.mx](http://www.economia.gob.mx). These web sites are mentioned for the readers' convenience but USDA does NOT in any way endorse, guarantee the accuracy of, or necessarily concur with the information contained on the mentioned sites.