Mexico

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards - Certification

FAIRS Export Certificate Report

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Report Highlights:
This report provides the latest information on export certificates issued by US government agencies, to comply with Mexican import standards and regulations or to attest that the corresponding agricultural and food products are subject to U.S. regulation. Minor modifications and comments have been added in section II to reflect updates from the Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) and Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS). At the time of this report, USDA and the Mexican Secretariat of Agriculture maintain working groups to achieve full implementation of electronic certificates.
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
This document was prepared by the Agricultural Trade Office of the Foreign Agricultural Service in Monterrey, Mexico. The purpose of this document is to provide U.S. exporters with updated information on current certificates issued by government agencies of the United States, required by Mexican authorities, in order to export agricultural products and food into Mexico. Despite the fact that no significant changes to certificate requirements have been made since Post’s 2015 FAIRS Certificate report, section II was updated to reflect Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) and Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) comments regarding egg products certification.

DISCLAIMER-While every possible measure was taken in the elaboration of this report, policies may have changed since this report was finalized. Clear and consistent information about these policies may not have been available at the time of report preparation. Therefore, it is highly recommended that U.S. exporters verify the full set of import requirements with their customers in Mexico, who are normally best equipped to research such matters with local authorities, before any goods are shipped. FINAL IMPORT APPROVAL OF ANY PRODUCT IS SUBJECT TO THE IMPORTING COUNTRY’S RULES AND REGULATIONS AS INTERPRETED BY MEXICAN OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF PRODUCT ENTRY.

Section I. List of All Export Certificates Required By Government (Matrix)
### Product Title of Certificate Purpose Requesting Ministry

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>All products</th>
<th>NAFTA Certificate of Origin Product Origin/Preferential Tariff Treatment</th>
<th>Secretariat of the Treasury and Public Credit (SHCP)/Aduanas (Customs)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Animal Casings</td>
<td>FSIS Animal Casings Export Certificate</td>
<td>Health Certificate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egg Products regulated by FSIS (liquid, frozen, or dried eggs, with or without added ingredients)</td>
<td>FSIS Egg Products Export Certificate of Wholesomeness and Related Letterhead Certificate</td>
<td>Animal Health/Food Safety/Free Sale Certificate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animal Products for Human Consumption (e.g., Dairy, Gelatin, Food Preparations Containing Less than 2 percent meat ingredients)</td>
<td>Export Certificate for Animal Products</td>
<td>Health Certificate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animal Feed/Foods and Animal-origin items for manufacturing (e.g., animal fats; feed additives; balanced pet foods, etc. containing animal inputs)</td>
<td>APHIS Export Certificate for Animal Products (Animal Feeds, Foods, and Products for Industrial Use)</td>
<td>Health Certificate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table Eggs, Pasteurized Eggs, and Eggs for Industrial Use</td>
<td>AMS Shell Egg Certificate and Disease Free Statement</td>
<td>Grading and Health Certificate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live Animals and Germplasm (e.g., Breeding Cattle; Horses for Slaughter; Swine, Sheep, and Goat Semen)</td>
<td>APHIS International Health Certificate</td>
<td>Health Certificate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wood products and processed wood products</td>
<td>APHIS Phytosanitary Certificate- Plant Protection and Quarantine</td>
<td>Health Certificate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plant and plant products – fruits and vegetables</td>
<td>APHIS Phytosanitary Certificate- Plant Protection and Quarantine</td>
<td>Health Certificate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seeds for Planting</td>
<td>APHIS Phytosanitary Certificate- Plant Protection and Quarantine</td>
<td>Health Certificate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egg and Egg Food Products</td>
<td>Food Preparations as it pertains to Egg Products (AMS)</td>
<td>Sanitation Certificate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grocery Food Items, Frozen-Foods</td>
<td>Certificate of Free Sale</td>
<td>Health certificate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Processed products</td>
<td>Certificate of Health or Sanitation and/or Certificate of Free Sale. Note: For some products a quality control certificate issued by the manufacturer is accepted</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Section II. Purpose of Specific Export Certificate(s)**
This is a trilaterally agreed upon form used by Canada, the United States, and Mexico to certify that goods qualify for the preferential tariff treatment accorded by NAFTA. The Certificate of Origin must be completed by the exporter and is required by the Mexican Treasury Secretariat’s Customs offices. This document certifies that the listed products originated in the territory of the exporting country and comply with the origin requirements specified for those goods. A sample is available on the U.S. government export portal: http://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/aes/exporttraining/videos/nafta_cert_of_origin.pdf

Meat and Poultry Export Certificate of Wholesomeness
The Meat and Poultry Export Certificate of Wholesomeness, FSIS Form 9060-5, is issued by the Field Operations Staff of the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), USDA. This document certifies that the meat products included in the shipment are from animals that received both ante mortem and postmortem inspection and were found sound and healthy. In the case of poultry and poultry products, this document certifies that the birds were officially inspected and are wholesome and fit for human consumption. This document is issued to the exporter and also includes the general data of the consignee. Other data included in the form are the district office, country of destination, folio number, plant number and city, type of facility, total marked net weight, total containers, and products as labeled with their individual market weight, number of packages and plant number. The slaughter date, packing date, and lot number are included in the remarks section of the certificate. The name of the species on the product description line is also required (for example, hot dogs, beef, pork, or turkey). There are various sanitary statements required in the remarks section, as well.

The complete volume of required attestations are listed in the Mexican Import Requirement Sheet or Hoja de Requisitos Zoosanitarios (HRZs) for any given product. The reader should be aware that FSIS is periodically modifying the Letterhead Certificates for certain poultry, beef, pork, sheep and goat and multiple species products and their derivative products (e.g. offals and edible tallows) in order to comply with SENASICA’s Import and Export General Directorate new dispositions. These Letterhead Certificates have been posted on USDA’s FSIS Export Library- Requirements by Country and the Spanish language requirements are posted on SENASICA’s website under the Modulo de Consulta de Requisitos Zoosanitarios para la Importacion (MCRZI).

Animal Casings Export Certificate
The FSIS issued animal casings health certificate certifies that the animal casings were derived from animals that received USDA ante-mortem and post-mortem veterinary inspection at the time of slaughter and that the casings are sound, healthful, wholesome, and otherwise fit for human food as required by the Mexican Zoosanitary Health Requirements sheet (known as HRZ in Spanish) issued by SENASICA. In addition to this form which is known as FSIS Form 9060-7, an FSIS issued Letterhead Certificate for Pork Casings is required to accompany shipments (see Documentation Requirements section D. Pork Products numeral 8). This Letterhead Certificate attests among other things that the United States is a country free of classical swine fever (hog cholera).

Egg Products Export Certificate of Wholesomeness- Food Safety and Inspection Service
The Egg Products Export Certificate FSIS Form 9060-5EP, is issued by the Field Operations Staff of the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), USDA. This document certifies that the egg products
specified on the form have been inspected and passed in accordance with the applicable regulations of the United States Department of Agriculture and are wholesome and fit for human consumption. This document is issued to the exporter and also includes the general data of the consignee. Other data included in the form are the district office, country of destination, folio number, plant number and city, type of facility, total marked net weight, total containers, and products as labeled with their individual market weight, number of packages and plant number. Additional certification statements, as required by the Mexican Zoosanitary Health Requirements sheet (known as HRZ in Spanish) for these products are posted on the FSIS Export Library – Requirements for Exporting Processed Egg Products.

**Export Certificate for Animal Products (Human Consumption and Animal Feed/Food)**

International health certificates for the export of animal products for human consumption as well as for animal feed and certain industrial products containing animal components are issued by USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). These certificates are completed by an accredited veterinarian on VS Form 16-4 and, if necessary, VS Form 16-4A, with the appropriate and required attestations for food safety and animal health. Complete and signed international health certificates must be endorsed by a USDA/APHIS Veterinary Services area office in order to be valid.

For more information on Mexican SENASICA regulations for animal products for human consumption, visit APHIS website for International Animal Product Export Requirements. From that site, interested participants can view the requirements for: Complements, supplements, additives, and flavorings (bovine and porcine gelatin and blood ingredients) for human consumption; Food preparations with less than 2 percent meat ingredients for human consumption; Gelatin and collagen: Hydrolyzed bovine bone-derived gelatins for human consumption; Gelatin and collagen: Hydrolyzed proteins (bovine skin-derived gelatin and collagen) for human consumption; and Milk and dairy: Milk and/or Dairy Products (Bovine Origin) for Human Consumption. In addition, from that site, interested participants can view the requirements for: Animal fats for animal feeding or industrial uses; Animal feeds and food: Balanced animal feeds (not including dogs and cats); Animal feeds and food: Balanced feeds containing porcine and poultry ingredients and intended for aquatic species; Animal feeds and food: Balanced pet foods for dogs and cats; Animal feeds and food: Pet Treats and Similar Products Not Containing Animal Product Ingredients; Animal origin hormones for animal use or manufacturing; Blood and Blood Products for Diagnostics and Research, including Fetal Bovine Serum; Bovine and porcine blood products for animal feeding; Complements, supplements, additives and flavorings (bovine and porcine gelatin and blood ingredients) for human consumption; Feathers; Feed Additives with Aquatic Animal Ingredients for Animal Feeding; Hides and skins: Cervid Hides and Skins for manufacturing; Hides and skins: Limed bovine hides and skins for manufacturing or animal feeding; Hides and skins: Salted Bison/Bovine Hides and Skins for Manufacturing Purposes; Hides and skins: Salted Ostrich Hides and Skins for Manufacturing Purposes; Hides and skins: Salted Porcine Hides and Skins for Manufacturing Purposes; Hides and skins: Salted Rawhide for Manufacturing Purposes; Hides and skins: Salted Sheep and Goat Pelts and Skins; Dairy products for animal feeding; Pig bristles; Porcine pancreatin; Processed Egg Products for Animal Feeding; Rendered Meals; Rendered Meals: Porcine and/or poultry meals also containing fish meals; Swine offal (meat, offal, viscera, and pastes) for pet food manufacturing; and Trophy materials (unfinished).

**Shell Egg Grading Certificate-Agricultural Marketing Service**

Shell eggs (fresh and pasteurized) exported to Mexico must be accompanied with signed affidavit issued
by an accredited veterinarian that the source flocks show no evidence of communicable avian diseases. This can be done on the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) Certificate Disease Free Statement and on the AMS Form PY210S Shell Egg Grading Certificate as required by SENASICA. For information on the required attestations, visit the AMS website for Export Requirements for Mexico.

**Hatching Eggs Protocol and Health Certificate**

For the importation of hatching eggs into Mexico, SENASICA requires a health certificate attesting to the health and origin, including sampling and testing procedures specified in the voluntary National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP). This certificate is issued by APHIS. For more information, visit the APHIS International Animal Export Regulations website and the specific language in the Hatching Eggs Protocol.

**Health Certificates for Live Animals and Germplasm**

Mexican import regulations for live animals and germplasm stipulate that a health certificate must be presented to SAGARPA SENASICA officials at port of entry. APHIS issues international health certificates for the export of animals from the United States. These are completed by an accredited veterinarian who certifies herd and animal health status, conducts tests, and records test results for the individual animals being exported. Complete and signed international health certificates for the export of animals from the United States must be endorsed by a Veterinary Services area office in order to be valid. For more information on U.S.-Mexico live animal protocols and Mexico’s import regulations, please see the International Animal Export Regulations website. From that site, interested participants can view the requirements for: Breeding Cattle – Protocol and Health Certificate; Rodeo Bulls on Temporary Exportation from the United States; Bovine Semen Health Certificate; Bovine Embryos/Oocytes Health Certificate; Horses for temporary entry (sport, exhibition, transit); Horses for permanent entry; Horses returning to Mexico after temporary entry to the United States; Horses (slaughter); Birds Protocol and Health Certificate; Adult Gallinaceous Birds – protocol and health certificate; Wild Birds for Breeding and Exhibition; Sheep and Goats (Slaughter) – Protocol and Health Certificate; Caprine semen; Ovine semen; Swine semen Protocol and Health Certificate; Swine slaughter Protocol and Health Certificate; Swine breeding Protocol and Health Certificate. In addition to the above mentioned Protocols and certificates, there are also certificates for pets (dogs, cats, ferrets, birds, and aquatic species) along with other animals (including zoo animals).


Mexico’s import regulations for seafood products require that exporters present an export certificate attesting to health and origin of the product. This certificate is issued by the U.S. Department of Commerce/NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration). NOAA’s Seafood Inspection Program offers export certification to facilitate trade of seafood products that meet the requirements of the importing country. NOAA certifies that the products presented for inspection are from the United States, comply with U.S. regulations, and are wholesome. At present SAGARPA regulates the import of crustaceans such as lobsters, crabs, crayfish and shrimps. Other seafood products, including processed products, have to comply with import regulations established by COFEPRIS. Importers should consult the HTS to verify specific regulations. For additional information on the NOAA Seafood Inspection Program and NOAA certificates visit the following links: http://www.seafood.nmfs.noaa.gov/Export_Certification.html
http://www.seafood.nmfs.noaa.gov/EU_Certificates.html
For detailed requirements and COFEPRIS import regulations see: http://www.cofepris.gob.mx
Phytosanitary Certificate-Plant Protection and Quarantine-PPQ
Mexican import regulations for plants, seeds for planting and unprocessed plant products stipulate that a health certificate must be presented to SAGARPA SENASICA officials at port of entry. This certificate is available through APHIS. The phytosanitary certificate is issued by the Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) office to the exporter. This document certifies that plants or plant products, including propagation material, seeds for planting, wood and processed wood products, have been inspected and/or tested according to appropriate procedures, and are considered to be free from quarantine pests, and conform to the current phytosanitary requirements of the importing country. For more information, visit the following links:

Egg Food Products Sanitation Certificate
Mexico requires a zoosanitary certificate for food products containing eggs or egg ingredients. For egg products and egg food preparations produced by a facility/plant audited by the Audit Services Branch of AMS, AMS can provide export certification. Points 26-31 in Mexico’s HRZ for Food Preparations for Human Consumption (098-13-241-USA-USA) refer to these products to be covered by AMS certificate. For egg food products produced by a facility that is not inspected by FSIS or audited by AMS, please refer the exporter to AMS for guidance on export certification. Questions about the certification of egg food products exporters should be referred to Mike Lopez, email mike.lopez@ams.usda.gov or telephone 501-766-4782.

Certificate of Free Sale / Certificate of Health or Sanitation for Processed Products
Mexico’s Federal Commission for the Protection against Sanitary Risk (COFEPRIS) import regulations stipulate that the importer (or, Mexican customs broker) must present a certificate of health or sanitation in order to obtain an import permit or a previous import notification from COFEPRIS. This document is issued by several state and federal government agencies and U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) certified laboratories. It assures the authorities of the importing country that the products comply with U.S. requirements and are sold freely in the market of the country of origin. Health certificates must be issued by a U.S. Federal or State government health office. To learn more about product specifications and corresponding Mexican import regulations, exporters should consult the specific Harmonized Tariff System. For more information regarding COFEPRIS import regulations and import permits visit:
http://www.cofepris.gob.mx

Section III. Specific Attestations Required on Export Certificate(s)
Specific attestations required for the export of any food and agricultural products to Mexico from the United States can be referenced by visiting the appropriate certificates as mentioned in the section, above.

Meat and poultry products under FSIS authority can be found at the following USDA/FSIS website:
http://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/international-affairs/exporting-products/export-library-requirements-by-country/Mexico
Egg products under FSIS authority can be found at the following USDA/FSIS website:


Information regarding the export of table eggs that are under an AMS program can be found at the following site:

http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSv1.0/getfile?dDocName=stelprdc5093460

Information regarding the export of hatching eggs can be found at:

Additional information on the regulations and Mexico’s necessary assessments for the export of live animals and APHIS-regulated animal products can be obtained from the following APHIS websites:

Additional information on how to obtain APHIS export certificates for plants and plant products can be obtained in the APHIS Export Program Manual at:

Note: FSIS and APHIS are working with SAGARPA on proposals for future implementation of electronic certificates and thus formats and identification marks may vary from what is currently in use.

**Section IV. Government Certificate’s Legal Entry Requirements**

**Meat and Poultry Export Certificate of Wholesomeness**
The document is not valid unless signed by an inspector of the USDA/FSIS Meat and Poultry Inspection Program, listing the name and the date. An original of the document is required and can be valid for multiple lots if the shipments enter at the same time at the port of entry.

**Egg Product Export Certificate of Wholesomeness**
The document is not valid unless signed by an inspector of the USDA/FSIS Meat and Poultry Inspection Program, listing the name and the date.

**Phytosanitary Certificate-Plant Protection and Quarantine-PPQ**
An original of this document is required by Mexican Customs and can be valid for multiple lots if the shipments enter at the same time at the port of entry.

**APHIS Health Certificate for Animal Products**
In order to be valid, this document must be signed by a USDA/APHIS Veterinary Services official. An original of the document has to accompany each shipment presented for inspection.
Certificate for Poultry or Hatching Eggs for Export
The original certificate must be presented upon arrival to the inspection point at port of entry.

International Health Certificate for Live Animals
An original of this document is required and must be completed and signed by a USDA/APHIS Veterinary DVM. This certificate is valid for multiple lots if the shipments arrive at the same time for inspection at the corresponding livestock export pen on the U.S. side of the border.

Certificate of Free Sale
On July 25, 2007, Mexico’s Secretariat of Agriculture posted revised requirements in the Federal Animal Health Law for certificates of free sale for certain animal feeds, including pet food. Currently, exporters are required to present an original certificate of free sale upon entry of the product. For some products, SAGARPA will accept an original affidavit letter from the manufacturer indicating that the product is freely sold in the United States. For other products, Mexico requires a certificate issued by state health offices. Supplier or manufacturer export declarations are not accepted as proof of compliance.

Section V. Other Certification/Accreditation Requirements
For more information on food standards and regulations, please consult the most recent Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Report for Mexico.
Appendix I. Electronic Copy or Outline of Each Export Certificate

**Meat and Poultry Export Certificate of Wholesomeness, FSIS Form 9060-5**
NAFTA Certificate of Origin
### Egg Products Export Certificate of Wholesomeness

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District Office</th>
<th>Country of Destination</th>
<th>EPA-</th>
<th>Product Exported From</th>
<th>City</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-7</td>
<td>-3</td>
<td>-9</td>
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<tr>
<td>EPA-000006</td>
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</table>

**/sample**

- **District Office**
- **Country of Destination**
- **EPA-**
- **Product Exported From**
- **City**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Consigned To</th>
<th>Name and Address (Including ZIP Code)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**/sample**

**/sample**

- **Consigned To**
- **Name and Address (Including ZIP Code)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOTAL MARKED NET WEIGHT</th>
<th>TOTAL CONTAINERS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Total Marked Net Weight**
- **Total Containers**

**/sample**

- **I CERTIFY**
- **THE INFORMATION CONCERNING THIS CB**
- **THIS CB**
- **I AUTHORIZED TO APPLY CB**

**/sample**

- **I CERTIFY**
- **THE CB**
- **THIS CB**
- **AUTHORIZED TO APPLY CB**

**/sample**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOT NO</th>
<th>NO. OF CASES</th>
<th>NO. OF CASES EXAMINED</th>
<th>NET WT.</th>
<th>PERCENTAGES</th>
<th>U.S. OFFICIAL GRADE AND SIZE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>AA</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DESCRIPTION**

- **EGGS**
- **TYPE OF PACKING**
- **TYPE OF PACKAGING**
- **CASE QUALITY**
- **CHARGE AND Temperature**
- **CASES STAMPED WITH**

- Sample
- Sample
- Sample
- Sample
- Sample
- Sample

**ADDITIONAL CERTIFICATION**

Product represented by this certificate meets specification requirements for:

- Check each applicable box:
  - [ ] Product represented on this certificate meets the requirements for the stated grade and size as determined by online sampling.
  - [ ] Disease Free Certification Statements attached.

**CERTIFICATION STATEMENT**

In compliance with the Regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture Governing the Grading of Shells Eggs, issued pursuant to the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1949, as amended, and any other rules of this agency having like authority, it is certified that the product(s) listed herein were examined and that the cases, quality, quantity, and conditions of the product(s) at the time and on the date shown, were as stated above.

**OFFICIAL ORDER**

Signature: ____________________

Date: ____________________

**NOTES**

1. As stated or applicant or conformance.
2. Eggs marked as underlaid are also marked under other headings according to their quality.
Phytosanitary Certificate - Plant Protection and Quarantine - PPQ
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Certificate Number</th>
<th>SAMPLE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**APRIL 6511 Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards**

**APLIS - Export Certificate for Animal Products**

*Human Consumption and Animal Feed/Food*

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**ADDITIONAL DECLARATIONS**

**SAMPLE**

**SIGNATURE OF GRADING OFFICIAL:**

**SAMPLE**

**DESCRIPTION OF INCENDIARY:**

**ITEMS:**

**PRODUCT (type of product, quantity, unit of measure, and animal product species of origin):**

**CERTIFICATION:**

**CONCURSANCE:**

**79 Ref: 164**

**OMB 2011**
Author Defined:
FAS ATO Monterrey has expert advice for exporters, customs agents, freight forwarders and Mexican importers about correct documentation procedures, and logistics to successfully export to Mexico. ATO Monterrey monitors trade flow along the US-Mexican border and works with the Office of Agricultural Affairs in Mexico City to facilitate trade into Mexico. ATO Monterrey can be reached at: ato.monterrey@fas.usda.gov or eduardo.lozano@usda.gov

Useful Mexican Web Sites: The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) which regulates imports of forestry products including seeds and wood products can be found at: www.semarnat.gob.mx. Mexico’s Agency for Environmental Protection (PROFEPA), which also inspects imported wood products, can be found at www.profepa.gob.mx. Mexico’s Customs Agency (ADUANAS, can be found at: www.aduanas.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.