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## Mexico

### Grain and Feed

# Mexico Publishes Final Rule on Cereal Products and By-Products (NOM-147-SSA1-1996)

**1999**

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#### Report Highlights:

**On December 10, 1999, Mexico's Secretariat of Health (SSA) published the final version of a new regulation affecting food prepared with cereals, edible grains, cereal flours, bread, and other bakery products. It sets maximum tolerances for a wide variety of substances that are added to these products. It will go into force on June 10, 2000, and will apply to domestic as well as imported products.**

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Includes PSD changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
61=Mexico [MX1], MX

**Introduction:** This report summarizes a publication of the final rule Mexico's Secretariat of Health (SSA) published in Mexico's "*Diario Oficial*" (Federal Register) on December 10, 1999.

**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.

**FAS/Mexico's Executive Summary:** SSA published the final rule NOM-147-SSA1-1996 which establishes the nutrition and sanitary specifications on cereal products and sub-products, edible grains, cereals, cereal flour and cereal based edible grains, flours, semola, semolinas or their mixtures and bakery products. It sets maximum limits for food colorings, moisture content, microbiologicals, pH regulators, stabilizers, humecants, scents and flavorings, thickeners, gelling agents, preservatives, yeasts, emulsifiers, dough conditioners and other like substances. Compliance with this regulation is mandatory for all individuals and entities involved in processing or importing these products in Mexico.

**Background:**

SSA published this regulation as a proposal on August 15, 1997, (see MX7097) and accepted comments from the public for 90 days thereafter. On May 18, 1999, SSA published answers to the comments it received.

**Title:** Official Mexican Norm NOM-147-SSA1-1996, Goods and Services. Cereal Products and Sub-products. Cereal Flours, Semolas and Semolinas. Cereal Based Foods of Edible Grains, Flours, Semolas or Semolinas and Their Mixtures. Bakery Products. Sanitary and Nutritional Specifications and Provisions.

**Type of Regulation:** Final

**Important Dates:**

- 1. Publication Date:** December 10, 1999
- 2. Effective Date:** June 10, 2000 (Six months after publication date)
- 3. Start of Public Comment Period:** N/A - Final Rule
- 4. End of Public Comment Period:** N/A - Final Rule

**Summary of Main Points:**

**Products Affected:** Food prepared with cereals, edible grains, cereal flours and cereal baked breads and products. Domestic and imported product.

NOTE: Prepared flour, snacks, pastas, tortillas and toasted tortillas are not subject to this regulation.

**Important features of the regulation:**

Other official Mexican Norms that will be used to enforce this norm:

NOM-051-SCFI-1994, General specifications for labeling of prepacked meals and non-alcoholic beverages.  
NOM-086-SSA1-1994, Goods and services. Food and non-alcoholic beverages with modifications in their

composition. Nutritional specifications.

NOM-092-SSA1-1994, Goods and services. Determination method to count the aerobic bacteria by plate.

NOM-110-SSA1-1994, Goods and services. Preparation and dilution of samples for their microbiological analysis.

NOM-111-SSA1-1994, Goods and services. Determination method for fungus and yeasts in foods.

NOM-113-SSA1-1994, Goods and services. Determination method for total coliform microorganisms by plate.

NOM-114-SSA1-1994, Goods and services. Determination method of salmonella in meals.

NOM-115-SSA1-1994, Goods and services. Determination method of *Staphylococcus aureus* in meals.

NOM-117-SSA1-1994, Goods and services. Determination method of cadmium, arsenic, lead, tin, copper, iron, zinc and mercury in foods, potable water and water purified by atomic absorption spectrometry.

NOM-120-SSA1-1994, Goods and services. Hygiene and health practices in food and alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages processing.

NOM-131-SSA1-1995, Goods and services. Food for nursing infants. Nutritional and sanitary specifications and provisions.

NOM-145-SSA1-1995, Goods and services. Meat products cut and cured. Meat products cured and aged.

Provisions and health specifications.

NOM-159-SSA1-1996, Goods and services. Eggs and egg products and their derivatives. Sanitary specifications and provisions.

Definitions are introduced and symbols are defined.

Requirements in the different products:

Cereal Flour:

- a) Pesticides used on the grains in transportation and storage have to comply with the established maximum application rate and maximum residue established in the approved catalog of pesticides.
- b) Maximum permissible levels are established concerning micro biological organisms (bacteria, coliform, fecal coliform, fungus, yeast, etc.), aflatoxin and metal pollution.
- c) Maximum levels of additives for wheat flour are established. Additionally 2 mg of Folic acid must to be added per every kg of flour.

Cereal or grain and flour based food:

- a) Mycotoxin levels are not modified in terms of incoming flour.
- b) Maximum levels of micro biological organisms (coliform, and fungus) , metals ( as, Hg, Pb and Cd), foreign matter (fragmented insects and rodent hair), anti-oxidant, moisturizers, pH regulators and stabilizers are established. c) Maximum coloring limits are also specified.

Breads and other baked foods:

In this area the following products are included: cookies, bread, cakes and pies.

Normal hygiene regulations are set for non industrial bakeries (traditional) bakeries. Regulations are set for cooking facilities, equipment, handling of ingredients, personnel , transportation of product and outlet stores. Hygiene in

industrial bakeries is regulated by NOM-120-SSA1-1994.

Maximum limits on foreign matter, micro biological organisms, additives, preservatives, stabilizers, baking powders, pH regulators, moisturizers and artificial flavors and odors are set.

Labeling of products is specified. Labeling must comply with NOM-051-SCFI-1994. Additionally, specific labeling is required for enriched flour:

If date of production is considered as the lot number, then the term "lot" has to be put before the date.

Flour must be labeled as : Enriched flour with vitamin Bc or vitamin B9 or flour added with vitamin B or vitamin B9. Additives must be specified. Ascorbic acid must be reported under additive and not in nutrition.

Folic acid must be labeled in a concentration of mg per 100 gr of flour.

Other cereal flour and products elaborated with cereals must be labeled with "Keep in a fresh and dry place".

Products that need refrigeration or must be kept frozen must also be labeled.

Sampling methods to be followed for each case are explained in the appendix or directed to another Norm.

FAS/Mexico post comments:

Parties involved in the industry that could be affected by this Norm were involved in the proposed Norm. All reported that the maximum limits established are well over their current internal quality control limits, so no modifications to their production processes will be needed. Concerning imported product, apparently U.S. standards are stricter than those outlined in the norm so current imports should not be affected.

The format of the final regulation changed somewhat from the proposed regulation as some minor modifications were incorporated that would only affect the domestic industry and not imported product.

**For More Information:**

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**Internet Connections**

*FAS Mexico Web Site:* We are available at <http://www.atomexico.gob.mx> or visit our headquarter's home page at <http://www.fas.usda.gov> for a complete selection of FAS' worldwide agricultural reporting.

*Useful Mexican Web Sites:* Mexico's equivalent of the Department of Agriculture (SAGAR) can be found at [www.sagar.gob.mx](http://www.sagar.gob.mx) and Mexico's equivalent of the Department of Commerce (SECOFI) can be found at [www.secofi.gob.mx](http://www.secofi.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.