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Exporter Guide

Principal Mexican Northern Inland Border Entry Points for US Agricultural Products

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Report Highlights:

This report provides an overview and update on the primary northern Mexican inland border entry points through which the majority of agricultural import operations take place. U.S. agricultural products for export to Mexico are subject to import regulations enforced by SAGARPA (Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food Supply) inspectors at each of the entry points. The following report is intended to provide U.S. exporters with the most recent information on specific points of entry.

Includes PSD Changes: No
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This report contains an overview of Mexico's primary inland border entry points, which are listed based on their geographic location from West to East. In terms of import permits issued, the top point of entry for agricultural products is Nuevo Laredo (including Colombia), which represents about half of all imports. Tijuana is second, followed by Reynosa, Ciudad Juarez, Nogales, Mexicali, Piedras Negras, and Matamoros.

Mexico's SAGARPA (Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food Supply), is responsible for inspecting imported agricultural products. Senasica (SAGARPA's Health and Quality Service) officials perform documentary and physical inspection upon entry. Certain agricultural products are authorized to be imported into designated border entry points (see GAIN report MX8020 for the latest information on authorized entry points for specific products). Inspections are normally performed at authorized inspection facilities, which are also known as Verification Inspection Points (VIPs). Mexico's Animal Health Law requires that imported meat and poultry be inspected on the Mexican side of the border, while fruits, vegetables, and some grains (not transported by rail) are usually inspected on the U.S. side of the border. Commercial shipments of live animals are normally inspected on the U.S. side of the border at state-run and private export pens.



Tijuana, Baja California

Overview: In 2007, the Tijuana OISA (Oficina de Inspeccion de Sanidad Agropecuaria) issued 25,196 import certificates. Principal products imported into Mexico through Tijuana included produce (65% of total), meat and meat products (30%), and grains (5%). Specific products included vegetables, fruits, poultry, red meat, meat preparations, corn gluten meal, barley and rice.

Verification and Inspection Points (VIP's) in Tijuana: There are eight facilities authorized by the Government of Mexico (GOM) to operate as Verification Inspection Points (VIP's) for imported agricultural products. Three inspection points are located on the U.S. side of the border for fresh produce, grains, planting seeds and flowers. Five inspection points are located on the Mexican side of the border for meat and poultry. Mexico's Animal Health Law requires that the inspection of all meat and meat by-products for export to Mexico be inspected on the Mexican side of the border. Grain transported by rail through Otay, California, is inspected on the Mexican side of the border at Estación García, while grain transported by rail thru El

Centro, California, is inspected at Estación Tecate (on the premises of Cerveceria Cuauhtemoc). See Annex for detailed information on each of the VIP's in Tijuana.

SAGARPA personnel in Tijuana: For southbound food and agricultural exports, there are 15 SAGARPA officials assigned full time to the eight VIP's on both sides of the border. The officials are stationed at the SAGARPA building at the Otay Mesa border crossing point. SAGARPA's working hours at the VIP's and in the main office are from 09:30 to 18:00, Monday to Friday.

Traffic trends: Product is primarily transported by truck or rail. Commercial vehicles crossing from San Diego use the Otay Mesa bridge. Product transported via rail crosses through San Ysidro, California, and Otay, California. Products transported by rail (grains, powdered milk, and animal fats) also cross into Tecate, Mexico, via El Centro, California. Carrizo Gorge Railway, Inc. is the contract operator that provides rail service on both sides of the border.

Mexicali, Baja California

Overview: In 2007 the Mexicali OISA issued 12,538 import certificates. Principal products imported into Mexico through Mexicali include grains (40% of total), vegetables (22%), red meat (21%), poultry (11%), fruits (5%) and planting seeds (1%). Specific products include corn, rice, lettuce, onions, meat and variety meat products, poultry, cold cuts, oranges, cantaloupes, alfalfa and grass seeds.

Verification and Inspection Points (VIP's) in Mexicali: There are six facilities authorized by the Government of Mexico (GOM) to operate as official inspection points (VIPs) for agricultural products. Two inspection points are located on the U.S. side of the border for fresh produce and grains. Four inspection points are located on the Mexican side of the border for meat, meat preparations and poultry. Products such as grains, cottonseed meal and lard enter Mexico via rail into Mexicali and are inspected on the Mexican side of the border at the Ferromex rail yard. (See Annex)

SAGARPA personnel in Mexicali: There are eight SAGARPA officials assigned full time to the six VIP's on both sides of the border. They are stationed at the SAGARPA building at the Puerto Fronterizo Nuevo Mexicali crossing point. SAGARPA's working hours at the VIP's and in the main office are 09:30 to 18:00, Monday to Friday.

Traffic trends: Product is transported by truck or rail. Commercial vehicles crossing from Calexico, California, use the Puerto Nuevo Bridge. Product transported via rail crosses through Calexico, California and Mexicali. Union Pacific and Ferrocarril Mexicano (Ferromex) provide the rail service at this crossing point.

Nogales, Sonora

Overview: In 2007 the Nogales OISA issued 18,722 import certificates. Principal products imported into Mexico through Nogales include produce (62% of total), red meat and poultry (28%), grains (5%), and planting seeds (5%). Specific products included apples, pears, grapes, stone fruit, tomatoes, lettuce, broccoli, soybeans,

wheat, cracked corn, planting seeds, red meat, pork, poultry, and live hogs for reproduction.

Verification and Inspection Points (VIPs) in Nogales: There are four facilities that are authorized by the Government of Mexico (GOM) to operate as inspection points for agricultural products. Two VIP's are located on the U.S. side of the border for fresh and dry fruits and vegetables, planting seeds and grains. Two inspection points are located on the Mexican side of the border for meat, meat preparations and poultry. Products such as grains cross via rail thru Nogales and are inspected on the Mexican side of the border at the Ferromex rail yard. Live hogs for reproduction and other live animals are inspected in Nogales, Arizona, at privately owned facilities. (See Annex)

SAGARPA personnel in Nogales: For southbound food and agricultural exports, there are 9 SAGARPA officials assigned full time to the 4 VIP's on both sides of the border. They are stationed at the SAGARPA building at Estacion Cuarentenaria in the Nogales crossing point. SAGARPA's working hours at the VIP's and in the main office are 09:30 to 18:00, Monday to Friday.

Traffic trends: Product is transported by truck or rail. Commercial vehicles crossing from Nogales, Arizona, use the Mariposa International Bridge. Product transported by rail crosses through Nogales, Arizona. Union Pacific and Ferrocarril Mexicano (Ferromex) provide the rail service at this crossing point.

Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua

Overview: In 2007 the Ciudad Juarez OISA issued 21,509 import certificates. Principal products imported into Mexico through Ciudad Juarez included red meats and poultry (40% of total), produce (22%), grains (20%), dairy products (11%) and live horses (7%). Specific products included poultry and poultry for further processing, red meat, variety meats, cracked corn, soybean meal, potatoes, rice, wheat, sorghum, cotton seed meal, vegetables, lactalbumin, powdered milk, and live horses.

Verification and Inspection Points (VIP's) in Ciudad Juarez: There are five facilities that are authorized by the Government of Mexico (GOM) to operate as inspection points for agricultural products. Three VIPs are located on the U.S. side of the border for fresh and dry fruits and vegetables, planting seeds, grains and used agricultural machinery. Two inspection points are located on the Mexican side of the border for meat, meat preparations, and poultry. Grains are transported by rail, and are inspected on the Mexican side of the border at either the Estacion Meseta Rail Yard or at the Ferromex Central Station. Livestock exported to Mexico is inspected on the U.S. side of the border in El Paso, Texas, and in Santa Teresa, New Mexico. (See Annex)

SAGARPA personnel in Ciudad Juarez: For southbound food and agricultural exports, there are 13 SAGARPA officials assigned full time to the 4 VIP's on both sides of the border. They are stationed at the SAGARPA building at the Puente Internacional Zaragoza in Ciudad Juarez. SAGARPA's working hours at the VIP's and in the main office are 09:30 to 18:00, Monday to Friday.

Traffic trends: Product is transported by truck or rail. Commercial vehicles cross from El Paso, Texas, into Ciudad Juarez via the Ysleta-Zaragoza International Bridge. Product transported by rail crosses through the EL Paso, Texas – Ciudad Juarez border entry point. The Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway and Ferrocarril Mexicano (Ferromex), manage rail service at this crossing point.

Piedras Negras, Coahuila

Overview: In 2007, the Piedras Negra OISA issued 10,208 import certificates. Principal products imported into Mexico through Piedras Negras include grains and meals (54% of total), red meat, poultry, and variety meats (46%). Specific products include corn, soy, soybean meal, wheat, cotton seed, rice, alfalfa, animal hides, pigs for slaughter, lambs for slaughter, red meat, poultry, and cattle feed additives.

Verification and Inspection Points (VIP's) in Piedras Negras: There is one facility authorized by the Government of Mexico (GOM) to operate as inspection point of agricultural products. This inspection point is located on the Mexican side of the border for meat, meat preparations, poultry, hides and produce. Grains and meals are usually transported via rail and are inspected on the Mexican side of the border at the Ferromex rail yard. Live hogs for slaughter are inspected on the U.S. side of the border in Eagle Pass, Texas, at the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) livestock export pen. (See Annex)

SAGARPA personnel in Piedras Negras: For southbound food and agricultural exports, there are 7 SAGARPA officials assigned full time to perform inspections at the VIP and at the rail yard. They are stationed at the SAGARPA building at the Puente Internacional II in Piedras Negras. SAGARPA's working hours at the VIP and in the main office are 09:30 to 18:00, Monday to Friday.

Traffic trends: Product is transported by truck or rail. Commercial vehicles cross from Eagle Pass, Texas, into Mexico using the Camino Real International Bridge. Product transported via rail crosses the Charles Fisby International Railroad Bridge. Union Pacific Railroad and Ferrocarril Mexicano (Ferromex) manage the rail service at this crossing point.

Nuevo Laredo, (including Colombia, Nuevo Leon)

Overview: Nuevo Laredo (including Colombia) is considered the most important inland border entry point for U.S. food and agricultural products. In 2007, the Nuevo Laredo OISA issued 111,429 import certificates. Principal products imported into Mexico through Nuevo Laredo include red meats and products for further processing (49% of total), poultry (28%), grains (18%), corn meal, soybean meal and other grain flours (3.5%), produce (0.75%) and dairy products (0.75%). By volume, specific products included red meats, poultry for further processing, poultry, meat preparations and grains.

Verification and Inspection Points (VIP's) in Nuevo Laredo (including Colombia): There are thirteen facilities authorized by the Government of Mexico to

operate as inspection points for agricultural products. Seven inspection points are located on the U.S. side of the border for fresh and dry fruits and vegetables, planting seeds and grains. Six inspection points are located on the Mexican side of the border for meat, meat preparations, poultry, fresh and dry produce and grains. Grains and other products transported by rail cross from Laredo, Texas, into Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, and are inspected on the Mexican side of the border at the Estacion Sanchez Rail Yard. Livestock exported to Mexico is inspected on the U.S. side of the border at the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) export pen in Laredo, Texas. (See Annex)

SAGARPA personnel in Nuevo Laredo (including Colombia): Note: prior to July 2008, both the Nuevo Laredo and Colombia crossing points were managed by a single OISA office in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico. In July 2008, SAGARPA established a separate OISA office for the Colombia crossing. Import operations into Nuevo Laredo are managed by the OISA office in Nuevo Laredo, while import operations into Colombia are now managed by the new OISA office.

There are 14 SAGARPA officials assigned full time to the VIP's on both sides of the border in the Nuevo Laredo area, including the Estacion Sanchez railyard. They are stationed at the SAGARPA building located in the city of Nuevo Laredo.

There are also 15 SAGARPA officials assigned full time to the new Colombia OISA office, covering the VIP's located on both sides of the border. They are stationed near the Colombia-Solidarity International Bridge.

Traffic trends: Product is transported by truck or rail. Commercial vehicles crossing from Laredo may cross through the World Trade International Bridge into Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, or through the Colombia-Solidarity International Bridge into Colombia, Nuevo Leon. Product transported by rail crosses through the Laredo-Nuevo Laredo border entry point. Rail service is provided by Kansas City Southern-Mexico at this crossing point.

Reynosa, Tamaulipas

Overview: In 2007, the Reynosa OISA issued 21,316 import certificates. Principal products imported into Mexico through Reynosa include fresh fruits and vegetables (49% of total), poultry (22%), meat and meat products (19%) and grains (10%). Specific products included apples, pears, grapes, stone fruit, vegetables, poultry, meat variety, pork, sorghum, cracked corn, soy, soybean meal and wheat. (Note: As of December 2007, Reynosa is no longer authorized as an entry point for imports of pork)

Verification and Inspection Points (VIP's) in Reynosa: There are ten facilities authorized by the Government of Mexico to operate as inspection points for agricultural products. Eight inspection points are located on the U.S. side of the border in McAllen, Texas, for fresh and dry fruits and vegetables, planting seeds and grains. Two inspection points are located on the Mexican side of the border for meat, meat preparations, and poultry. (See Annex)

SAGARPA personnel in Reynosa: For southbound food and agricultural exports, there are 14 SAGARPA officials assigned full time to the 10 VIP's on both sides of the

border. They are stationed at the SAGARPA building located in the Puente Internacional Nuevo Amanecer in Reynosa. SAGARPA's working hours at the VIPs and in the main office are 9:30 to 18:00, Monday to Friday.

Traffic trends: Product is transported by commercial vehicles, which can cross using the Pharr-Reynosa (Nuevo Amanecer) International Bridge or the Progreso-Nuevo Progreso International Bridge.

Matamoros, Tamaulipas

Overview: In 2007, the Matamoros OISA issued 5,705 import certificates. Principal products imported into Mexico through Reynosa include grains (95% of total) and poultry and variety meats. By volume, products included soybeans, soybean meal, wheat, corn, sorghum, meats and poultry

Verification and Inspection Points (VIP's) in Matamoros: There are three facilities authorized by the Government of Mexico (GOM) to operate as inspection points of agricultural products. Two inspection points are located on the U.S. side of the border in Brownsville, Texas, for fresh and dry fruits and vegetables and seafood. One inspection point is located on the Mexican side of the border for meat, meat variety products and poultry. Live hogs for reproduction and other live animals exported to Mexico are inspected on the U.S. side of the border at the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) export pens. (See Annex)

SAGARPA personnel in Matamoros: There are nine SAGARPA officials assigned full time to the 3 VIP's on both sides of the border. They are stationed at the SAGARPA building located in the Puente Internacional Ignacio Zaragoza in Matamoros. SAGARPA's working hours at the VIP's and in the main office are 09:30 to 18:00, Monday to Friday.

Traffic trends: Product is transported by truck or rail. Commercial vehicles crossing from Brownsville, Texas, pass through the Veterans international bridge at Los Tomates. Product transported by rail crosses through the Brownsville-Matamoros border entry point. Rail service is provided by Kansas City Southern-Mexico

Other Relevant Reports

- [MX7052](#) Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards
- [MX1223](#) Labeling Procedures for Consumer Products
- [MX7073](#) Export Certificate Report
- [MX3501](#) Exporter Guide: Border Troubleshooting
- [MX8020](#) Modifications to Authorized Crossing Border Points for Specific Agricultural Commodities

Annex: VERIFICATION AND INSPECTION POINTS (VIPs)

Tijuana and Mexicali, Baja California			
NAME	LOCATION	PHONE	PRODUCT
Unión Sanitaria de Productos Alimenticios	Tijuana Border Zone	(664) 623-8201 / 03	Meat and meat products
Distribuidora la Canasta	Tijuana Border Zone	(664) 681-0609	Meat and meat products
Grupo Industrial y Comercial del Noroeste	Tijuana Bonded Area	(664) 647-5973	Meat, meat products, produce
Baja Frige	Tijuana Border Zone	(664) 979-0852	Meat and meat products
Ricardo Ulloa Zepeda	Tijuana Border Zone	(664) 688-2913	Produce
Coast Citrus Distributors, Inc.	San Diego, CA	(619) 661-7950	Produce
M&M Import/Export Inc.	San Diego, CA	(619) 279-2643	Produce
Mexbros Fruit Inc.	San Diego, CA	(619) 671-9200	Produce
R.L. Jones Parking	Tecate, CA	(619) 478-2143	Dry Vegetables, seeds, grains and feed
A&U Mex Export Inc	Calexico, CA	(760) 768-0283	Produce
W.T. Distributors Inc.	Calexico, CA	(760) 357-6684	Produce
Bodega 29 S	Mexicali Border Zone	(686) 551-9100	Meat and meat products
Comercializadora Frontera	Mexicali Border Zone	(686) 564-0840	Meat and meat products
Centro Comercial El Pachuco	Mexicali Border Zone	(686) 553-5635	Meat and meat products

Nogales, Sonora			
NAME	LOCATION	PHONE	PRODUCT
Inmobiliario Maymar	Nogales, Sonora Bonded Area	(631) 315-9173	Meat, meat products, fruits and vegetables
Servicio de Almacén Fiscalizado de Nogales	Nogales, Sonora Bonded Area	(631) 315-9158	Meat, meat products, fruits and vegetables
Mariposa International Inspection Station	Nogales, Arizona	(520) 761-4460	Produce
Agrícola Cactus	Rio Rico, Arizona	(520) 281-5795	Produce

Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua			
NAME	LOCATION	PHONE	PRODUCT
Corporativo de Negocios de Comercio Exterior	Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua Bonded Area	(656) 397-0361	Meat, meat products, fruits, vegetables, pet food, dairy
Frase Alimentos S,A, de C,V,	Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua Bonded Area	(656) 616-0088	Meat and meat products
Trading Commodities, Inc.	El Paso, Texas	(915) 859-9008	Dry vegetables, seeds and coarse grains
El Paso Exports, Inc.	Santa Teresa, New Mexico	(505) 589-4447	Fresh and dry vegetables, seeds and grains
D'Allende Foods, Inc.	El Paso, Texas	(915)-532-5250	Produce

Piedras Negras, Coahuila			
NAME	LOCATION	PHONE	PRODUCT
Distribuidora Internacional de Carnes	Pidras Negras, Coahuila Border Zone	(878) 786-2711	Meat, meat products and produce

Columbia Nuevo, Leon and Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas			
NAME	LOCATION	PHONE	PRODUCT
S.R. Asesores Aduanales de Nuevo Laredo	Columbia, Nuevo Leon Bonded Area	(867) 734-0206	Meat, meat products, fruits, vegetables, pet food, dairy
DICEX	Columbia, Nuevo Leon Bonded Area	(867) 734-0255	Meat, meat products, fruits, vegetables, pet food, dairy
Santos Esquivel y Compañía	Columbia, Nuevo Leon Bonded Area	(867) 734-0039	Meat, meat products, fruits, vegetables, pet food, dairy
Grupo Coordinador de Importadores	Columbia, Nuevo Leon Bonded Area	(867) 734-0134	Meat, meat products, fruits, vegetables, pet food, dairy
Palos Garza	Columbia, Nuevo Leon Bonded Area	(867) 724-2020	Meat, meat products, fruits, vegetables, pet food, dairy
Asociacion de Agentes Aduanales de N.L.	Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas Bonded Area	(867) 724-2080	Meat, meat products, fruits, vegetables, pet food, dairy
Trade Mex Corp (Mextra)	Laredo, Texas	(956) 712-6000	Produce, seeds, grains
North American Forwarding, Inc.	Laredo, Texas	(956) 791-3402 93 /94	Produce, seeds, grains
U.S. Cold Storage, Inc.	Laredo, Texas	(956) 722-3951	Fresh and frozen vegetables
Gyros Greek	Laredo, Texas	(956) 791-0104	Produce
COM & CO Forwarding	Laredo, Texas	(956) 857-1349	Produce
Air Logistics, Inc.	Laredo, Texas	(956) 333-0704	Cotton
Valdez Forwarding	Laredo, Texas	(956) 791-5503	Cotton

Reynosa, Tamaulipas			
NAME	LOCATION	PHONE	PRODUCT
Consortio Aduanero. Abanto y Asociados	Reynosa, Tamaulipas Border Zone	(899) 946-0139	Meat and meat products
Hidalgo Logistics de México	Reynosa, Tamaulipas Border Zone	(899) 958-1442	Meat, meat products, fruits and produce
Abanto Forwarding Inc.	Hidalgo, Texas	(956) 843-9984	
Century Forwarding Agency Inc.	Hidalgo, Texas	(956) 843-6011	Produce
Joe Arevalo & Associates, LTD	Hidalgo, Texas	(956) 843-6011	Produce
Lotto internacional, Inc./Barmas, Inc.	McAllen, Texas	(956) 682-0333	Produce
United Brokers LLC	Pharr, Texas	(956) 783-5585	Produce
Bebo Distributing Co. Inc.	Pharr, Texas	(956) 702-4415	Produce
B & P Bridge Company	Progreso, Texas	(956) 565-6361	Produce
Four Seasons Produce, Inc.	Hidalgo, Texas	(956) 843-8901	Produce

Matamoros, Tamaulipas			
NAME	LOCATION	PHONE	PRODUCT
Comercializadora Copeh	Matamoros, Tamaulipas Border Zone	(868) 8149882	Meat and meat products
Tex-Mex Cold Storage, Inc.	Brownsville, Texas	(956) 831-4531	Shrimp
Valley Inspection S. LLC.	Brownsville, Texas	(956) 838-1816	Dry vegetables, seeds and grains