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Mexico Defines Temporary Procedures for Obtaining HRZ

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Report Highlights:

This report summarizes the temporary procedure defined by the Secretariat of Agriculture (SAGARPA) regarding the implementation of the new web-based Zoosanitary Requirement Sheets (HRZ) issuance module in order to avoid trade disruptions during the transition to the new procedure.

General Information:

Disclaimer: This report was prepared by the Agricultural Trade Office of the USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service in Monterrey, Mexico for U.S. exporters of domestic food and agricultural products. While every possible care was taken in the preparation of this report, information provided may not be completely accurate either because policies have changed since its preparation, or because clear and consistent information about these policies was not available. It is highly recommended that U.S. exporters verify the full set of import requirements with their foreign customers, 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 border officials at the time of product entry.

BACKGROUND

On October 13, 2010, the Secretariat of Agriculture (Spanish: [*Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería, Desarrollo Rural, Pesca y Alimentación*](#), or SAGARPA) published a new regulation which establishes the procedure to obtain Zoosanitary Requirement Sheets (HRZ) for imports of animal products under the authority of SAGARPA (Spanish: [*Acuerdo por el que se establecen los medios de consulta de requisitos para la importación al territorio nacional de mercancías reguladas por la Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería, Desarrollo Rural, Pesca y Alimentación, en materia de Sanidad Animal*](#)), using a new web-based platform that was launched on December 13, 2010.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Before the launch of the web-based platform, officially called Zoosanitary Import Requirements Consult Module (Spanish: [*Modulo de Consulta de Requisitos Zoosanitarios para la Importación*](#), or MCRZI), SAGARPA officials carried out a series of meetings to review the potential disruptions that might occur during the transition to the new procedure. Issues like a specific HRZ not uploaded to the new website or transcription errors when uploading the HRZ represented potential trade disruptions. Besides, the need for users to get familiar to the new system required a transition period under which both the old and the new system would need to be available and a special criterion was required to be established so Agriculture inspectors at the Animal & Plant Inspection Offices (Spanish: [*Oficinas de Inspección de Sanidad Agropecuaria*](#), or OISA) would know what to do in case of inconsistencies.

Per internal communication, the National Service of Agri-Food Health, Safety & Quality (Spanish: [*Servicio Nacional de Sanidad, Inocuidad y Calidad Agroalimentaria*](#), or SENASICA) defined the rules that would apply during this transition period:

1. All HRZ obtained using the old method, before December 13, 2010, will have an expiration date of 60 days after the issuance date.
2. Starting December 13, 2010, importer of record will be responsible of accessing the MCRZI in order to obtain a HRZ. A special [“User Guide” \(in Spanish\)](#) is available for importers, explaining the way to obtain an HRZ in the system by accessing the products’ combination code or by doing an advanced product search.
3. If the product’s HRZ is not available in the new system, importers may request a printout of the HRZ taken from SENASICA’s internal system (SINHOR-Z) at one of the 17 OISAs that have access to said system (See Table 1 for the listing of OISAs with SINHOR-Z access).
4. If the OISA where the importer makes the request does not have access to SINHOR-Z, the officer

in that OISA can make a request to an OISA with access to submit a HRZ via e-mail.

5. If the product's HRZ is not available at the MCRZI or at the SINHOR-Z, importers must request a HRZ directly to the Attention Module at SENASICA headquarters. The request must be in Spanish, and addressed to:

MVZ Hugo Fragoso Sánchez
Director de Importaciones y Exportaciones
Av. Cuauhtémoc #1230, Piso 12, Col. Santa Cruz Atoyac
Del. Benito Juárez, México, D.F. 03310

The request must include:

- a) Name and address of the applicant
- b) Telephone number, including area code
- c) E-mail address
- d) Animal species and use (in case of live animals)
- e) Product or sub-product
- f) Country of origin
- g) Country of precedence
- h) Technical sheet of the product to be imported which specifies: animal species from which the product is derived, ingredient list and percentages, manufacture/production process used (including times and temperatures used, when applicable) and commercial description.
- i) Final destination and use of the product
- j) All additional information the importer might consider useful

6. Once the transition period is over (February 9, 2011), if the product HRZ is not available on the MCRZI, importers must follow the procedure described above.

7. OISA personnel will provide SENASICA headquarters a daily report of the HRZ issued using the SINHOR-Z system.

Table 1 – OISAs with SINHOR-Z access

CITY	STATE
Mexicali	Baja California
Tijuana	Baja California
La Paz	Baja California Sur
Ciudad Hidalgo	Chiapas
Ciudad Juarez	Chihuahua
Ojinaga	Chihuahua
Piedras Negras	Coahuila
Manzanillo	Colima
Toluca	Estado de Mexico
Silao	Guanajuato
Colombia	Nuevo Leon
Cancun	Quintana Roo

Mazatlan	Sinaloa
Altamira	Tamaulipas
Nuevo Laredo	Tamaulipas
Reynosa	Tamaulipas
Veracruz	Veracruz

Products Affected: All products regulated by SAGARPA, in accordance to Article 24 of the Animal Health Law (Spanish: [*Ley Federal de Sanidad Animal*](#)), with an existing HRZ that describes the import requirements.

Agency in Charge: Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries & Food (SAGARPA).

Important Dates:

1. New web-based platform launched: December 13, 2010.
2. Last day OISAs will be able to print HRZ from the old system: February 9, 2011.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

FAS Mexico Web Site: We are available at: <http://www.mexico-usda.com> or visit the FAS headquarters' home page at: <http://www.fas.usda.gov> for a complete selection of FAS worldwide agricultural reporting.

FAS Mexico YouTube Channel: Catch the latest videos of FAS Mexico at work: <http://www.youtube.com/user/ATOMexicoCity>

Other Relevant Reports Submitted by FAS Mexico:

Report Number	Subject	Date Submitted
MX0501	Mexico Exporter Guide Annual	11/30/2009
MX0059	Poultry and Products Annual	9/1/2010
MX0064	Livestock and Products Annual	9/23/2010
MX0090	New SENASICA System for Import Requirement Sheets (HRZ's)	12/6/2010
MX0320	FAIRS Country Report 2010	12/16/2010

Useful Mexican Web Sites: Mexico's equivalent to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (SAGARPA) can be found at <http://www.sagarpa.gob.mx> and Mexico's equivalent to the U.S. Department of Commerce (SE) can be found at <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.

