



Regulatory News Alerts & Updates

Regulatory Alert: Mexico - Regulatory Amendments to the Simplified Clearance of Express Shipments/Tariff Increases and Other Regulations for Textiles and Apparel

December 31, 2024

BACKGROUND:

On December 19 and 30, 2024, the Mexican government published regulations raising import duties for some textile and apparel goods (12/19), and modifying the simplified customs clearance, adding restrictions, and adjusting and expanding information obligations on the clearance of express shipments arriving in Mexico (12/30).

The increase in tariffs took effect on December 20, 2024, while those applicable to the simplified clearance of express shipments effective January 1, 2025.

WHAT HAS CHANGED?

1. Effective January 1, 2025:

- **The *de minimis* duty and tax exemption has been eliminated for shipments sent from most countries into Mexico. A general 19% import tax rate will now be applied on low value shipments entering the country.** Exceptions: (i) Shipments sent from Panama, other Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) countries, and other Pacific Alliance countries are entitled to a US\$1 *de minimis* threshold, and (ii) Shipments sent from Canada and the United States will continue to benefit from a bifurcated *de minimis* and a preferential rate where applicable so that (1) shipments valued at USD \$50 and less are not subject to duties or taxes, and (2) shipments valued between USD \$50 and USD \$117 are also not subject to duties but must pay a 17% tax rate. (CPTPP: The *Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership* (CPTPP) is a free trade agreement between 12 countries: Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, the United Kingdom, and Vietnam).

- **Simplified import clearance of express shipments will only be available for shipments valued below US\$2,500.** (Shipments in the \$1,000 - \$2,500 bracket will require the consignee to be registered in the *Padrón de Importadores* (Importer's Registry) of the Tax Administration Service (www.sat.gob.mx))
- As noted in our Regulatory Alert posted on October 17, 2024, shippers sending goods to Mexico intended for customs clearance under the simplified entry (Pedimento Clave T1) will be required to provide **additional and more detailed information about their shipments**, particularly regarding the ***description of the goods and the consignee's full name, complete address, Mexican Tax ID (RFC and CURP), email address, and phone number.*** Shipments consigned to non-Mexican (foreign) nationals may include other acceptable ID numbers: Social Security Number (SSN), TaxID, or Passport Number.
- Generic descriptions on the air waybill (e.g., "commercial sample," "unsolicited gifts," "miscellaneous items," "appreciation token") will no longer be accepted by Mexican Customs. Instead, **shippers must provide accurate and detailed descriptions of the goods** (e.g., "Sample of textile cotton fabric," "Gift of branded smartwatch battery charger," "Jeans, shirt, and tennis shoes," "Set of crystal paperweight and business card holder"). Failure to comply with this provision may impede clearance, cause extended delays, or subject shipments to additional inspection by Mexican Customs.
- Goods of Chapter 87 of Harmonized System (Vehicles other than railway rolling stock and parts and accessories thereof, including *baby carriages, bicycles, wheelchairs and accessories of motor cars*, among others) and goods subject to antidumping and countervailing duties may not be imported by express delivery companies under the simplified procedure for express companies. Shipments of these kinds may have to undergo a formal import procedure instead.

In the near future, additional regulations regarding commercial labeling requirements for low-value shipments may be implemented.

2. Effective December 20, 2024, there has been a **temporary increase in tariff rates** for 138 HTS classifications of apparel products and 17 textile materials, generally from 20% to 35% and 10% to 15%, respectively. In addition, **further restrictions were placed for similar goods entering Mexico under the IMMEX duty deferral program meant for value-added and subsequent export of manufactured products.** The tariff increases and prohibition of temporary importation are slated to remain in effect until April 2026. The tariff increases affect, primarily:

- Clothing (Chapters 61 and 62)
 - coats, suits, jackets, pants, dresses, shirts, and sweaters
 - textile accessories such as gloves, belts, and ties
- Made-Up Textile Articles (Chapter 63)
 - home goods (bed linens, blankets, pillowcases, curtains, towels, etc.)
 - tents, awnings, needlecrafts, rags

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q1 – When will the changes go into effect?

A 1 – Incremental information obligations, including the consignee’s full name, complete address, Tax ID (RFC and CURP), email address, phone number, and accurate description of the shipped goods, are fully mandatory starting January 1, 2025. If the consignee is a non- Mexican (foreign) national, other acceptable ID numbers are Social Security Number (SSN), TaxID, or Passport Number. The increase in tariffs for textiles and apparel entered into force on December 20.

Q2 – What are the consequences if a shipment arrives in Mexico without the required information from the shipper?

A 2 – Shipments arriving without the required information may be subject to additional screening by Mexican Customs and/or experience delays in clearance due to the need to inspect the package contents and/or contact the consignee. The absence of the information will impede FedEx from completing customs clearance.

Q3 – How should shippers provide the required information to FedEx?

A 3 – The required information must be provided by correctly completing all the available fields on the International Air Waybill in the appropriate fields (e-mail address may be provided in the Description field).

DATE OF ENFORCEMENT: December 20, 2024 and January 1, 2025 (see above)

REFERENCES:

Reglas Generales de Comercio Exterior (General Rules of Foreign Trade) 3.1.1., 3.7.3., 3.7.4., and 3.7.5. (in Spanish only):

https://www.dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5746326&fecha=30/12/2024#gsc.tab=0

DECRETO por el que se modifica la tarifa de la Ley de los Impuestos Generales de Importación y de Exportación y el Decreto para el Fomento de la Industria Manufacturera, Maquiladora y de Servicios de Exportación (Decree for modifying the general import and export taxes Law and the Decree for fostering the export manufacturing and services maquiladora industry – in Spanish only):

https://www.dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5745788&fecha=19/12/2024#gsc.tab=0