

## [EXTERNAL] Mexico Import Permits

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**Date:** Thu, 05 Dec 2019 10:41:19 -0500

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Hi Leslie-

I really hope you are well. On November 25, SEMARNAT (Environment and Natural Resources Secretary) issued a statement announcing the refusal of glyphosate imports into Mexico, invoking the precautionary principle. SEMARNAT denied import permits to a local generics company that had fulfilled all requisites for importing technical glyphosate from China. While the statement refers to a specific permit (in the amount of one thousand tons), the statement notes its intention to use the same criteria to deny all future requests for import permits for glyphosate, based on the precautionary principle of the Mexico constitution, alleging that "glyphosate represents a high environmental risk, given the credible presumption that its use can cause serious environmental damage and irreversible health damage," referencing WHO/IARC classification specifically. As of today, Bayer has not been impacted on imports, but we expect SEMARNAT will apply the same criteria to deny all glyphosate permits going forward. Bayer currently holds import permits through March 2020 and we don't anticipate import issues until then.

The most recent trade data I have seen is that Mexico imports approximately 90% of its glyphosate (either finished product or components) from the US. Mexico imports all of its glyphosate so a restriction on import permits will eventually lead to a defacto ban on imports. Our team in Mexico is working closely with FAS at the U.S. Embassy.

We understand that the Environment Minister took this action without consultations with other ministries, including Agriculture. I would welcome the opportunity to connect with you to discuss the situation further and to understand if there is an opportunity for engagement given USMCA. I understand that CLA has reached out to FAS directly.

*Stephanie Murphy*  
Senior Director, International Government Affairs & Trade

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