

Novedades

News from the National Law Center for Inter-American Free Trade

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The *Inter-American Trade Report* and *InterAm_{sm}* Database

Since their inception in 1995, the *Inter-American Trade Report* and *InterAm_{sm}* Database have broadened their scope to include not only trade law and information regarding Mexico but all of the Western Hemisphere. Both services mark an effort to further the dissemination of legal information while providing a venue for the discussion of issues surrounding trade law in the Americas. Subscribers receive bi-weekly editions of the *Trade Report* and access to the Database. The two sources of information work in a complementary manner, each supporting and referencing the other; so providing the subscriber with both current legal documents as well as insightful articles on ongoing developments in trade and investment law.

Accessed over 40,000 times per month, the *InterAm_{sm}* Database has evolved to become one of the primary on-line sources of Latin America legal information. Subscribers include law firms, corporations, government entities, libraries and research centers looking to supplement their own information resources. Information is updated daily to provide users with the most current information available. Raúl Rodríguez and Marsha McFadden Quick, Editor and Assistant Editor of *InterAm_{sm}*, have organized available materials into 23 category headings, ranging from environmental law to regulations effecting foreign investment and transportation. Materials are obtained from official sources, including the federal registries of several nations, as well as from Latin American law firms, businesses, government offices and legal scholars. Mexico's *Diario Oficial de la Federación*, for example, is included daily in its entirety; information of special interest to subscribers, organized within the categories mentioned above.

The laws, regulations and technical standards available on the *InterAm_{sm}* Database are presented in their entirety in the source language. Legal information of particular importance is available in English, with accuracy provided by expert translation. The staff of the *InterAm_{sm}* Database make regular additions to the over 200 documents now available in translated form, ensuring that the most essential legal information is made available in both languages.

Complementing the extensive legal information and materials available on *InterAm_{sm}* is the analysis provided by the *Inter-American Trade Report*. This twice-monthly publication includes in-depth, feature-length articles on trade law as well as news summaries of recent trade law developments. The format allows the *Trade Report* to function as both a source of analysis of the legal and regulatory infrastructure of the Americas as well as a record of trade law developments in the Hemisphere.

In order to include the most current and accurate information available, the *Trade Report* relies on the members of its Editorial Board. Board members represent law firms, legal scholars and consultants throughout the U.S. and Latin America who have made a commitment to supporting the National Law Center and the *Trade Report* by regularly contributing articles, analysis, reports and other legal information. The Editorial Board includes some of the most distinguished individuals, firms and organizations in the international law arena and thereby enables the *Trade Report* to provide its readers with information written by sources at the legal vanguard of their respective nations.

HOW TO INCORPORATE IN MEXICO NEWLY RELEASED

The National Law Center recently completed work on a new publication entitled *How to Incorporate in Mexico*. This effort represents the culmination of a study into the intricacies of the legal and cultural systems that must be navigated in order to establish businesses in Mexico.

The book provides substantial detail in its seventeen chapters and seven appendices. As Mexico is a civil law country, its legal system is often unfamiliar to legal and business practitioners in the United States. *How to Incorporate in Mexico* contains practical information valuable to individuals and organizations considering incorporating in Mexico or developing business relationships with their Mexican counterparts. The publication provides a step-by-step guide for non-Spanish speaking lawyers and businesspersons to evaluate the opportunities and risks associated with doing business in Mexico.

Chapters include:

- The Mexican Corporate Environment
 - The Liability System
 - Creating a Mexican Company
 - Representation of the Company
 - Requirement of Reserve Funds
- Limitations Upon Foreign Investment
 - Tax Considerations
- Appendix with Sample Forms

For more information on this and other publications please contact Dan S. Martin at (520) 622-1200;

Inter-American Trade Report and *InterAm_{sm}* Database

continued on page 2

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ANNA L. TORRIENTE

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FPO: Law Center

Logo

Written in English for non-Mexican attorneys, business people and scholars, this definitive "how-to" manual outlines the various methods of incorporating a business in Mexico and includes sample forms in both Spanish & English.

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Together, the *Inter-American Trade Report* and *InterAmsm* Database form a multimedia resource of international legal information. Appendices, complete legal texts and other relevant information supporting print articles can be found within *InterAmsm* at URLs listed in the *Trade Report*. This additional information becomes a kind of electronic footnote to the print medium, allowing readers with a particular personal or professional interest to obtain extensive background information on legal issues first raised in print.

The *InterAmsm* Database can be found on the World Wide Web at www.natlaw.com and includes a sample issue of the *Inter-American Trade Report*. For more information concerning subscriptions contact Dan S. Martin at (520) 622-1200; email at dmartin@natlaw.com

GUADALAJARA TRADE MISSION PRODUCES BENEFITS FOR TUCSON – MEXICO TRADE

The Guadalajara Trade Mission, organized by the City of Tucson and the U.S. Department of Commerce: Tucson Export Assistance Center, was held the last week of April. The purpose of the mission was to expand ties between law firms, businesses and other organizations in Tucson and Guadalajara. During the trip, National Law Center attorney José Felipe García gave a presentation on the NLCIFT before an audience of businesspeople and government officials from Guadalajara.

After the presentation, a group of attorneys spoke with Mr. García to suggest the idea of opening a sister Law Center in Guadalajara. The Director of the U.S.-Mexico Chamber of Commerce: Mexican Pacific Chapter, Jennifer M. Abate, emphasized the need for a closer relationship with the NLCIFT.

Luis Gutierrez; city manager of Tucson, and Augustín García, a City of Tucson Staff member, also gave presentations that encouraged development of closer business relations between Tucson and Guadalajara.

THE NAFTA ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE COMMERCIAL DISPUTES

ANNOUNCES A CONFERENCE ON

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION IN THE NAFTA REGION

MEXICO CITY JUNE 3-4, 1999

For international trade and investment to flourish in the NAFTA region, reliable, cost-effective and timely dispute management and resolution are essential. Aimed at the business, judicial and legal communities of Canada, Mexico and the United States, the purpose of the conference is to increase awareness of the advantages of alternative dispute resolution (ADR). The conference will provide information and practical advice on how to use ADR for international commercial dealings. Separate workshops will focus on particular sectors such as electronics, energy and construction. The conference will also review the international and national legal framework for the recognition and enforcement of arbitration clauses and awards, as well as other relevant legal issues. It will examine the rules and operations of various ADR institutions and consider the advantages of ADR over traditional legal measures.

To be placed on the mailing list for this Conference, please contact:

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INTERAM_{SM} DATABASE

Selected InterAm_{SM} Updates

BRAZIL

Lei 9.755 Dispõe sobre a criação de "homepage" na "Internet", pelo Tribunal de Contas da União, para divulgação dos dados e informações que especifica, e dá outras providências. 17-XII-1998.

Medida Provisória 1.734-22 Estabelece multa em operações de importação e dá outras providências. 15-XII-1998.

Decreto 2662 Dispõe sobre medidas a serem implementadas na Amazônia Legal, para monitoramento, prevenção, educação ambiental e combate a incêndios florestais. 09-VII-1998.

COLOMBIA

Ley 488 por la cual se expiden normas en materia Tributaria y se dictan otras disposiciones fiscales de las Entidades Territoriales. 24-XII-1998.

Ley 256 Por la cual se dictan normas sobre competencia desleal. 15-I-1996.

Ley 44 Por la cual se modifica y adiciona la Ley 23 de 1982 y se modifica la Ley 29 de 1944. 05-II-1993.

ECUADOR

English translation of the Law of Foreign Commerce and Investment. 22-V-1997.

English translation of the Law of Promotion and Guaranty of Investments. 02-XII-1997.

GUATEMALA

Constitución Política de la República de Guatemala. 03-VI-1985.

VENEZUELA

Ley sobre Prácticas Desleales del Comercio Internacional. 18-VI-1992.

Ley para Promover y Proteger el Ejercicio de la Libre Competencia. 13-I-1992.

RECENT HEADLINES FROM THE INTER-AMERICAN TRADE REPORT

MEXICO

"Proposed Revisions to Mexican Secured Financing" By John Wilson

BRAZIL

"Securitization of Receivables in Brazil" By Eduardo Amaral Gurgel Kiss

BRAZIL

"Tax Reform Proposed by the Brazilian Treasury" By Mauro Ernesto Luz

The Center's *InterAm_{SM}* Database is a unique online service providing Latin American legal and regulatory information. Subscribers to the database receive same-day electronic access to Mexico's *Diario Oficial de la Federación*, the equivalent of the U.S. Federal Register.

Subscribers also receive the biweekly newsletter, *Inter-American Trade Report*, which features news summaries, analysis and commentary regarding issues and laws relating to commerce throughout Latin America. For subscription information, please call Dan S. Martin at 1-800-529-3463.

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THE U.S./MEXICO BORDER HEALTH ASSOCIATION

57TH ANNUAL MEETING

The U.S./Mexico Border Health Association, in collaboration with the Texas Department of Health, the San Antonio Metro-Health District and the Pan American Health Organization, will host its 57th Annual meeting in San Antonio, Texas, June 2-4, 1999 at the Sheraton Four Points Hotel. The program theme, "Health as a Bridge to Binational Understanding", aims to promote the border-wide dissemination of binational health programs and research information and the formulation and establishment of binational health policies, as well as present epidemiological developments in border health. Over 600 health professionals, researchers and individuals interested in border health are expected to participate at this year's meeting. A call for abstracts for the following tracks is in effect with a deadline for February 1, 1999: 1) Surveillance/Epidemiology, 2) Clinical Management, 3) Environmental Health, 4) Health Promotion and Prevention and 5) Health, Trade and Development: Partnerships for Health. For more information please visit www.usmbha.org or call at (915) 581-6645.

The Center's World Wide Web home page has recently been redesigned. New sections have been included. Take a look at the latest news from the Center at <http://www.natlaw.com/media/media.htm>

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To have your name added or removed from the NOVEDADES mailing list, and/or to receive the newsletter by e-mail, please contact **Dan S. Martin** at the National Law Center for Inter-American Free Trade, Two East Congress., Suite 500, Tucson, AZ 85701-1728

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