



# Market Research

## Automotive

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# Used Vehicle Imports into Mexico Procedure Changes

## Summary

The Mexican government announced a change in the used car imports to Mexico starting in February 2008.



The new decree states that used cars may not be over 10 years old. This is because a tremendous amount of older than 10 year units were imported in 2005-2006, causing an important increase in pollution and traffic problems in major cities.

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The Mexican government announced a change in the used car imports procedure to Mexico starting in February 2008.

The new decree states that used cars may not be over 10 years old. This is because a tremendous amount of older than 10 years units were imported in 2005-2006, causing an important increase in pollution and traffic problems in major cities. From August 2005 to January 2008, 1,776,284 autos between 11 and 15 years old, and 1,073,654 ten year old vehicles were imported in Mexico.

The new decree also states that units must now pay a 15% Value Added Tax (VAT) instead of the usual 4.5%. In addition, the import pediment can now be produced by the importer and not necessarily using a customs broker.

This decree substitutes the dispositions given in August 22, 2005 by President Vicente Fox, where an imported used vehicle must have been between ten and fifteen years old, and manufactured in the NAFTA region (the U.S., Canada or Mexico).

This new decree will only be applicable for 11 months since according to the North American Free Trade Agreement, (NAFTA) states that in year 2009, automobiles over 10 years old may be imported duty free.

NAFTA regulations also indicate that in 2011, autos 8 years old or more can be imported, in 2013, six years or older, in 2015, two year old cars can be imported and after 2019, any model year used car can be imported.

One of the major regulations that will be applied to the import of ten year old used cars, will be that all will have to comply with the Mexican Standard, NOM 041, regarding maximum permissible emissions. This will limit the imports of cars that are not in good condition.

The web site is of the Mexican Secretaria de la Economia,([www.economia.gob.mx](http://www.economia.gob.mx)) and is in Spanish. Additional information can be found in the different automotive associations:

Mexican Association of Automobile Distributors: <http://www.amda.org.mx>

Mexican Association of Automotive Industries: <http://www.amia.com.mx>

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