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Mexico To Negotiate Reclassification Of Maquiladora Products In Trilateral Free Trade Accord

by Steven Ranieri

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On Feb. 13, Fernando Sanchez Ugarte, deputy secretary for industry and foreign investment of the Industrial Development and Trade Secretariat (SECOFI), said that the maquiladora industry may receive the most benefits from the proposed trilateral free trade agreement. The majority of trade agreements contain a "rules of origin" clause that excludes non-local producers from benefits. In the proposed agreement, however, the Mexican government will negotiate mechanisms under which maquiladora products can be reclassified and thus benefit from the liberalized conditions. Sanchez Ugarte said that under the reclassification, if a product enters the country under a given tariff category and is exported under a different category, product transformation which occurs in Mexico will be considered sufficient to reclassify the product as "local." (Source: El Financiero, 02/14/91)

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