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Implementation Of Import Labeling Requirements (nom) Postponed Until January 31

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According to an Oct. 26 report in business newspaper El Financiero, the Trade Secretariat (SECOFI) has postponed implementation of new import labeling and quality control requirements (Norma Oficial Mexicana-NOM) until Jan. 31, 1993. The extension was requested by the Baja California Chamber of Commerce Federation. (See SourceMex 10/07/92, 10/21/92 for previous coverage.) Officials at the border crossing in Mexicali, Baja California, had reported that imports were down 40% since the NOM was initially implemented in late September. However, authorities in Reynosa, Tamaulipas state, said that by Oct. 13 only 10% of imports were not in compliance with the regulations, compared to 90% when the NOM went into effect. On Oct. 22, more than 300 businesses, including the major supermarkets, in La Paz, Baja California Sur state, closed their doors to protest problems created by the NOM. The protesters, organized by the National Chamber of Commerce, Services and Tourism (Camara Nacional de Comercio, Servicios y Turismo-CANACO), demanded that the federal government postpone NOM implementation until Dec. 31. The NOM requires Spanish-language text, among other things. A certificate from the Industrial Development and Trade Secretariat (SECOFI) general standards administration is obligatory to demonstrate compliance with NOM standards. (Sources: La Jornada, 10/23/92; El Financiero, El Financiero International 10/26/92)

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