

DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION  
DOCKETS

**Pilot Program to Implement NAFTA's Cross-Border Trucking  
Provisions Between Mexico and the United States  
Record of Discussions**

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The governments of Mexico and the United States have concluded discussions regarding a Pilot Program for opening the border to cross-border truck transport services in order to fulfill the North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) commitments.

The Secretariat of Communications and Transportation (SCT) and the Secretariat of Economy (SE) from Mexico, and the Department of Transportation (DOT) and the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) from the United States, participated in the discussions after consultations with interested parties, including the transport organizations of their respective countries.

### **Pilot Program**

The Pilot Program comprises three stages with the following features:

- ✓ **First Stage**, with a duration of six months, in which the US Government grants a limited number of authorizations to companies to operate cross-border truck transport services in the United States beyond the border commercial zone to Mexican carriers that fully comply with the requirements and procedures specified in the US regulatory framework. The agreement will be implemented reciprocally, in order for the respective agencies to have time to implement regulations and approve carrier applications. The US DOT is processing Mexican carriers in the first stage.
- ✓ **Second Stage**, also of six months, recognizing that the first 6 month period should be adequate time for SCT to process US applications, the Mexican Government opens the border to US cross-border truck transport services providers. In this second stage the Mexican Government is granting authorizations to an equivalent number of companies to those granted by the US Government in the first stage.
- ✓ **Third Stage**, that commences at the end of the 12-month period, in which a full and permanent opening of the border is foreseen, and new carrier applications being incorporated in the normal operating authority procedures of each country without quantitative restrictions.

The purpose of the Pilot Program occurring in **three stages** is to achieve a phased-in opening to give carriers the experience in operating in both markets and to gradually clarify and detail the border opening procedures.

### **The Technical Bi-national Monitoring Group**

The Pilot Program will operate under the guidance of a Technical Bi-national Monitoring Group with a directive to detect any problem, obstacle, or deficiency, including those on market access and to design and recommend the implementation of specific and timely solutions.

This group will be composed of officials from the Secretariat of Communications and Transportation (SCT) and the Secretariat of Economy (SE), from Mexico, and from the Department of Transportation (DOT) and the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR), from the United States.

### **Next Steps**

The pending tasks to start the implementation of border opening are the following:

- Pilot Program joint formal announcement that establishes the beginning dates of implementation
- Creation and start of operations of the Technical Bi-national Monitoring Group
- Identification of Mexican Carriers in the Pilot Program
- **Beginning of the Pilot Program First Stage**
- Monthly meetings of the Monitoring Group to assess the program development
- During the first stage, Mexico will publish its requirements for U.S. carriers to cross into and operate within Mexico and determine a date to begin accepting applications from U.S. carriers.
- **Beginning of the Pilot Program Second Stage**
- Monthly meetings of the Monitoring Group to assess the program development
- A Monitoring Group Report, including an assessment of the Pilot Program
- **Beginning of the Permanent Opening Third Stage**

It was also noted at the discussions that nothing in the Pilot Program prevents SCT and DOT from augmenting the number of carriers included in the pilot so long as both agencies mutually agree to do so. In this way, Mexico and the United States will facilitate the opening the border to cross-border truck transport services as provided

for in the NAFTA. The border opening will create effective access and fair competitive conditions to enhance overall competitiveness of the region, and to facilitate trade and cooperation between both countries at the same time.



NAFTA is one of the most important steps taken by Canada, Mexico and the United States in their common economic history. With this Program, Mexico and the United States endorse their common desire to fulfill their obligations and to show, as a matter of fact, their commitment to an open border for cross-border transport services, competitiveness, and prosperity in North America as a basic pillar to strengthen their development.

Washington, D.C.

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