

LAW LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

MEXICO

TRANSLATION OF NATIONAL LEGISLATION INTO ENGLISH

Mexico is a federal republic comprising thirty-one states and the federal district, best known as Mexico City. Neither Mexico's federal government nor Mexican states publish their respective statutes, regulations, or court rulings in English—all official versions are made available in Spanish only. Some websites maintained by private companies sell translations of Mexican federal laws into English. However, it is not possible to determine whether the translations offered by these websites are up-to-date and reliable. This report provides a summary of major sources where federal statutes and court rulings are published in the vernacular, as well as a list of selected commercial translations of Mexican national laws available at the Law Library of Congress.

I. Official Publications of Federal Statutes and Regulations

The Mexican federal government publishes the official version of federal statutes and regulations in the *Diario Oficial*:

- *Diario Oficial de la Federación* [Official Gazette] (1916–), LC Call No. KGF16 .A265.

II. Federal Court Reporters

The official version of court rulings issued by the Mexican Supreme Court and Federal Courts of Appeal are available in the *Semanario Judicial de la Federación y Su Gaceta*:

- SEMANARIO JUDICIAL DE LA FEDERACIÓN Y SU GACETA [FEDERAL JUDICIAL GAZETTE] (1917–), LC Call No. KGF72 .A21995.

Issues of this publication published since March 2011 are available online on the website of Mexico's Supreme Court:

- SUPREMA CORTE DE JUSTICIA DE LA NACIÓN [SUPREME COURT OF JUSTICE OF THE NATION], <http://www.scjn.gob.mx/libreria/paginas/semanario.aspx>.

III. Commercial Translations of National Legislation

The Law Library of Congress holds several commercial publications that provide unofficial translations of Mexican laws. However, a number of these publications are outdated,

either because the translated laws are no longer in force or because they were substantially amended after the translation was published.

The following list of selected titles from the Law Library's collection provides a sample of recent commercial publications of Mexican laws translated into English:

- MEXICAN TAX, CUSTOMS, AND FOREIGN INVESTMENT LAWS (CCH), LC Call No. KGF4584 1999 GLOBAL, is a loose-leaf publication that provides recent translations of major Mexican tax statutes and regulations into English.
- COMMERCIAL CODE OF MEXICO: SELECTED SUBSTANTIVE PROVISIONS (Julio Romañach Jr. trans., 3d ed. 2011), LC Call No. KGF1054.31889 .A52 2011. This publication provides a translation of all the substantive provisions of the Mexican Commercial Code. It does not include a translation of the section of the Code that governs commercial disputes.
- MEXICAN COMMERCIAL CODE ANNOTATED (Jorge A. Vargas trans., 2009), LC Call No. KGF1054.31889 .V37 2009 GLOBAL. This bilingual publication indicates that it was last updated in 2008.

IV. Online Resources

Although the following websites are maintained by the Mexican federal government and are generally reliable, they do not provide the official version of either federal statutes or court rulings (see parts I and II, above, for official sources):

- *Leyes Federales Vigentes*, DIPUTADOS.GOB.MX, <http://www.diputados.gob.mx/LeyesBiblio/index.htm>. This website is maintained by Mexico's House of Representatives and provides up-to-date texts of major federal laws and regulations.
- IUS, <http://200.38.163.161/>. This website is maintained by Mexico's Supreme Court and provides excerpts of its own court rulings as well as of court rulings issued by the Federal Court of Appeals.

The following websites provide information on Mexican law in English:

- GLOBAL LEGAL INFORMATION NETWORK (GLIN), <http://www.glin.gov/search.action>. GLIN is an online database containing official texts of laws, regulations, and court rulings in their original languages for many foreign jurisdictions, including Mexico. In addition, GLIN provides summaries in English of Mexican laws.
- *Guide to Law Online: Mexico*, LAW LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, <http://www.loc.gov/law/help/guide/nations/mexico.php>. This is a guide to sources of information on Mexico's government and law prepared by the Law Library of Congress's Public Services Division.
- MEXICAN LAW, <http://www.mexlaw.com/>. This website is maintained by University of San Diego School of Law professor Jorge A. Vargas, and provides brief summaries of Mexican laws in English. In addition, it includes information on major legal

developments and lists a number of websites that provide information on Mexican law.

- MEXICANLAW.COM: MEXICAN LEGAL RESOURCES PRESENTED BY CACHEAUX CAVAZOS & NEWTON, <http://www.mexicanlaw.com/>. This website, maintained by the San Antonio-based law firm Cacheaux, Cavazos & Newton, provides a monthly newsletter that covers Mexican legal topics and links to Mexican legal information.
- *UPDATE: An Electronic Guide to Mexican Law*, GLOBALEX, <http://www.nyulaw.global.org/Globalex/Mexico1.htm>. This guide, part of an electronic publication on foreign law research maintained by the Hauser Global Law School Program at the New York University School of Law, was prepared by Francisco A. Avalos (a former librarian with the University of Arizona) and Elisa Donnadiou (who works with the Pima County Public Defender's Office). It provides an overview of the Mexican legal system and briefly describes major Mexican laws.

There are also private companies that sell English translations of Mexican laws:

- *InterAmSM Database*, NATIONAL LAW CENTER FOR INTER-AMERICAN FREE TRADE, <http://natlaw.com/php/translations.php?c=mx>. This database sells English translations of Mexican federal laws and regulations.
- MEXICAN LAWS, <http://www.mexicanlaws.com/completelist.htm>. This service, offered by a Mexican company, also sells English translations of Mexican federal laws and regulations.

Please note that these are commercial websites. Therefore, the Law Library of Congress cannot make any assurances as to how accurate, complete, or current are the information and translations provided therein.

Prepared by Gustavo Guerra
Senior Foreign Law Specialist
March 2012