

ABC's of Mexico

- A. Arms, ammunition, illegal drugs are prohibited in Mexico – DON'T BRING THEM. Leave items with a friend, in a storage unit. Check with a pawnbroker concerning their policy on pawning and retrieving guns.
- B. Beverages – Coca Cola and cerveza are readily available in Mexico. Root beer, tonic, other flavor soft drinks and wine are not as readily available.
- C. CB radios – are absolutely necessary for all Mexican Connection Rallies. It is a matter of safety traveling in groups.
- D. Diesel fuel – see Tom Korsmo's article in last summers newsletter for information particularly if you have a newer diesel engine.
- E. Electricity Mexican style – It may not be grounded, you may find reversed polarity, it can range from below 100 volts to over 120 volts. Bring a voltmeter and surge protector. Plan to run your refrigerator and hot water heater on propane.
- F. Food – Part of the experience of traveling is trying the local cuisine. If you crave a familiar food bring it with you.
- G. Gas – and diesel are readily available from Pemex stations. They do not take credit cards, only pesos.
- H. Hologram – is not necessary if you are traveling in the Free Zone area. You will need one traveling further into Mexico. OUR 2010 RALLY TO BAHIA DE KINO WILL ONLY TAKE US INTO THE FREE ZONE. FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO TRAVEL FARTHER SOUTH BEYOND THE FREE ZONE, YOU WILL NEED A HOLOGRAM.
- I. Insurance – you must have Mexican liability insurance. Make sure it starts on or before the day we enter Mexico. See insurance pages for contacts. Make sure you have your medical evacuation insurance card with you. FMCA, Family Motor Coach Association – now offers this for free to all members. Mexican full comprehensive insurance is a personal decision but is generally expensive. Check with your own insurance agent to see if either liability or comprehensive is covered under your current policy.
- J. Join us – volunteer to make the rally a success. You will make many friends and find traveling companions.
- K. Distance Conversion
- L. Language – you don't have to speak Spanish to visit Mexico but learning a few basic phrases is useful. Buy an English/Spanish dictionary, check out a tape or CD from your library and give it a try.
- M. Maintenance of your vehicles should be done before arriving at the pre-rally. Be sure to check the date on your tires as RV manufacturers are the largest distributor of old RV tires. It is not unusual to buy a brand new RV with 3 year old tires. Ask a tire shop to check the age and tread of your tires. Replacement tires are sometimes difficult to find and expensive. Have you checked your hoses?
- N. **No one is left behind** is the motto of the Mexican Connection, unless you violate A, then you are on your own.
- O. Ownership of vehicles - proof of ownership is required. You need copy of original title, or original registration for each vehicle. If your vehicle is financed you will need a notarized letter and a copy from that bank authorizing use in Mexico.
- P. Passports – are required to return to the United States. Make sure it won't expire while in Mexico.
- Q. Quarantined food items – Certain foods cannot be brought back into the USA even if they were purchased in the US to begin with. See page with the list of items. You may also call 1-866-2
- SAFGUARD for a recorded message or 301-734-8295 to speak with the USDA directly.
- R. Receipt for Holograma – keep it with your passport. We have been asked to present it at checkpoints and when turning in our hologram.
- S. Sewers – in Mexico are older and smaller in diameter than those in the United States. If you haven't digested it, do NOT flush it in a toilet, including the one in your RV since it is hooked up to one of those sewers. Special RV or marine toilet paper that will dissolve in a glass of water can safely be placed in toilets, however the safest means of disposal is not to flush toilet paper. You may clog the system and everyone will suffer.
- T. Traveling after the rally – generally groups with interest in the same places are formed to continue their exploration. There will be sign-up sheets at the rally with names of people traveling to different areas that you can join if you like.
- U. Unflappable – is a good attitude to bring when attending a group event of this size.
- V. Veterinarian Health Certificate – your pet must have a current rabies vaccine. There is a U.S. Dept. of Agriculture form for re-importing your pet into the U.S. It usually must be filled out two weeks prior to your entering Mexico. You will need the address of the place you are staying.
- W. Wastebaskets – in public restrooms are for disposal of toilet paper. Be sure to use them so you don't clog the sewer system.
- X. RR Xing – railroad crossings. Most do not have gates. Come to a complete stop before crossing.
- Y. Youths – if you are traveling with children (not your own) or grandchildren you MUST HAVE a notarized letter of permission signed by the parents or if only one parent is accompanying the child(ren), by the other parent. You must also have the child's passport.
- Z. Zero – out your odometers where called for in the road log.