

## Mexican tariffs hit Southern Arizona exporters

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Southern Arizona businesses that rely on exporting goods south of the border could take a severe hit with Mexico announcing it's applying tariffs of up to 45 percent on some U.S. products.

U.S. exporters will see tariffs increase between 10 percent and 20 percent, while "unspecified fresh products" — which could include fruits and vegetables grown locally — will be assessed a 45 percent tariff.

The tariffs, which went into effect Wednesday, affect \$2.4 billion worth of goods that enter Mexico. That's only a fraction of the roughly \$300 billion in products the U.S. exports annually to Mexico, but a University of Arizona law professor said companies whose products are on the tariff list should be worried.

"There may be some producers that are very badly hit," said David Gantz, a professor at the University of Arizona's James E. Rogers College of Law. "If you're a California wine producer, and you're competing against Chilean wine that's coming in duty free, you're screwed. Clearly, this was designed to bring about some specific pain."

The new tariffs retaliate for the U.S. scrapping a test program to let Mexican trucks deliver goods beyond a U.S. border zone.

"This doesn't just hurt growers in the U.S., it hurts consumers in both countries," said Alison Moore, a spokeswoman for the Nogales, Ariz.-based Fresh Produce Association of the Americas. "The U.S. expects their trading partners to do what they're supposed to do. Unfortunately, when things get out of whack ... this is what we're going to see."

Mexico will apply tariffs of 10 percent to 45 percent on dozens of U.S. products in retaliation for the U.S. scrapping a pilot program for Mexican truckers.

The spat can't be resolved until the U.S. has a commerce secretary, Mexico's economy minister said. Here are some of the items.

### 10 percent tax

Cabbage  
Copy paper  
Dog and cat food  
Notebooks  
Onions  
Toilet paper

### 15 percent tax

Deodorants  
Dinnerware  
Hair conditioner  
Manicure / pedicure tools  
Shampoo  
Shaving products  
Sunglasses  
Toothpaste

### 20 percent tax

Almonds  
Apricots  
Beer  
Cherries  
Christmas trees  
Coffee makers  
Cordless telephones  
Curtain rods  
Event, lottery tickets  
Fruit juice  
Mineral water  
Pears  
Pencils  
Plastic ID cards  
Pork rinds  
Potatoes  
Soy sauce  
Statues, decorative art  
Strawberries  
Wine