

The **United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA)** is the most comprehensive and high-standard trade agreement ever negotiated. It fully updates, modernizes, and rebalances the NAFTA to meet the challenges of the 21st century economy and to ensure that American workers, farmers, ranchers, and businesses, including small- and medium-sized enterprises, share in the benefits of the agreement. It will help drive economic prosperity, promote fairer and more balanced trade, and help ensure that North America remains the world's most competitive region.

USMCA Includes Advanced, Comprehensive, and Enforceable Environment Obligations

The United States, Mexico, and Canada have agreed to an environment chapter in the USMCA that includes the strongest, most advanced, and most comprehensive set of environmental obligations of any U.S. trade agreement. One of President Trump's principal objectives of this renegotiation was to ensure that the new agreement discouraged outsourcing by companies seeking to avoid U.S. environmental rules. **Unlike the NAFTA, the USMCA's environmental provisions:**

- ✓ **Have been incorporated into the core text of the agreement.**
- ✓ **Are fully enforceable, subject to dispute resolution.**

Highlights of the USMCA Environment Chapter

- ✓ **Requires the Parties to Effectively Enforce Their Environmental Laws**
 - This includes committing the parties to not to weaken their environmental laws to encourage trade or investment.
- ✓ **Promotes the Protection of Coastal and Marine Environments**
 - Prohibits certain harmful fish subsidies, including those that benefit vessels or operators involved in illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing.
 - Improves fisheries management to prevent illegal fishing, overfishing, and overcapacity.
 - Includes provisions designed to address and reduce – for the first time in any trade agreement – marine litter.
 - Prohibits shark finning and commercial whaling, as well as the use of poisons and explosives in commercial fishing operations, also for the first time in any trade agreement.
- ✓ **Seeks to Improve Air Quality**
 - Commits the parties to additional trilateral cooperation and to more transparency concerning certain data and information.
- ✓ **Ensures Market Access for U.S. Environmental Technologies, Goods, and Services**
- ✓ **Promotes Conservation and Combats Trafficking in Wildlife, Timber, and Fish**
 - Sets minimum penalties for these environmental crimes and enhances the effectiveness of customs and border inspections of shipments.
- ✓ **Requires Parties Fulfill Obligations Under Multilateral Environment Agreements**
 - Parties must adopt and implement measures to fulfill obligations under certain environmental agreements, including the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES).
- ✓ **Encourages Public Participation in Implementation**
 - Including by providing a clear, time-bound public submission process.
- ✓ **Complements a Modernized, Trilateral Environmental Cooperation Agreement**