

THE IDEAL ALMANAC

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Mexico: Plant Update

Hello and Welcome to the December edition of the Ideal Almanac.

Putting in a new plant always has some unintended challenges depending on where in the world it is happening. Our plant in Penang, Malaysia, was done during the Covid lockdown and to the credit of our plant leader, Edwen Bay, they were able to get up and running with virtually no outside help. A truly amazing feat since he had no prior printing experience. That is not the case with IJ Mexico, where we already had a small distribution center headed by Paulina Vallejo.

The first major challenge was learning a big lesson. The first two shipments of equipment we sent, one from Canada through the US to Mexico and the second from the US to Mexico, were both damaged. For various reasons, neither of the shipments had been crated before being loaded on flatbed trucks and both were damaged by the time they got to Guadalajara. What we learned, which

sounds so obvious as I write this, is to never send a shipment over the US/Mexico Border unless it is crated and if possible, that it is not re-loaded before going into Mexico. Seems logical, I know, but we did not know and now we do. The damage to both does not appear to be horrible but we need to avoid trouble like this for the future.

The plant is currently being planned out based on the extensive electrical requirements. Next will be the construction of the various production and inventory rooms. We know there will be further challenges that will cost more money than we planned, but we also know that by the time we finish it, it should be an amazing facility that will hopefully attract new customers, more business from current customers and give us a gateway into South America. A journey well worth the potential benefit.

Regards,
Andrew



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