**Walmart Mexico: Allegations of Bribery**

**Ethics, regulations, Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, bribery, corruption**

Description: This video focuses on allegations that Walmart’s Mexican branch may have engaged in bribing foreign government officials in Mexico to obtain permits. Walmart launched an internal investigation of these allegations. An expert in law, Joseph Hoffman, explains the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act and why Walmart might have violated it if it bribed government officials in Mexico. He also distinguishes between bribery and facilitating payments but acknowledges the line between the two is not always clear.

Please share your thoughts on the following issues as you watch a news video on allegations that Walmart’s Mexican branch may have engaged in bribing foreign government officials in Mexico to obtain permits. Walmart is launching an internal investigation of these allegations.

*Use with:* [*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9MXsUrlNekA*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9MXsUrlNekA)

1. Are these allegations more of an ethics issue, a legal issue, or both?
2. Describe the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act. Why was it passed?
3. According to allegations, why did Walmart Mexico pay bribes?
4. How does Joseph Hoffman describe whether a payment to a government official is a bribe?
5. How does Joseph Hoffman describe facilitating payments? What is the difference between facilitating payments and bribes?
6. Why is the line between bribes and facilitating payments not always clear?
7. Why would the payments allegedly made by Walmart Mexico not be considered facilitating payments?
8. How might the Justice Department get around the statute of limitations if they find that Walmart Mexico engaged in bribery?
9. Why do you think criminal charges against Walmart could result in the company having to pay twice the amount of profits it initially gained from the alleged bribery?