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## General

Colombia is located in Northern South America. The country borders the Caribbean Sea between Panama and Venezuela, and the North Pacific Ocean between Ecuador and Panama.

The climate is tropical along the coast and eastern plains, becoming cooler in the highlands.

The terrain is flat coastal lowlands, central highlands, high interior Andes Mountains, and eastern lowland plains.

## Buoyage System

The IALA Buoyage System (Region B) is in effect.

See Chart No. 1 for further IALA Buoyage System information.

## Currency

The official unit of currency is the Colombian peso, consisting of 100 centavos.

## Government

Colombia is a constitutional republic in which the executive branch determines government structure. The capital is Bogota.

## Holidays

The following holidays are observed:

January 1, New Year's Day; January 6, Epiphany; March 19, St. Joseph; Maundy Thursday; Good Friday; May 1, Labor Day; Ascension Day; May 23, Corpus Christi; June 29, St. Peter and St. Paul; July 20, Independence Day; August 7, Boyaca Battle; August 15, Assumption; October 12, Columbus Day; November 1, All Saints' Day; November 11, Cartagena Independence Day; December 8, Immaculate Conception; and December 25, Christmas Day.

## Industries

The main industries include textiles, food processing, oil, clothing and footwear, beverages, chemicals, metal products, and cement.

## Languages

The official language is Spanish.

## Pilotage

Pilotage is compulsory at all ports for vessels exceeding 250 nrt. Harbor authorities must be notified of vessel's ETA 24 hours prior to arrival.

Required notice should be forwarded 48 hours ahead for vessels carrying dangerous cargoes. The message should include vessel's name, nationality, previous ports of call, size, draft, tonnage, and quantified nature of cargo to be loaded or discharged.

**Regulations**

Within the territorial waters of Colombia, masters of vessels are liable to heavy fines, seizure of vessel or cancellation of licenses if they:

1. Fail to obey the orders of the competent authorities regarding departure and arrival at ports.
2. Moor at piers, off beaches, or off river banks where this is not permitted by the authorities.
3. Alter their port of destination without permission.
4. Unjustifiable delay passage between two ports.
5. Carry out unauthorized embarking or disembarking of persons and loading or unloading of cargo.

6. Disobey instructions from military, naval, police, customs, or port authorities.

7. Do not comply with the regulations of the competent authorities in force for maritime and river traffic.

**Time Zone**

The Time Zone description is ROMEO (+5).

**U.S. Embassy**

The U.S. Embassy is situated at Calle 38, No. 8-61, Bogota. The mailing address is Apartado Aereo 3831, Bogota; APO AA 34038.