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General

French Guiana, located in the N part of South America, is bounded on the W by Suriname and on the S and E by Brazil. It includes the offshore islands of Devil's Island, Royal Island, and St. Joseph Island.

The land rises gradually from a low swampy coastline, 200 miles long, to higher slopes and plains about 50 miles inland. The low mountains are composed entirely of granite and extend in an E/W direction.

The country is well drained, with more than 20 rivers discharging into the ocean. Immense forests of rich timber cover about 90 per cent of the land.

The climate is tropical, hot, and humid with very little seasonal temperature variation.

Buoyage System

The IALA Buoyage System (Region B) is in effect. See Chart No. 1 for further IALA Buoyage System information.

Currency

The official monetary unit is the French franc, consisting of 100 centimes.

Firing Areas

Rocket firings, associated with the space program at the Centre Spatial de Kourou (5°15'N., 52°45'W.), are conducted off the coast of French Guiana.

Danger areas are promulgated by Radio Navigational Warning Messages.

Government



Flag of French Guiana

French Guiana is an overseas department of France, administered by a directly-elected 19-member General Council and a 31-member Regional Council; members of both bodies serve 6-year terms. It is represented in the French National

Assembly and Senate. The French government is represented by an appointed Prefect.

The legal system is based on French civil law.

The capital is Cayenne.

Holidays

The following holidays are observed:

New Year's Day	January 1
Easter Monday	Varies
May Day	May 1
Ascension Day	Varies
Bastille Day	July 14
All Saints Day	November 1
Armistice Day	November 11
Christmas Day	December 25

In addition, numerous local holidays (religious or traditional) are observed at the various ports.

Industries

The principal crops are rice, manioc, bananas, sugarcane, and pineapples.

Tropical hardwoods are the chief resource of French Guiana. Important industries include construction materials, shrimp processing, forestry products, tourism, and gold mining.

Languages

The official language is French.

Regulations

Vessels in transit or stationary within the territorial waters, except when alongside in port, should maintain a continuous listening watch on VHF channel 16 and respond to calls by official vessels and French coast radio stations.

Reporting System (SURNV)

The SURNV system is intended to prevent accidental pollution in the territorial water of French Guiana and the waters within 50 miles of the coast of French Guiana. The regulations are mandatory for the following vessels:

- Vessels carrying the following cargo:
 - Hydrocarbons, including oil (as specified in Appendix 1 to Annex 1 of MARPOL 73).
 - Dangerous substances (Class A and Class B to Appendix 2 to Annex 2 of MARPOL 73).
 - Certain radioactive cargo.
 - Certain bulk chemical products.
 - Bulk liquefied gas.
- Vessels providing assistance to those vessels listed in paragraph 1 above.

The reports are prefixed with SURNV-FRANCE and should be sent to the Head of Marine in Guyana and the

Antilles (CMAG). The reports should be sent through a coast radio station. If the vessel is in a port within French territorial waters, the report should be sent through the relevant port authority.

SURNV messages are sent, as follows:

Inbound and outbound vessels:

Vessels intending to enter the territorial limits of French Guiana from sea or to depart from a port or anchorage in French Guiana are required to send a message, the details of which are listed in the table below, prefixed SURNV-FRANCE, followed by INFO COMELEMAR CAYENNE, to the CMAG in Martinique 6 hours in advance.

Inbound and Outbound Vessels	
Designator	Information required
ALFA	Vessel's name, nationality, and call sign.
BRAVO	Date and time UT (GMT), suffixed ZULU (6 figures DD/HH/MM).
CHARLIE	Position.
ECHO	Course.
FOXTROT	Speed.
INDIA	Destination.
JULIETT	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Date, time UT (GMT), and position of entering territorial waters. Date, time UT (GMT), and place of getting underway.
KILO	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Date, time UT (GMT), and position of leaving territorial waters. Date and time UT (GMT), of arrival at destination (port, anchorage, waiting position, deballasting position) within territorial waters.
NOVEMBER	Radio watch maintained.
PAPA	Draft.
QUEBEC	Cargo—type (as defined by MARPOL 73) and quantity.
ROMEO	<p>Whether maneuvering capabilities are normal or reduced by damage to the following systems:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Propulsion machinery. Control equipment. Anchoring or mooring equipment.
SIERRA	<p>Whether navigational capabilities are normal or reduced by damage to the following systems:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Radar. Radio equipment, especially regarding the ability to send SURNV message or to monitor VHF channel 16. Safety of ballast equipment.

The message should cover the entire time of transit within the territorial waters, even if the vessels leaves and re-enters the territorial waters during the transit. If the message cannot be sent as recommended above, it should be transmitted by any other means possible.

A correction message should be sent to SURNAV-FRANCE if the vessel changes its intentions or if there is a change in its ability to maneuver and navigate.

Accidents:

Any vessel suffering a damage or a defect within 50 miles of the coast of French Guiana should send a message, the details of which are listed in the table below, prefixed SURNAV-AVAIRES, to the CMAG in Martinique.

Accidents	
Designator	Information required
ALFA	Vessel's name, nationality, and call sign.
BRAVO	Date and time UT (GMT), suffixed ZULU (6 figures DD/HH/MM).
CHARLIE	Position.
ECHO	Course.
FOXTROT	Speed.
INDIA	Destination.
JULIETT	Time UT (GMT) and nature of call for assistance or towage.
KILO	Name of assisting vessel, if present. If not present, its ETA UT (GMT).
MIKE	Name and telegraphic address of owner, charterer, and any French consignee.
NOVEMBER	Radio watch maintained.
PAPA	Draft.
QUEBEC	Cargo—type (as defined by MARPOL 73) and quantity.
ROMEO	Nature of damage or development of the situation.
TANGO	Any other information.

This message does not constitute a request for rescue or assistance. If rescue or assistance is required, the vessel should inform the CMAG.

Vessels should report any developments by means of a SURNAV-AVARIES message. A continuous listening watch should be maintained on VHF channel 16. The vessel should respond to any instructions received by the CMAG.

Vessels assisting another vessel:

Any assisting vessel is required, immediately on responding to a call for assistance, to send a message, the

details of which are listed in the table below, prefixed SURNAV-AVAIRES, to the CMAG in Martinique.

Assisting Vessels	
Designator	Information required
ALFA	Vessel's name, nationality, and call sign.
BRAVO	Date and time UT (GMT), suffixed ZULU (6 figures DD/HH/MM).
CHARLIE	Position of assisting vessel.
ECHO	Course of assisting vessel.
FOXTROT	Speed of assisting vessel.
GOLF	Name and telegraphic address of owner, charterer, and any French consignee.
INDIA	Destination.
JULIETT	Date, time UT (GMT), and position of casualty.
KILO	Name, nationality, and call sign of casualty.
LIMA	Course of casualty or destination, if known.
MIKE	Speed of casualty, if known.
NOVEMBER	Radio watch maintained.
QUEBEC	Cargo of casualty, if known.
ROMEO	Damage to casualty.
TANGO	Any other information.

Vessels should report any developments by means of a SURNAV-AVARIES message. A continuous listening watch should be maintained on VHF channel 16. The vessel should respond to any instructions received by the CMAG.

Time Zone

The Time Zone description is PAPA (+3). Daylight Savings Time is not observed.

World Time Zone Chart
<http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/ref/pdf/802801.pdf>

U.S. Embassy

The US maintains no resident representation in French Guiana. The country lies within the consular district of the U.S. Consulate General at Fort-de-France, Martinique.

See Pub. 140 (Planning Guide) North Atlantic Ocean, Baltic Sea, North Sea, and the Mediterranean Sea.