



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Template Version 2.09

Required Report - public distribution

Date: 9/26/2007

GAIN Report Number: CO7017

Colombia

FAIRS Country Report

Annual

2007

Approved by:

R. Todd Drennan
U.S.Embassy

Prepared by:

Alberto Restrepo

Report Highlights:

Colombia has adjusting some regulations to meet its international commitments as well as to be better prepared for more competitive trade. Import sanitary requirements for chicken and chicken products continue to be a stumbling block for boosted trade. The new role of INVIMA as the Colombian food safety and inspection agency has created some problems for U.S. exports that should be temporary.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Annual Report
Bogota [CO1]
[CO]

Table of Contents

SECTION I. FOOD LAWS	3
SECTION II. LABELING REQUIREMENTS	3
A. General Requirements	3
Requirements Specific to Nutritional Labeling	5
SECTION III. PACKAGING AND CONTAINER REGULATIONS	5
SECTION IV. FOOD ADDITIVE REGULATIONS	5
SECTION V. PESTICIDE AND OTHER CONTAMINANTS	6
SECTION VI. OTHER REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS	7
Product Health Registration	7
Importer Registration, Import Registration and Import Licensing	8
Sanitary Permit	8
Pre-Shipment Certification.....	8
Import Duties	8
SECTION VII. OTHER SPECIFIC STANDARDS	9
SECTION VIII. COPYRIGHT AND/OR TRADEMARK LAWS	10
SECTION IX. IMPORT PROCEDURES FOR SPECIFIC COMMODITY GROUPS.....	11
High-Value, Consumer-ready Food Products for Retail Sale	11
Processed food items for institutional use	12
Beef and Pork, Transformed (fresh, chilled or frozen)	13
Import Requirements for Poultry Meat (whole birds), not transformed	15
Poultry Parts (fresh, chilled or frozen)	15
Mechanically Deboned Chicken or Pork (HS: 16.02.39-)	16
Fresh Fruit and Vegetables (HS: 07./08).	18
Processed Fruit and Vegetables (HS: 20).....	18
Wine (HS: 22.04)	19
APPENDIX I. GOVERNMENT REGULATORY AGENCY CONTACTS	21
APPENDIX II. OTHER CONTACTS	21

DISCLAIMER: This report was prepared by the Office of Agricultural Affairs of the USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service in Bogota, Colombia, for U.S. exporters of domestic food and agricultural products. While every possible care was taken in the preparation of this report, information provided may not be completely accurate either because policies have changed since its preparation, or because clear and consistent information about these policies was not available. It is highly recommended that U.S. exporters verify the full set of import requirements with their foreign customers, who are normally best equipped to research such matters with local authorities, before any goods are shipped. FINAL IMPORT APPROVAL OF ANY PRODUCT IS SUBJECT TO THE IMPORTING COUNTRY'S RULES AND REGULATIONS AS INTERPRETED BY BORDER OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF PRODUCT ENTRY.

SECTION I. FOOD LAWS

The basic piece of legislation dealing with food products and human health in Colombia is Law 9 of January 24, 1979 (see text of law on: www.invima.gov.co/normatividad/alimentos). All decrees and regulations produced since then are based on the above-mentioned Law. The Government of Colombia (GOC) has been reviewing its food and food related legislation in the last months because of changes in regulatory food safety responsibilities. The GOC via the Ministry of Social Protection has increased INVIMA's inspection and food safety policy making role. INVIMA stands for the National Institute for the Surveillance of Food and Medicines. INVIMA wants to create more specific rules for products or groups of products as well as to facilitate trade. Some recent regulations deal with production, processing, trade and domestic distribution of meat and meat products; milk and dairy products; and swine slaughtering and pork products. These norms have been WTO notified and member countries commented about their concerns of this legislation that is applied for both domestic and imported products. The new norms have not been fully enforced due to the fact that INVIMA is still in the process of re-engineering its structure and opening new offices at ports while training new staff to meet its new responsibilities.

SECTION II. LABELING REQUIREMENTS

A. General Requirements

The current prevailing labeling regulation for food products in Colombia is mandated by Resolution 5109 of December 29, 2005 issued by the Ministry of Social Protection. The regulation establishes labeling technical standards for domestic and imported packed food products and raw materials for food aimed for human consumption. The basic reason for labels is to provide comprehensive and clear information to allow consumers to make an informed decision. Therefore, the information must be provided in Spanish either on the label or on a sticker authorized to be placed on the product. The information must be factual and true and it should not lead to consumer. Whenever the imported product label is written in a language other than Spanish, a sticker or complementary label can be used to provide the information required by resolution 5109. These labels can be stuck on the product during or after the nationalization process in warehouses or storage facilities inspected, surveyed and controlled by the sanitary authorities. When food products or food raw materials originate in countries where information on expiration date and/or minimum shelf-life (best before...) is not required, the importer must get Invima's prior approval to provide that information in a document issued by the producer. Labeling regulations apply to products in chapters 2 through 21 (except chapter 13 and 14) of the tariff schedule. The Spanish text of resolution 5109 can be downloaded from www.invima.gov.co/invima///normatividad/doc. The technical annex to resolution 5109 follows the recommendations of the U.S. Conference on Weights and Measures (handbook NBS 130 of 1992, page 60) for the size of letters and numbers on the labels, and those of

the European Union about the relationship between net content and the minimum size of characters on labels.

The following information must appear on food product labels:

1. Name of the product.
2. List of ingredients in decreasing order of weight content.
3. Net content and drained weight in metric units (i.e., grams, kilograms).
4. Name and address of producer or processor.
5. Name and address of importer (in the case of imported products).
6. Lot identification or "L" to identify production date, expiration date, minimum shelf-life, etc. This information could be in numbers, numbers and letters, bars, punched data or grooves.
7. Each package must carry the expiration date and/or the minimum shelf-life in a legible, visible and indelible way. Also, labels must include information on product preservation.
8. Instructions for product use.
9. Sanitary registration number issued by INVIMA.

When the individual package for sale is smaller than 10 square centimeters (about 1.6 square inches), the label may not contain the ingredient list, lot identification, expiration date, and conservation and use instructions.

Labels for raw materials for food product must contain the following information:

1. Name of the raw material.
2. List of ingredients.
3. Net content.
4. Name and address of the producer or importer.
5. Country of origin.
6. Lot identification.
7. Expiration date or minimum useful life.
8. Conditions for product conservation.

The above required information must be provided by the producer and can be consigned on the product by the producer, the importer or the distributor. In order to facilitate the issuance of the entry sanitary certificate, the coded or ciphered information on lot identification and expiration dates on the packages of raw materials can be interpreted with a document issued by the producer and validated by the Colombian authorities. No sticker use is allowed for expiration date and/or minimum shelf-life ("Best before....").

When the product consists of or contains any of the listed food products or ingredients that may cause allergy, they must be declared with their specific names as follows:

Breakfast cereals containing grain gluten (wheat, rye, oats, barley, spelt or any grain hybrid or product).

Crustacean and their products.

Eggs and by-products.

Fish and fishery products.

Peanuts, soybeans and their products.

Milk and dairy products, including lactose.

Nuts and derived products.

Sulphites in concentration of 10 milligrams per kilogram or higher.

Radiated Food Products and/or Food Raw Materials: When a product has been subject to ionizing radiation, this condition has to be declared just after the name of the product in a visible way. The use of the international symbol for radiated products is discretionary.

Biotechnology: The presence of any allergen transferred from any of the above listed products in any food product and food ingredient obtained by biotechnology must be declared. The product containing the allergen cannot be marketed if there is not sufficient and adequate information on the label.

There are not specific labeling regulations for **organic products**.

Diet Supplements are ruled by Decree 3249 of September 18, 2006 that is being currently reviewed to introduce some modifications that do not seem to affect the whole text in the original decree issued by the Ministry of Social Protection. In relation to labeling for imported diet supplements, labels will be accepted as they come from the origin country as long as they contain the information required by Article 21 of Decree 3249 in Spanish. The use of a sticker containing the Spanish information is also acceptable and it can be placed over the original label. The label and/or sticker for diet supplements must contain basically the same information as labels for food products in addition to warnings such as "this product is not useful for the diagnosis, treatment, healing or prevention of any disease and it does not meet the requirements of a balanced nutrition"; "keep this product out of the reach of children"; etc. When the diet supplement contains artificial sweeteners a warning should appear on the package to prevent its consumption by people with kidney problems. A warning should also be written in a clear way when the product contains substances that may cause allergies.

Requirements Specific to Nutritional Labeling

Colombia does not have legislation on nutritional requirements yet, but a proposal is has been published for public comment. However, it seems that the nutritional requirements will not be made official in the short or medium run. In any case, there will be a period for adoption to the new rules after being notified and commented by the WTO countries. Whenever there is an issue regarding nutrition values in food products, Colombia relies in the Codex Alimentarius.

Colombia's food labeling law must meet selected requirements in its physical presentation and wording and it should avoid comments and illustrations that may induce confusion or error to consumer.

Health claims are specifically forbidden in Article 272 of the basic Law 9 of January 24 of 1979. A translation of this short article reads as follows: "It is forbidden to allude medical, preventing or healing proprieties or any false specifications about the real nature, origin, composition or quality of food and beverages, on labels or any other publicity".

SECTION III. PACKAGING AND CONTAINER REGULATIONS

Colombia does not have yet any legislation on food packaging and containers. However, there is currently a proposal that is being analyzed by the different government agencies involved which will be published for the industry and consumer comments. This regulation takes into consideration the different aspects of a growing trade and a domestic expanding food processing industry as well as environmental considerations. The main concern with respect to food packaging and containers is to preserve the sanitary conditions of the food product by establishing conditions for the surface of containers that are in direct contact with the product. The current legislation on food packaging is contained in Decree 3075 of 1997, but the new proposal is more specific on the technical conditions to be met by the products to be used as packaging materials.

SECTION IV. FOOD ADDITIVE REGULATIONS

The basic piece of legislation on food additives is Decree 2106 of July 26, 1983 issued by the Ministry of Social Protection. See Colombian decrees on INVIMA's website

(www.invima.gov.co/normatividad/alimentos/decretos). There is a current proposal to review decree 2106 and it is being published for comments and suggestions of the interested parties. The proposal intends to specify technical aspects in the use of domestic and imported food additives. It also establishes the obligation to register all plants producing, processing, packaging, selling, importing and exporting food additives. As in the prevailing decree 2106, the rule of thumb is to accept those food additives accepted by the Codex Alimentarius and FAO/WHO. The generic additive names listed below can be used in food followed by the substance specific name and optionally the international identification number:

Flavor enhancer, acid, agglutinating agent, anti-agglutinating agent, anti-compacting agent, anti-foaming agent, anti-oxidizing, aroma agent, bleaching, natural or artificial dye, clarifying agent, natural or artificial sweetener, emulsifier, enzymes, thickener, foaming, stabilizing agent, gasifying agent, gelling agent, moisture agent, anti-moisture agent, volume enhancer, propelling substances, acidity regulators or alkalifiers, emulsifying salts, preservatives, color retaining substances, substances for flour treatment, glossy agent.

When a product is declared as being 100% natural, it cannot contain additives.

Food producers can use the additive genetic names below when the food additives have been approved by the Ministry of Social Protection or are included in the Codex Food Additive lists whose use has been authorized:

1. Aromas or aroma producing substances. The word "aroma" must be qualified by "natural aroma", "equivalent to the natural aroma", "artificial aroma" or a combination of the above.
2. Flavors or flavoring agents.

If a food product contains Tartrazine, it must be clearly and visibly written on the label as FDC Yellow #5 or Tartrazine. When Aspartame is used as artificial sweetener, the label must indicate: "fenilcetonurics: contains fenilalanine".

SECTION V. PESTICIDE AND OTHER CONTAMINANTS

Colombia used to have its own regulations on pesticides and their agricultural applications under the responsibilities of ICA (the Colombian Agricultural Institute is an agency under the Ministry of Agriculture that performs APHIS). The rules were dictated by Decree 1843 of 1991 and ICA resolutions such as 1056 of 1996. Later on, the government of Colombia has contributed to the regulations on pesticides developed by the Andean Community of Nations (CAN) under CAN Decision 436 and the CAN adoption of the Andean Technical Handbook for Registration and Control of Chemical Pesticides for Agricultural Use.

Colombia does not have national standards for MRL (pesticide Maximum Residue Limits). Colombia applies the Codex Alimentarius regulations on maximum residue levels. If for some reason there are no Codex MRL information for a specific product (either imported or domestically produced) or there are serious doubts about its pesticide content, a sample is taken and analyzed by the National Laboratory for Farming Inputs (known by the Spanish acronym LANIA) or the National Laboratory for Livestock Inputs (known by the Spanish acronym LANIP) which are administered by the Colombian Agricultural Institute (ICA) of the Colombian Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. The interested party must pay for the analysis fee (i.e., producer and/or importer/exporter). Information about the specific fees charged by ICA can be found in ICA's web page: www.ica.gov.co/normatividad/tarifas (Acuerdo 05 of December 19, 2006).

SECTION VI. OTHER REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

Product Health Registration

All processed retail food items, including products imported in bulk for repackaging for retail use without further processing, must be registered and approved by INVIMA. INVIMA charges a registration fee ranging from \$796.00 to \$1,670.00 per product. According to Decree 3075 of 1997, product registration is not required for:

- Products that are not subject to any transformation, such as grains, fruits, fresh vegetable, honey, etc.
- Products of animal origin that are not subject to any transformation process.
- Products used as raw materials by the food industry or HRI sector in food preparation.

A transformed product is defined by the GOC as having been subjected to processing that resulted in a change in its internal structure.

INVIMA registration is valid for 10 years but only for the applicant (exporter or importer) and the manufacturer specified in it. Whenever the U.S. exporter wants to change its Colombian importer, there are two possibilities:

(a) If the U.S. exporter is the applicant for the INVIMA registration, he must submit an application for registration modification to INVIMA (cost 101.197 pesos or about \$47.30).

(b) If the Colombian importer is the applicant, the U.S. exporter must initiate a new registration process, specifying his new importer(s). Afterwards, he may change his importer(s) whenever he deems it advisable. The U.S. exporter must apply through his legal representative in Colombia.

INVIMA registration is valid only for the specifications (e.g., product description and size) mentioned in the registration. If another presentation of the same product is to be imported, the registering company needs to inform INVIMA in writing of the new product.

INVIMA registration of processed foods requires: (1) a written document from the manufacturer stating that it manufactures the product; and (2) a certificate of free sale stating that the products are approved for human consumption in the United States. This certificate needs to be issued by a U.S. government (state, local or federal) health authority. Although not strictly required, INVIMA registration is facilitated if a description of the manufacturing process and a list of the ingredients is submitted, including any additives, preservatives, and colorings (dyes). Since Colombia implemented The Hague Convention of October 5, 1961 with Law 455 of August 4, 1998, facilitating import documentation, the above listed documents must carry an "apostille" stamp. The "apostille" stamp fee amounts to \$20 each and it is produced by different authorities in each State, i.e. a Notary or a State Secretary or Under Secretary. This procedure replaced the notarization by the Colombian Embassy or a Consulate in the United States and by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bogota. A translator approved by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs must translate these documents into Spanish.

INVIMA charges a registration fee ranging from \$796.00 to \$1,670.00 per product. After the submission of all required documentation, product registration by INVIMA takes about three working days (although we have received reports that this can take longer). Internet can carry out most of the product registration process. After issuing the product registration, INVIMA analyzes the documents provided by the importer and may request additional information. Some importers complain that this procedure may result in additional

requirements that become non-tariff barriers to trade. Product samples may also be taken from the shelf to conduct laboratory tests.

Importer Registration, Import Registration and Import Licensing

Every Colombian importer must be registered with the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism (MOCIT). U.S. exporters seeking to sell to a Colombian firm should ascertain that the Colombian importer has obtained the legal authority to import agricultural products by completing the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism registration process. Once registered, the importer or importing company enjoys the legal right to import any agricultural product.

Most agricultural imported products require an import registration form (cost 30,000 pesos or about US\$14.00) issued by the MOCIT. Internet can carry out the import registration process and its approval takes about two working days.

Sanitary Permit

Products used as raw materials by the food industry or HRI sector in food preparation do not need an INVIMA registration, but they do need a sanitary permit from the Ministry of Agriculture's Colombian Agricultural Institute (ICA) and comply with the labeling regulations explained above. ICA is responsible for the issuance of import sanitary permits for animal products, vegetables, fruits, grains, pet food, dairy products and agricultural inputs, including seeds. Genetically modified organisms (GMO's) for plantings have to be approved by the National Technical Committee (CTN-Bio) where ICA is a member. See CO-7014 of 7/16/07: Annual Biotechnology Report. The permit details the zoo-sanitary or phyto-sanitary (SPS) import requirements for the specific product. The Colombian importer must first obtain the import permit from ICA, before requesting an import license from the MOCIT. The importer should supply the exporter with the ICA import permit for submission to USDA. USDA then issues a sanitary export certificate referencing the requirements in ICA's import permit. No shipments should be loaded and transported without the submission of the sanitary permit. Whenever, ICA issues new health requirements, the sanitary agency in the United States is notified to see if it can comply with the new requirements. Both FSIS and APHIS place the Colombian sanitary requirements on their respective web pages and each exporter can take them from there. The recognized FSIS or APHIS official signs the corresponding export certificate.

For ICA approval, the product must: (1) come from a USDA inspected facility; (2) be free of disease; (3) be inspected by USDA prior to its shipment and be accompanied by a USDA health export certificate; and (4) be inspected by an ICA veterinarian upon arrival in Colombia.

Pre-Shipment Certification

Beginning on July 1, 1999, the Colombian Government eliminated the prior inspection and certification of imported food products at the loading port as part of an effort to ease import procedures.

Import Duties

Most processed foods are assessed a 20 percent ad-valorem import duty. However, some high-value food product imports, such as fresh/chilled and frozen pork and chicken parts, are subject to the Andean Community's price band and reference price system, which can

markedly increase the Colombian import duty. The U.S. Government views the reference price and price band systems applied by Colombia to be inconsistent with Colombia's World Trade Organization obligations. The price band system distorts trade and does not operate in a transparent manner. Colombian processed food imports from Chile and other country members of the Andean Community (Peru, Ecuador, and Bolivia) enter duty-free. This, combined with lower transport charges, provides a significant cost incentive for local importers to turn to regional suppliers rather than to purchase from the United States. This is particularly true for fresh and processed fruit, wine, and at times for meat.

For those U.S. products subject to the price band system, import duties are calculated based upon the CIF adjusted floor, ceiling, and reference price levels determined by the Andean Board of Directors. The Andean Community establishes annual ceiling and floor prices every April. The Andean Community adjusts the reference prices every two weeks, per prices recorded by indicative markets for each marker product. If, the applicable reference price falls within the floor and ceiling price band, the import duty is calculated by applying the common external tariff rate for the Andean Community to the reference price. When the reference price falls below the floor price, a variable levy, or surcharge, is applied, that is based on the difference between the floor price and the reference price. This surcharge is levied in addition to the applied duty. Conversely, when the reference price exceeds the ceiling price, a reduction is made to the applied duty, based on the difference between the reference and the ceiling prices.

The following illustrates how Colombia's import duties are calculated for those U.S. food products subject to the price band system. In the example below, we have calculated Colombia's import duty treatment that would be assessed against imports of chicken parts (if they are approved for import) arriving at Colombian ports September 16-30, 2007:

Price Band Ceiling Price	\$1,714 per ton
Price Band Floor Price	\$1,512 per ton
Reference Price	\$1,192 per ton
Basic Duty Rate	20 percent

Variable Surcharge = (Floor Price - Reference Price) * (1+Basic Duty Rate)/Reference Price

Total Import Duty (52 percent) = Basic Duty Rate (20 percent) + Variable Surcharge (32 percent)

The Total Import Duty is updated and published on the web page of the Andean Community (http://www.comunidadandina.org/politicas/franja_circular.htm) twice a month. The duty paid is the total import duty (77 percent) times the declared import value.

Food samples can be sent to Colombia for market testing purposes with a previous notification to INVIMA's Director for Food and Alcoholic Beverages (invimasal@invima.gov.co). The request to INVIMA must establish the type of food product, purpose for its introduction, producer name and address, expiration date and number of units. The sample commercial value cannot exceed FOB US\$1,000. Samples shipped via express mail or parcel Post are subject to the Colombian import regulations especially related to sanitary certificates.

After a product is registered and imported into Colombia, INVIMA inspectors may take product samples at random from the shelf to conduct laboratory tests.

SECTION VII. OTHER SPECIFIC STANDARDS

No other specific standards are noted.

SECTION VIII. COPYRIGHT AND/OR TRADEMARK LAWS

Protection of Property Rights. Colombia has been on the Special 301 “Watch List” every year since 1991. Key concerns include lax customs enforcement and the inability to conclude legal cases against traffickers or counterfeiters. Colombia, a WTO member, has ratified legislation to meet its obligations under the Uruguay Round Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights. Colombia is a member of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works, the Treaty on the International Registration of Audiovisual Works, and the 1978 Union for the Protection of New Plant Varieties, and is a signatory to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

In Colombia, the granting, registration, and administration of intellectual property rights (industrial property and copyright) are carried out by four separate government entities. Colombia currently lacks a unified IPR registration system. The Superintendence of Industry and Commerce (SIC), under the MOCIT, acts as the Colombian patent and trademark office (www.sic.gov.co). The Colombian Agricultural Institute (ICA) is in charge of the issuance of plant variety protection-related and agro-chemical patents. The Ministry of Social Protection is in charge of the issuance of pharmaceutical patents, while the Ministry of Justice is in charge of the issuance of literary copyrights. Each of these entities suffers from significant financial and technical resource constraints. Moreover, the lack of uniformity and consistency in IPR registration and oversight procedures limits the transparency and predictability of the IPR enforcement regime.

Implementation of the CTPA will provide for improved standards for the protection and enforcement of a broad range of intellectual property rights, which are consistent with U.S. standards of protection and enforcement and with emerging international standards, and further deterrence of piracy and counterfeiting by criminalizing end-use piracy.

Patents and Trademarks. The patent regime in Colombia currently provides for a 20-year protection for patents. Provisions covering protection of trade secrets and new plant varieties have improved Colombia's compliance with its TRIPS obligations. However, U.S. companies are concerned that the Colombian government does not provide patent protection for new uses of previously known or patented products. In 2002, the Colombian government issued decree 2085, which improved the protection of confidential data for pharmaceutical products. Colombia remains the only Andean country with such protection.

Colombia is a member of the Inter-American Convention for Trademark and Commercial Protection. Enforcement of trademark legislation in Colombia is showing some progress, but contraband and counterfeiting are widespread. The Superintendence of Industry and Commerce (SIC) was given the control of the government's IPR policy. However, the agency suffers from inadequate financing and personnel, having only 16 patent examiners for the whole country. The staff has a high turnover rate, resulting in a large backlog of trademark and patent applications. This has led to a large number of appeals. The patent office at SIC believes that the number of new patent and trademark applications (currently 1,600 patent and 15,000 trademark requests per year) will double in the next years, particularly considering the increase in applications that the implementation of the CTPA would likely produce.

Copyrights. Andean Community Decision 351 on the protection of copyrights has been in effect in Colombia since January 1, 1994. Law 44/1993 and Colombia's civil code include some provisions for IPR enforcement and have been used to combat infringement and

protect rights. Colombia is a member of the Berne and Universal Copyright Conventions, the Buenos Aires and Washington Conventions, the Rome Convention for the Protection of Performers, Producers of Phonograms and Broadcasting Organizations, the Geneva Convention for Phonograms, the WIPO Copyright Treaty, and the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty. Colombia is not a member of the Brussels Convention relating to the Distribution of Program-Carrying Signals Transmitted by Satellite.

Andean Community Decision 351 on the protection of copyrights has been in effect in Colombia since January 1, 1994. Andean Community Decision 351/94 and Colombian Law 44/93 regulate protection of copyrights in this country. Law 44/93 extends computer software protection to 50 years, but does not classify it as a literary work. Colombia belongs to both the Berne and the Universal Copyright Conventions. This decision provides a generally Berne-consistent system. The Colombian Agricultural Institute (ICA) is in charge of the issuance of plant variety protection-related and agro-chemical patents.

Law 44/93 significantly increased penalties for copyright infringement, specifically empowering the Attorney General's office to combat piracy. Ineffective anti-piracy enforcement in Colombia adversely affects employment, job creation and revenues, both in the United States and Colombia. U.S. companies suffered trade losses due to copyright piracy and intellectual property violations exceeding \$150 million in 2005 in Colombia.

SECTION IX. IMPORT PROCEDURES FOR SPECIFIC COMMODITY GROUPS

High-Value, Consumer-ready Food Products for Retail Sale

The Colombian importer must register his company with the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism (MOCIT). This grants the Government of Colombia authorization to the company to import all agricultural products.

The product must be registered with INVIMA, the National Institute for the Surveillance of Food and Medicines. The exporter or the importer can do the registration. INVIMA registration requires: (a) a written document from the manufacturer stating that he/she manufactures the listed products; and (b) an FDA certificate of free sale stating that the products are approved for human consumption in the United States. Although not required, INVIMA registration is facilitated if a description of the manufacturing process and a list of the ingredients are submitted, including any additives, preservatives, and colorings.

Since Colombia implemented The Hague Convention of October 5, 1961 with Law 455 of August 4, 1998, facilitating import documentation, the above listed documents must carry an "apostille" stamp. The "apostille" stamp fee amounts to \$20 each and it is produced by different authorities in each State, i.e. a Notary or a State Secretary or Under Secretary. This procedure replaced the notarization by the Colombian Embassy or a Consulate in the United States and by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bogota. A translator approved by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs must translate these documents into Spanish. A sample label also may be submitted. An INVIMA registration fee must be paid. This fee covers the cost of preparing an analysis of the product. The product does not need to be analyzed before registration approval is given. The registration cost depends on the item, but ranges from \$696.14 for ready to be consumed food products to \$1,459.86 for enriched food items per product. After all required documentation is submitted, product registration by INVIMA takes about three working days (we have, however, received reports that this process can take significantly longer for some products). The registration process can be done by Internet.

INVIMA registration is valid only for the applicant (exporter or importer) and the manufacturer specified in it. Whenever the U.S. exporter wants to change its Colombian importer, there are two possibilities:

- (a) If the U.S. exporter is the applicant for INVIMA registration, he must submit an application for modification to INVIMA (cost 101,197 pesos or about \$47.30).
- (b) If the Colombian importer is the applicant, the U.S. exporter must initiate a new registration process specifying his new importer(s). Afterwards, he may change his importer(s) whenever he deems it advisable. The U.S. exporter must apply through his legal representative in Colombia or a lawyer.

The importer purchases an import registration form at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism (cost 30,000 pesos or about US\$14.00). Internet can be used for the importer registration.

The importer presents the completed MOCIT form to INVIMA for clearance. This process normally takes about 48 hours.

The importer presents the completed MOCIT form and INVIMA clearance to ICA (phyto-sanitary permits cost 40,000 pesos or about \$18.70 and zoo-sanitary permits for animal products cost 29,000 pesos or about \$13.55). ICA then issues a sanitary permit. This process normally takes about 48 hours.

The importer presents the completed MOCIT form, INVIMA clearance and ICA sanitary permit to the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism. The MOCIT will then issue an import registration or license approval. This process normally takes about 48 hours.

If the meat is sold in retail packages, it must be labeled. Labels must be in Spanish and contain the product name, name and address of importer, name and address of producer, net contents in metric units, list of ingredients, INVIMA (Ministry of Social Protection) registration number, recommended method of storage, and product expiration date. This information may be provided by the application of a sticker to the package.

Note: Consumer-oriented food products are assessed a 20 percent import duty. If they are under the Andean Price Band System, then the import duty is assessed as previously shown.

Processed food items for institutional use

The Colombian importer must register his company with the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism (MOCIT). This grants Government of Colombia authorization to the company to import all agricultural products.

The importer purchases an import registration form at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism (cost 30,000 pesos or about US\$14.00). The importer then submits the completed import registration form to the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism. This import registration approval takes about 2 days. Internet can be used for the importer registration.

Note: a. Processed food products are assessed a 20 percent import duty. Processed products used as raw materials by the food industry or HRI sector in food preparation do not require an INVIMA product registration (decree 3075 of 1997), but they must be labeled as described above and state that they are not for direct consumption.

c. Beef and Pork, Not-Transformed (Fresh, Chilled or Frozen)
HS: 02.01-/02-/03

A transformed product is defined by the GOC as having been subjected to processing that resulted in a change in its internal structure.

The Colombian importer must register his company with the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism (MOCIT). This grants Government of Colombia authorization to the company to import any and all agricultural products.

The importer purchases an import registration form at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism (cost 30,000 pesos or about US\$14.00).

The importer presents to ICA his completed import registration form and is issued a sanitary permit (cost 29,000 pesos or about \$13.55). This process normally takes about 48 hours.

Note: The Colombian sanitary regulatory agency (ICA) is strict in certifications dealing with trichinae in pork and pork products. Beef imports were banned under ICA's Resolution 3865 of December 24, 2003, which prohibited imports of live bovine, ovine, goats, etc. and their products due to BSE related restrictions for the U.S. However, during the TPA negotiations, Colombia committed to lift all import restrictions on U.S. beef and beef products beginning on November 1, 2006. Decree 3755 of October 27, 2006, fulfilled those commitments; however, very little U.S. beef has been imported as of June, 2007.

The importer presents the completed import registration form and the ICA sanitary permit to the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism (MOCIT). The Ministry of Commerce will then issue an import registration approval. This process normally takes 48 hours. An ICA veterinarian inspects the imported meat product upon arrival in Colombia. This service has different tariffs depending on the product and the imported quantity. The ICA official ensures that the product comes from a U.S. inspected and Colombian registered production facility, is free of disease, has been inspected by USDA prior to its shipment, and is accompanied by a USDA (FSIS) export certificate. The importer must pay for the analysis if the port inspector takes samples of the product to be analyzed by an official laboratory in Colombia.

If the meat is sold in retail packages, it must be labeled. Labels must be in Spanish and contain the product name, name and address of importer, name and address of producer, net contents in metric units, list of ingredients, INVIMA (Ministry of Social Protection) registration number, recommended method of storage, and product expiration date. This information may be provided by the application of a sticker to the package.

Imports of beef also require import approval by the Ministry of Agriculture under Decree 3744 of October 21, 2005 which established a TRQ of 3,800 tons for fine beef cuts (the in-quota duty was set at 20 percent and the out-of-quota duty was raised 80 percent for beef). The same decree established a TRQ of 3,200 tons for beef offal (the in-quota duty was set at 20 percent and out-of-quota duty at 70 percent). These TRQ's are established for Mercosur. Resolution 149 of 6/28/07 by the Ministry of Agriculture established TRQ's for countries other than Mercosur (547 tons for both fine beef cuts and beef offal).

Beef and Pork, Transformed (fresh, chilled or frozen)

HS: 02.10-

A transformed product is defined by the GOC as having been subjected to processing that resulted in a change in its internal structure. Beef imports (mainly bovine offal) are currently taking place within the small quota allocated to countries other than Mercosur.

The Colombian importer must register his company with the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism (MOCIT). This grants Government of Colombia authorization to the company to import all agricultural products.

The product must be registered with INVIMA, the National Institute for the Surveillance of Food and Medicines. Either the exporter or the importer can do this registration. INVIMA registration requires: (a) a written document from the manufacturer stating that they manufacture the listed products, and (b) an FDA certificate of free sale stating that the products are approved for human consumption in the United States.

Although not required, INVIMA registration is facilitated if a description of the manufacturing process and a list of ingredients are submitted, including any additives, preservatives, and colorings. Since Colombia implemented The Hague Convention of October 5, 1961 with Law 455 of August 4, 1998, facilitating import documentation, the above listed documents must carry an "apostille" stamp. The "apostille" stamp fee amounts to \$20 each and it is produced by different authorities in each State, i.e. a Notary or a State Secretary. This procedure replaced the notarization by the Colombian Embassy or a Consulate in the United States and by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bogota. A translator approved by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs must translate these documents into Spanish. A sample label also may be submitted. An INVIMA registration fee must be paid. This fee covers the cost of preparing an analysis of the product. The product does not need to be analyzed before registration approval is given. The registration cost depends on the item, but ranges from \$696.14 for ready to be consumed food products to \$1,459.86 for enriched food items per product. After all required documentation is submitted, product registration by INVIMA takes about three working days, although we have heard reports that this can take significantly longer.

INVIMA registration is valid only for the applicant (exporter or importer) and the manufacturer specified in it. Whenever the U.S. exporter wants to change its Colombian importer, there are two possibilities:

(a) If the U.S. exporter is the applicant for INVIMA registration, then he must submit an application for modification to INVIMA (cost 101.197 pesos or about \$47.30).

(b) If the Colombian importer is the applicant, the U.S. exporter must initiate a new registration process, specifying his new importer(s). Afterwards, he may change his importer(s) whenever he deems it advisable. The U.S. exporter must apply through his legal representative in Colombia or an attorney.

The importer purchases an import registration form at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism (cost 30,000 pesos or about US\$14.00). The importer presents the completed MOCIT form to INVIMA for clearance. This process normally takes about 48 hours. The importer presents the completed MOCIT form and INVIMA clearance to ICA (cost 27,000 pesos or about \$12.62). ICA then issues a sanitary permit. This process normally takes about 48 hours.

The importer presents the completed MOCIT form, INVIMA clearance and ICA sanitary permit to the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism. The MOCIT will then issue an import registration approval. This process normally takes about 48 hours.

If the meat is sold in retail packages, it must be labeled. Labels must be in Spanish and contain the product name, name and address of importer, name and address of producer, net contents in metric units, list of ingredients, INVIMA (Ministry of Social Protection) registration number, recommended method of storage, and product expiration date. This information may be provided by the application of a sticker to the package.

Import Requirements for Poultry Meat (whole birds), not transformed

A transformed product is defined by the GOC as having been subjected to processing that resulted in a change in its internal structure.

The Ministry of Agriculture must approve chicken (or other poultry) imports. Whenever this Ministry determines that domestic supplies are sufficient to meet local demand and/or that imports of this product would economically damage local poultry industry, imports are not approved. Except for selected ports (San Andres, Portete, Leticia), the Ministry of Agriculture has not approved fresh/frozen chicken part imports since 1994.

The GOC, however, does approve imports of processed or prepared poultry parts. Duty treatment for these products is subject to the application of the Andean Community price band and reference price systems.

The importer purchases an import registration form at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism (cost 30,000 pesos or about US\$14.00). The importer presents to ICA his completed import registration form and is issued a sanitary permit (cost 28,000 pesos or about \$11.67). This process normally takes about 48 hours. The importer presents the completed import registration form, the ICA sanitary permit, and the Ministry of Agricultural approval to the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism. The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism will then issue an import registration approval. This process normally takes 48 hours. An ICA veterinarian inspects the imported meat product upon arrival in Colombia and ensures that the product comes from U.S. inspected production facilities previously registered with ICA, is free of disease, has been inspected by USDA prior to its shipment, and is accompanied by a USDA export certificate.

If the meat is sold in retail packages, it must be labeled. Labels must be in Spanish and contain the product name, name and address of importer, name and address of producer, net contents in metric units, list of ingredients, INVIMA (Ministry of Social Protection) registration number, recommended method of storage, and product expiration date. This information may be provided by the application of a sticker to the package.

All meats are assessed a 20 percent basic import duty. Poultry meat is also subject to a variable duty under the Andean price band system. Currently, the total import duty stands at 92 percent for whole birds.

Poultry Parts (fresh, chilled or frozen)

HS: 02.07-13./14./26./27.35./36. and 16.02-31.00.10/32.00.10/39.00.10

The Colombian importer must register his company with the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism. This grants Government of Colombia authorization to the company to import all agricultural products. The products under this HS codes are subject to the prior licensing approval by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. Imports of poultry parts are not normally authorized.

The product must be registered with INVIMA, the National Institute for the Surveillance of Food and Medicines. Either the exporter or the importer can do the product registration. INVIMA registration requires: (a) a written document from the manufacturer stating that he/she manufactures the listed products, and (b) a certificate of free sale stating that the products are approved for human consumption in the United States. This certificate needs to be issued by a U.S. Government (local, state or federal) health authority.

Although not required, INVIMA registration is facilitated if a description of the manufacturing process and a list of ingredients is submitted, including any additives, preservatives, and colorings. Since Colombia implemented The Hague Convention of October 5, 1961 with Law 455 of August 4, 1998, facilitating import documentation, the above listed documents must carry an "apostille" stamp. The "apostille" stamp fee amounts to \$20 each and it is produced by different authorities in each State, i.e. a Notary or a State Secretary. This procedure replaced the notarization by the Colombian Embassy or a Consulate in the United States and by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bogota. A translator approved by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs must translate these documents into Spanish. A sample label also may be submitted. An INVIMA registration fee must be paid. This fee covers the cost of preparing an analysis of the product. The product does not need to be analyzed before registration approval is given. The registration cost depends on the item, but ranges from \$696.14 for ready to be consumed food products to \$1,459.85 for enriched food items per product. After all the required documentation is submitted, product registration by INVIMA takes about three working days.

INVIMA registration is valid only for the applicant (exporter or importer) and the manufacturer specified in it. Whenever the U.S. exporter wants to change its Colombian importer, there are two possibilities:

- (a) If the U.S. exporter is the applicant for INVIMA registration, he must submit an application for modification to INVIMA (cost 101.197 pesos or about \$47.30).
- (b) If the Colombian importer is the applicant, the U.S. exporter must initiate a new registration process, specifying his new importer(s). Afterwards, he may change his importer(s) whenever he deems it advisable. The U.S. exporter must apply through his legal representative in Colombia or a lawyer.

The importer purchases an import registration form at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism (cost 30,000 pesos or about US\$14.00).

The importer presents the completed MOCIT form to INVIMA for clearance. This process normally takes about 48 hours.

The importer presents the completed MOCIT form and INVIMA clearance to ICA (cost 28,000 pesos or about \$13.10). ICA then issues a sanitary permit. This process normally takes about 48 hours.

The importer presents the completed MOCIT form, INVIMA clearance and ICA sanitary permit to the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism. The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism will then issue an import license approval. This process normally takes about 48 hours.

If the meat is sold in retail packages, it must be labeled. Labels must be in Spanish and contain the product name, name and address of importer, name and address of producer, net contents in metric units, list of ingredients, Ministry of Health registration number, recommended method of storage, and product expiration date. This information may be provided by the application of a sticker to the package.

Note: Poultry parts (fresh, chilled or frozen) are assessed a basic 20 percent import duty, plus an additional import duty calculated by the Andean Price Band System. Currently, the total import duty for chicken parts is 118 percent while turkey parts are levied 70 percent.

Mechanically Deboned Chicken or Pork (HS: 16.02.39-)

The Colombian importer must register his company with the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism (MOCIT). This grants Government of Colombia authorization to the company to import all agricultural products.

The product must be registered with INVIMA, the National Institute for the Surveillance of Food and Medicines. INVIMA registration requires: (1) a written document from the manufacturer certifying that it manufactures the product, and (2) a certificate of free sale stating that the products are approved for human consumption in the United States. This certificate needs to be issued by a U.S. Government (local, state or federal) health authority. Although not required, product approval is facilitated if a description of the manufacturing process and a list of the ingredients, including any additives, preservatives, and colorings, is detailed.

Since Colombia implemented the Hague Convention of October 5, 1961 with Law 455 of August 4, 1998, facilitating import documentation, the above listed documents must carry an "apostille" stamp. The "apostille" stamp fee amounts to \$20 each and it is produced by different authorities in each State, i.e. a Notary or a State Secretary. This procedure replaced the notarization by the Colombian Embassy or a Consulate in the United States and by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bogota. A translator approved by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs must translate these documents into Spanish. A sample label may be submitted. A registration fee must be paid. This fee covers the cost of preparing an analysis of the product. The analysis need not be done prior to registration approval. INVIMA registration charges depend on the item, but it ranges from \$696.14 for ready to be consumed food products to \$1,459.86 for enriched food items per product. After all required documentation is submitted, product registration by INVIMA takes about three working days.

INVIMA registration is valid only for the applicant (exporter or importer) and the manufacturer specified in it. Whenever the U.S. exporter wants to change its Colombian importer, there are two possibilities:

- (a) If the U.S. exporter is the applicant for INVIMA registration, he must submit an application for modification to INVIMA (cost 101.197 pesos or about \$47.30).
- (b) If the Colombian importer is the applicant, the U.S. exporter must initiate a new registration process, specifying his new importer(s). Afterwards, he may change his importer(s) whenever he deems it advisable. The U.S. exporter must apply through his legal representative in Colombia or a lawyer.

The importer purchases an import registration form at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism (cost 30,000 pesos or about US\$14.00).

The importer presents the completed MOCIT form to INVIMA for clearance. This process normally takes about 48 hours.

The importer presents the completed MOCIT form and INVIMA clearance to ICA (cost 28,000 pesos or about \$13.10). ICA then issues a sanitary permit. This process normally takes about 48 hours.

The importer presents the completed MOCIT form, INVIMA clearance and ICA sanitary permit to the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism. The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism will then issue an import license approval. This process normally takes about 48 hours.

Note: Processed meats are assessed a basic 20 percent import duty, but some products such as hams and sausages are subject to the Andean price band duties.

Fresh Fruit and Vegetables (HS: 07./08).

The Colombian importer must register his company with the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism (MOCIT). This grants Government of Colombia authorization to the company to import any and all agricultural products.

The importer purchases an import registration form at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism (cost 30,000 pesos or about US\$14.00).

The importer presents to ICA his completed import license form and is issued a sanitary permit (cost 38,000 pesos or about \$17.76). This process normally takes about 48 hours.

The importer presents the completed import license form and the ICA sanitary permit to the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism. The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism will then issue an import license approval. This process normally takes 48 hours.

An ICA official will inspect the imported produce upon arrival in Colombia. The ICA official ensures that the product meets the wholesomeness conditions and is free of disease/pest, has been inspected by USDA prior to its shipment, and is accompanied by a USDA export certificate.

Note: Fresh produce products are assessed a 15 percent import duty. No labeling requirements are specified by the GOC for fresh produce imports.

Processed Fruit and Vegetables (HS: 20).

The Colombian importer must register his company with the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism. This grants Government of Colombia authorization to the company to import all agricultural products.

The product must be registered with INVIMA, the National Institute for the Surveillance of Food and Medicines. Either the exporter or the importer can do this registration. INVIMA registration requires: (a) a written document from the manufacturer stating that they manufacture the listed products, and (b) a certificate of free sale stating that the products are approved for human consumption in the United States. This certificate needs to be issued by a U.S. Government (state, local or federal) health authority.

Since Colombia implemented The Hague Convention of October 5, 1961 by Law 455 of August 4, 1998, facilitating import documentation, the above listed documents must carry an "apostille" stamp. The "apostille" stamp fee amounts to \$20 each and it is produced by different authorities in each State, i.e. a Notary or a State Secretary. This procedure replaced the notarization by the Colombian Embassy or a Consulate in the United States and by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bogota. A translator approved by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs must translate these documents into Spanish. A sample label also may be submitted. An INVIMA registration fee must be paid. This fee includes an analysis of the product. Product does not need to be analyzed before registration approval is given. Costs depend on the item, but ranges from \$696.14 for ready to be consumed food products to \$1,459.86 for enriched food items per product. After all the required documentation is submitted, product registration by INVIMA takes about three working days. Internet can be used for product registration.

INVIMA registration is valid only for the applicant (exporter or importer) and the manufacturer specified in it. Whenever the U.S. exporter wants to change its Colombian importer, there are two possibilities:

- (a) If the U.S. exporter is the applicant for INVIMA registration, he must submit an application for modification to INVIMA (cost 101.197 pesos or about \$47.30).
- (b) If the Colombian importer is the applicant, the U.S. exporter must initiate a new registration process, specifying his new importer(s). Afterwards, he may change his importer(s) whenever he deems it advisable. The U.S. exporter must apply through his legal representative in Colombia or an attorney.

The importer purchases an import license form at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism (cost 30,000 pesos or about US\$14.00).

The importer presents the completed MOCIT form to INVIMA for clearance. This process normally takes about 48 hours.

The importer presents the completed MOCIT form and INVIMA clearance to ICA (cost 38,000 pesos or about \$17.76). ICA then issues a sanitary permit. This process normally takes about 48 hours.

The importer presents the completed MOCIT form, INVIMA clearance and ICA sanitary permit to the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism. The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism will then issue an import license approval. This process normally takes about 48 hours.

Note: Processed produce products are assessed a 20 percent import duty. The GOC, however, does not classify frozen vegetables as a processed food and, therefore, no country of origin labeling is required. Frozen vegetables are assessed a 20 percent import duty.

Wine (HS: 22.04)

The Colombian importer must register his company with the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism. This grants Government of Colombia authorization to the company to import all agricultural products, including wines.

The product must be registered with INVIMA, the National Institute for the Surveillance of Food and Medicines. Either the exporter or the importer can do this registration. INVIMA registration requires: (a) a written document from the manufacturer stating that they manufacture the listed products, (b) a certificate of free sale stating that the products are approved for human consumption in the United States, (c) a product analysis certificate, (d) manufacturer authorization for selling the product in the country by the importer included, and (e) three copies of the product label. Certificates need to be issued by a U.S. Government (local, state or federal) health authority. Although not required, INVIMA registration is facilitated if a description of the manufacturing process and list of the ingredients, including any additives, preservatives and colorings are submitted.

Since Colombia implemented The Hague Convention of October 5, 1961 with Law 455 of August 4, 1998, facilitating import documentation, the above listed documents must carry an "apostille" stamp. The "apostille" stamp fee amounts to \$20 each and it is produced by different authorities in each State, i.e. a Notary or a State Secretary. This procedure replaced the notarization by the Colombian Embassy or a Consulate in the United States and by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bogota. These documents must be translated into

Spanish by a translator approved by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. A sample label also may be submitted. An INVIMA registration fee of about \$754 must be paid. The registration number can cover a type of wines for different presentations as long as they are produced by the same winery and under the same technical process, i.e, burgundy wines in bottles (750 cubic centimeters) or half bottles. After all the required documentation is submitted, product registration by INVIMA takes about three working days although some wine importers complain that it takes longer.

INVIMA registration is valid only for the applicant (exporter or importer) and the manufacturer specified in it. Whenever the U.S. exporter wants to change its Colombian importer, there are two possibilities:

(a) If the U.S. exporter is the applicant for INVIMA registration, he must submit an application for modification to INVIMA (cost 101.197 pesos or about \$47.30).

(b) If the Colombian importer is the applicant, the U.S. exporter must initiate a new registration process, specifying his new importer(s). Afterwards, he may change his importer(s) whenever he deems it advisable. The U.S. exporter must apply through his legal representative in Colombia or an attorney.

The importer purchases an import license form at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism (cost 30,000 pesos or about US\$14.00).

The importer presents the completed MOCIT form to INVIMA for clearance. This process normally takes about 48 hours.

The importer presents the completed MOCIT import registration form and INVIMA clearance to the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism. The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism will then issue an import registration approval. This process normally takes about 48 hours.

Wine must be labeled. Labels must be in Spanish and contain the product name, name and address of importer, place of production, percentage of alcohol, net contents and a statement indicating that excessive consumption of alcohol is harmful to the health. The warning should occupy at least 10 percent of total label. All of this information must be printed on the label prepared by the wine producer/exporter. Imported bottled wine is permitted in containers not exceeding two liters.

Note: Wines are normally assessed a 20 percent import duty. Wines imported from Andean Community countries and Chile enter duty free. Importers report that the wine registration process can be longer than for other products.

APPENDIX I. GOVERNMENT REGULATORY AGENCY CONTACTS

Oscar Franco-Charry, Director General
Dirección de Impuestos y Aduanas
Nacionales (DIAN).
(Customs and Tax Directorate)
Carrera 8 No. 6-64, Piso 5
Bogotá, Colombia
Tel: (57-1) 297-1220/341-7521/607-9999
Fax: (57-1) 286-5789
E-mail: dian@dian.gov.co
Web site: www.dian.gov.co

Carlos A. Robles, Deputy Director
Food and Beverages
INVIMA
Carrera 68 No. 17-21
Bogotá, Colombia
Tel: (57-1) 294-8700 Ext. 3920/3922
Fax: (57-1) 294-8700 Ext. 3920
E-mail: Invimasal@invima.gov.co
Web site: www.invima.gov.co

Edilberto Brito-Sierra, Coordinator
Animal Health Risks Assessment
ICA
Calle 37 No. 8-43, Piso 4
Bogotá, Colombia
Tel: (57-1) 288-4334
Fax: (57-1) 288-4334
E-mail: sanidad.animal@ica.gov.co
Web site: www.ica.gov.co

Jaime Cárdenas-Lopez
Deputy Manager for Plant Health
ICA
Calle 37 No. 8-43, Piso 4
Bogotá, Colombia
Tel: (57-1) 232-4709
Fax: (57-1) 288-1753
E-mail: sanidad.vegetal@ica.gov.co
Web site: www.ica.gov.co

APPENDIX II. OTHER CONTACTS

Office of Agricultural Affairs
U.S. Embassy – Bogota
Unit 5119
APO AA 34038
Tel: (57-1) 315-2138 or 315-4147
Fax: (57-1) 315-2181
E-mail: agbogota@fas.usda.gov