



# Colombia Textiles

Compiled by:

**Swiss Colombian Chamber of Commerce**

**Bogota, November, 2007**

## 1. Summary of the Content

Colombia is recognized internationally as a country which possesses great strengths in the textile and apparel businesses and, specifically, in the fashion industry. The various international fairs are a clear example of the strengths of the textile-apparel business, as well as of the huge efforts being made to modernize the industry and respond to the demands placed upon fairs of this type.

The Colombian textile industry, which is sophisticated and mature, is dominated by about five integrated mills that command a majority share of the total textile market. There is a sizeable, growing market for cotton yarns and fibers, primarily due to emphasis on increasing exports of quality textiles and apparel. Domestic cotton fiber production is insufficient to fulfill demand, both in quality and quantity. Declining cotton output has resulted in an increased dependence upon fiber imports, which now satisfy fully sixty percent of domestic cotton requirements. The opening of the Colombian market to imports has forced Colombian textile and apparel companies to switch from offering a wide variety of products to fewer items on a larger scale.

Colombia is at a strategic geographical position, located close to the United States, especially Miami, and is a middle point between North and South America. It is also the only South American country with ports on both oceans and the Caribbean (Barranquilla is the main port on the Atlantic Coast, Cartagena is the industrial area along the Caribbean and Buenaventura is located on the Pacific Coast). Nonetheless, Colombia's mountainous terrain makes overland transportation difficult. Thirteen highway projects are currently underway to relieve some of that challenge.

Besides, one can identify the potential Colombia has as a reference point for other Latin American countries with regard to innovation, development and design. The Colombian textile-apparel sector is one of the nation's key industries, responsible for 9% of the country's productive GIP, 24% of employment in manufacturing and 7% of total exports. The Colombian government implemented economic reforms at the beginning of the 90s in order to open the country's economy to foreign investment through tariff reductions, financial deregulation, the privatization of state companies and a more flexible exchange rate.

Local production continues to be labor-intensive and takes the largest portion of skilled labor among the manufacturing sectors in Colombia. Medellin has traditionally dominated the textile market with the largest textile mills and garment manufacturers for distribution throughout Colombia, and sizeable export quantities

to Venezuela, Ecuador, Central America, the Caribbean, Western Europe, and the U.S.

Most Colombian textile exports go to two Andean Community countries (Venezuela and Ecuador); however, Peru, Brazil, and the U.S. also receive Colombian textile exports. Other important manufacturing outlets are located in Bogota, Barranquilla, and more recently, in Ibagu. Small and medium-sized industries are increasing their productivity and demand for more complex equipment.

According to the National Statistics Bureau, there are approximately 500 Colombian manufacturers that produce textiles. The textiles sector contributes about 5.3 percent to Colombia's manufacturing output, and employs some 200,000 workers directly and another 600,000 indirectly, thus representing 13.3 percent of total employment in the manufacturing sector. Industry trade sources have estimated that cotton textile production represents approximately 43 percent; yarns and woven fabrics, 21 percent; knit products, 19 percent; and man-made fiber products, 8 percent. The textile industry produces annually approximately 800 million square meters of cotton, polyester, nylon, viscose and wool fabrics, as well as twill, satin, cotton poplin and polyester blends.

In addition to cotton and synthetic fabrics and fibers, end-use products supplied by major textile manufacturers include: jeans, underwear, sheets, pillowcases, bed linens, towels, trousers, slacks, dresses, skirts, women's knit tops, t-shirts, men's knit shirts, other knitwear and tops, fleece wear, children's wear, and sportswear.

Colombia is no longer self-sufficient in cotton production. The U.S. is the dominant supplier of Colombia's cotton and India is Colombia's largest cotton yarn supplier due to price considerations.

## 2. Domestic Production

This sector is one of the most important in the country due to its long history, more than 100 years. Represents the 9% of the total industrial production, from which 30% is exported.

The Colombian textile sector produces every year 800 million square meters of cloth in cotton, polyester, nylon, viscose and wool fabrics. The industry is centered in Medellin and Bogota and produces a great variety of clothes such as drills, satinwood and cotton poplins 100% and mixtures.

### - Production developments 2005

Product	Tons
Cotton	154.344
Cotton fiber	55.372

### - Amount of enterprises or companies active in the field

Among the thread producers, spinners, weavers, finishers and textile goods manufacturers, there are more than 5330 companies in the country.

### 3. Export

- According to the most important product types

FOB In US\$

Product	2005
Silk	50,578
Wool and fine or ordinary coat; horsehair's threads and fabrics	4,242,520
Cotton	62,513,942
The rest vegetable textile fibers; paper threads and paper fabrics	60,194
Sintetic or artificial filament	45,880,727
Sintetic or artificial discontinuous fibers	32,149,762
Padding, felt and cloth without knitting; special threads; cords, ropes and cordages; rope making trade articles	36,154,307
Carpets and the rest coverings for the floor, of textile material.	6,523,419
Special threads; textile surfaces with tuft inserted; laces; tapestry; passementerie, embroidering.	23,870,992
Impregnated; covered, lining or stratified clothes; technical articles of textile material	25,444,725
Knitted threads	73,455,180
Dressing undergarments and accesories, of Knitting	324,684,432
Dressing undergarments and accesories, except those of Knitting	571,559,648
The rest of textile articles made; sets; garments and dothes	62,876,343
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,269,466,769</b>

- According to countries of destination with particular focus on CH, EC, other key account markets

#### Main export destinations

The main countries to which Colombia exports textiles are USA, Venezuela, Mexico, Ecuador, Central America, European Union, Caribbean, Costa Rica, Chile and Brazil

#### Exports FOB 2005

Product	USA	Venezuela	Mexico	Ecuador	European Union
Silk	402	1,742	0	287	23
Wool and fine or ordinary coat; horsehair's threads and fabrics	147,234	1,517,976	278,917	94,062	1,542
Cotton	603,943	28,089,429	4,926,487	18,772,969	1,439,643
The rest vegetable textile fibers; paper threads and paper fabrics	5,625	19,420	0	13,107	793
Synthetic or artificial filament	2,021,683	8,466,192	3,996,626	7,887,703	114,288
Synthetic or artificial discontinuous fibers	363,284	11,651,916	942,179	5,638,246	527,444
Padding, felt and cloth without knitting; special threads; cords, ropes and cordages; rope making trade articles	9,742,988	2,856,302	3,154,223	3,103,251	2,705,056
Carpets, and the rest coverings for the floor, of textile material.	111,054	3,435,764	10,075	1,430,327	1,790
Special threads; textile surfaces with tuft inserted; laces; tapestry; passementerie, embroiderings.	2,579,986	2,260,672	6,923,240	2,153,120	808,572
Impregnated; covered, lining or stratified clothes; technical articles of textile material	4,375,750	5,844,908	2,910,600	8,288,649	108,624

Knitted threads	1,838,722	37,960,545	9,657,484	14,493,533	42,366
Dressing undergarments and accessories, of Knitting	118,024,155	85,579,032	37,200,710	18,587,225	6,842,779
Dressing undergarments and accessories, except those of Knitting	346,440,808	67,253,370	35,310,751	27,954,711	23,901,574
The rest of textile articles made; sets; garments and clothes	20,185,672	17,810,644	4,790,234	4,503,106	8,983,458
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>506,441,306</b>	<b>272,747,913</b>	<b>110,101,527</b>	<b>112,920,295</b>	<b>45,489,057</b>

#### 4. Import

- According to the most important product types and countries of import

##### Europe

2005 / CIF In US\$

Product	Germany	Spain	Finland	France	Holland	Italy	Poland	United Kingdom
Silk	98,296,590	86,179,281	1,903,541	107,357,126	6,773,502	304,750,145	17,224,703	74,260,202
Wool and fine or ordinary coat; horse hair's threads and fabrics	873,423,038	178,971,261	22,462,987	304,154,052	61,802,827	1,481,141,647	232,425,056	465,895,533
Cotton	1,177,524,174	672,399,647	49,286,795	858,242,089	233,752,554	1,765,687,840	701,774,511	480,327,819
The rest vegetable textile fibers; paper threads and paper fabrics	119,893,408	103,549,359	5,673,063	148,610,011	61,091,535	261,096,413	77,180,554	128,479,177
Synthetic or artificial filament	1,566,304,812	740,064,092	91,061,908	1,221,741,785	581,030,379	1,499,180,312	692,904,450	977,240,496
Synthetic or artificial discontinuous	1,429,386,285	618,636,872	58,283,455	894,847,387	351,064,669	1,133,945,064	500,924,938	838,693,529
Padding, felt and cloth without knitting; special threads; cords, ropes and cordages; rope making trade articles	1,069,918,473	445,566,381	80,157,162	687,315,135	311,382,744	477,803,650	329,555,225	709,673,588
Carpets, and the rest coverings for the floor, of textile material. Special threads; textile surfaces with tuft inserted; laces; tapestry; passementerie, embroiderings.	1,135,831,186	172,582,049	57,302,299	421,244,686	340,343,643	265,890,715	140,585,126	1,405,127,907
Impregnated; covered, lining or stratified clothes; technical articles of textile material	1,114,466,006	327,437,353	113,985,740	666,084,350	194,333,134	431,824,136	461,543,524	343,124,883
Knitted threads	427,633,627	161,582,540	21,171,567	389,861,182	72,135,554	374,169,727	265,214,929	157,140,969
Dressing undergarments and accessories, of Knitting	10,414,079,283	3,884,125,604	536,320,951	7,551,455,821	2,892,537,653	5,091,226,698	530,804,708	8,923,897,771
Dressing undergarments and accessories, except those of Knitting	12,577,315,674	4,755,063,439	713,156,281	9,066,755,049	3,309,171,947	6,262,812,053	598,058,559	10,273,797,162
The rest of textile articles made; sets; garments and clothes	2,473,922,775	803,088,134	158,662,811	1,753,142,925	773,901,643	831,724,297	312,588,044	1,740,438,356

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>34,798,301,347</b>	<b>13,192,353,849</b>	<b>1,928,656,934</b>	<b>24,461,264,302</b>	<b>9,273,446,286</b>	<b>20,538,455,110</b>	<b>5,131,764,814</b>	<b>26,880,153,957</b>
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### America and the Caribbean

Product	Argentina	Brazil	Canada	Chile	Costa Rica	Ecuador	USA	Venezuela
Silk	1,704,000	7,222,000	1,518,000	1,518,000	59,652	142,000	316,232,086	311,808
Wool and fine or ordinary coat; horsehair's threads and fabrics	9,196,000	17,410,000	7,416,000	7,416,000	209,615	2,735,000	352,624,297	2,174,189
Cotton	173,294,000	101,365,000	67,481,000	67,481,000	12,579,814	55,594,000	1,745,981,097	67,968,341
The rest vegetable textile fibers; paper threads and paper fabrics	5,689,000	7,616,000	4,138,000	4,138,000	119,176	237,000	202,861,875	816,636
Synthetic or artificial filament	152,168,000	605,789,000	76,647,000	76,647,000	14,280,031	37,122,000	2,337,436,107	61,729,924
Synthetic or artificial discontinuous fibers	177,950,000	269,380,000	102,182,000	102,182,000	12,614,816	63,368,000	1,573,473,331	74,258,138
Padding, felt and cloth without knitting; special threads; cords, ropes and cordages; rope making trade articles	45,763,000	88,721,000	75,210,000	75,210,000	31,725,222	19,564,000	1,469,689,042	32,392,844
Carpets, and the rest coverings for the floor, of textile material.	12,352,000	16,443,000	26,641,000	26,641,000	3,135,355	8,081,000	2,116,999,795	9,798,144
Special threads; textile surfaces with tuft inserted; laces; tapestry; passementerie, embroiderings. Impreganted; covered, lining or stratified clothes; technical articles of textile material	31,603,000	51,647,000	13,238,000	13,238,000	3,197,397	6,454,000	871,240,698	9,006,311
Knitted threads	44,229,000	31,810,000	9,478,000	9,478,000	4,935,150	17,562,000	1,091,216,249	53,400,075
Dressing undergarments and accessories, of Knitting	45,764,000	78,575,000	335,737,000	335,737,000	33,667,264	54,549,000	34,852,170,347	285,624,444
Dressing undergarments and accessories, except those of Knitting	76,704,000	168,016,000	397,971,000	397,971,000	68,741,188	69,337,000	39,302,495,781	213,822,729
The rest of textile articles made; sets; garments and clothes	68,286,000	35,849,000	97,209,000	97,209,000	23,513,698	17,822,000	9,703,071,935	98,844,258
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>911,422,000</b>	<b>1,621,523,000</b>	<b>1,268,913,000</b>	<b>1,268,913,000</b>	<b>219,491,243</b>	<b>370,919,000</b>	<b>97,366,698,319</b>	<b>962,052,134</b>

### 5. Service systems and provision of spare parts (f.ex. possibilities for „contract-servicing“; remote diagnostics ); transport / logistics

#### Forwarding Agents

**Airmar Cargo**  
 Diag. 22B No. 43B-43  
 airmarca@airmar-cargo.com

Tel: (571) 405 77 77  
Fax: (571) 369 60 51  
Bogotá

ABX Logistics International agents. Logistics Service

**Aviomar S.A.**

Av. El Dorado No. 96-47  
www.aviomar.com.co/info@aviomar.com.co  
Tel: (571) 425 55 55  
Fax: (571) 267 75 56  
Bogotá

International freight forwarded agent, specialized in the packing and shipment of household goods; it also acts as customs broker and has bounded a warehouse zone. Integrated Logistics Service.

**DHL Global Forwarding**

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www.dhl.com.co  
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**Kuehne + Nagel S.A.**

Avenida El Dorado No. 97-51. Of. 203  
info.bogota@kuehne-nagel.com / www.kn-portal.com  
Phone: (571) 422 76 60  
Fax: (571) 413 10 10  
Bogotá D.C.

Sea freight, air freight, rail freight, road transportation and logistics.

**Mediterranean Shipping**

Calle 100 No. 8A-49 Of. 903 T. B  
http://www.msgr.ch/ dcundy@msc.colombia.com.co  
Tel: (571) 628 88 00  
Fax: (571) 628 88 01  
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**Panalpina**

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Fax: (571) 415 18 40  
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Logistics supplier working on Air freight, Sea freight, Supply Chain Management and Panalpina's Pan Projects Division which is expert in providing Integrated Turnkey Project Forwarding Services (large-scale, logistically complex projects involving the shipment of oversized loads and heavy goods).

**Sunrise Cargo S.A. – Schenker**

Calle 46 No. 82-54 Int. 8

[www.sunrisecargo.com.co](http://www.sunrisecargo.com.co) /schenker@sunrisecargo.com.co

Tel: (571) 416 19 11

Fax: (571) 416 29 88

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**Swissworld Cargo**

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[www.swissworldcargo.com](http://www.swissworldcargo.com) / swisscargobog@cable.net.co

Tel: (571) 541 67 94

Fax: (571) 410 26 95

Bogotá

Logistics and transport services. Representative office of Swiss Worldcargo International.

**6. Trade fairs and exhibitions, advertising, trade journals****COLOMBIATEX**

? Venue: Plaza Mayor. Medellin-Colombia

? Dates: January

? Frequency: Annual

? Type of Fair: Specialized fair for this area opened to the public

? Organizer: Inexmoda

[www.colombiatex.com](http://www.colombiatex.com)

Calle 14 No. 40A-173

Phone: ++57 4 311 59 15

Fax: ++57 4 266 20 50

Medellin

? Goods on offer & main emphasis: Fashion, home and Industrial line. Natural basis, Syntetic and Mixture clothes. Textile fibers, yarns and threads. Operating supplies for the confection: buttons, buckles, zippers, ribbons, blond laces, interlinings, demies, labels, knitted collars, etc. Machinery and other services related to the sector.

? Target groups: Open to the public

? Number of exhibitors: 440

? Swiss companies present: none

? Occupied net surface area in m<sup>2</sup>: 60.000

? Number of visitors: 7.700

? Date of next event: January 2008

? Catalogue: [www.colombiatex.com](http://www.colombiatex.com)

**COLOMBIAMODA**

? Venue: Plaza Mayor. Medellin-Colombia

? Dates: July

? Frequency: Annual

? Type of Fair: specialized fair for this area opened to the public

? Organizer: Inexmoda

[www.colombiamoda.com](http://www.colombiamoda.com)

Calle 14 No. 40A-173

Phone: ++57 4 311 59 15

Fax: ++57 4 266 20 50

Medellin

- ? Goods on offer & main emphasis: Clothes for men and women, children, and teenagers: formal, casual, underwear, sport, swimming clothes, home, Full Package services, products for fashion dealers and specialized services.
- ? Target groups: Open to the public
- ? Number of exhibitors: 450
- ? Swiss companies present: none
- ? Occupied net surface area in m<sup>2</sup>: 60.000
- ? Number of visitors: 10.000
- ? Date of next event: July 2008
- ? Catalogue: [www.colombiamoda.com](http://www.colombiamoda.com)

### **EIMI (Internacional Children's Fashion Expo)**

- ? Venue: Centro de Ferias y Exposiciones de Bucaramanga (Cenfer). Bucaramanga-Colombia
- ? Dates: July 2008
- ? Frequency: Annual
- ? Type of Fair: Specialized fair for this area opened to the public
- ? Organizer: Acopi Seccional Santander  
[www.feriaeimi.com](http://www.feriaeimi.com)  
Bucaramanga
- ? Goods on offer & main emphasis: Fashion for children. Clothes, shoes, sportswear, jeanswear, streetwear, activewear, underwear. Swimming clothes, raw materials machinery and other services related to the sector.
- ? Target groups: Open to the public
- ? Number of exhibitors: 145
- ? Swiss companies present: none
- ? Date of next event: July, 2007
- ? Catalogue: [www.feriaeimi.com](http://www.feriaeimi.com)

### **Trade Journals**

El Tiempo  
Avenida Eldorado No. 59-70  
Bogota, D.C., Colombia  
Tel: (571) 294 01 00/ 263 78 45  
Fax: (571) 410-5088  
<http://www.eltiempo.com>.

El Espectador  
Av. El Dorado No. 69-76  
Bogota, D.C., Colombia  
Tel: (571) 423 00 00  
Fax: (571) 423 00 00  
E-mail: [internet@elespectador.com](mailto:internet@elespectador.com)  
<http://www.elespectador.com>

Portafolio  
Cra. 69 No.43B-44 P. 4  
Bogota, D.C., Colombia  
Tel: (571) 423 24 20  
Fax: (571) 416 59 54  
[http:// www.portafolio.com.co](http://www.portafolio.com.co)

La República  
Calle 46 No. 103-59

Bogota, D.C., Colombia  
Tel: (571) 413 00 53  
Fax: (571) 413 00 03  
E-mail: [diario@larepublica.com.co](mailto:diario@larepublica.com.co)  
[http:// www.la-republica.com.co](http://www.la-republica.com.co)

El Pais  
Cra. 2 No. 24-46  
Cali, Colombia  
Tel: (572) 883 11 83  
Fax: (572) 882 10 82  
E-mail: [diario@elpais-cali.com](mailto:diario@elpais-cali.com)  
<http://www.elpais-cali.com>

El Colombiano  
Cra. 48 No. 30-Sur-119 (Avenida Las Vegas)  
Medellin, Colombia  
Tel: (574) 331 52 52  
Fax: (574) 331 48 49  
E-mail: [elcolombiano@elcolombiano.com.co](mailto:elcolombiano@elcolombiano.com.co)  
<http://www.elcolombiano.com>

El Heraldo  
Calle 53B No. 46-25  
Barranquilla, Colombia  
Tel: (575) 341 70 77  
Fax: (575) 341 03 42  
E-mail: [elheraldo@elheraldo.com.co](mailto:elheraldo@elheraldo.com.co)  
<http://www.elheraldo.com.co>

Vanguardia Liberal  
Calle 34 No. 13-42  
Bucaramanga, Colombia  
Tel: (576) 633 4000  
Fax: (576) 642 6749  
E-mail: [produccion@vanguardia.com](mailto:produccion@vanguardia.com)  
<http://www.vanguardia.com>

### **Specialized Publications**

Colombia Textil  
Acoltex  
Calle 49B No. 63 - 21, Edificio Camacol Oficina 1106  
Tels: (574) 260 15 49- 260 42 07  
Fax: 230 7135  
Medellín – Colombia

Revista del Cuero  
ACICAM  
Carrera 4A No. 25C - 71 Bogotá D.C  
Teléfono 2816400  
E\_mail: [revistadelcuerodecolombia@acicam.org](mailto:revistadelcuerodecolombia@acicam.org)

## **7. Tariff rates, other import duties / accompanying documents**

### **Tariffs**

Import duties are ad valorem and are assessed on the CIF value of shipments. Colombia's tariffs conform to the 5-20 percent Common External Tariff (CET) in effect for the Andean Community. Government entities are no longer exempt from import duties.

## **8. Import regulations, licences / documents / formalities**

### **Import Procedures Into Colombia**

In general, persons or companies importing goods to Colombia must comply with the following procedures:

#### **Step 1: Registering the Import**

The first step is to fill out the import registry (*Registro de Importación*) that can be obtained at any of the regional offices of the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Tourism - MINCOMERCIO. *The import registry is only required for a limited set of goods which are subject to special certifications and approval processes by various state agencies.*

More specifically, the import registry is required in instances where imports are subject to: licenses under the prior licensing regime, safeguards or special import-export systems. An import registry is also required for certain goods that be subject to different kind of certifications by state agencies (such as the Ministries of Agriculture, Social Protection, Environment, Defense, etc.) such as fishing products, oil products, sanitary and phytosanitary certification and certification of conformity with technical standards.

Recently, the Colombian Government has established a new system, known as VUCE (Ventanilla Única de Comercio Exterior), which allows obtaining approvals (authorizations), permits or certificates using Internet technology. Through VUCE, the importer can sign, pay, and review the status of a process involved with any of the 18 government entities (Ministries & Agencies) that are engaged with import activities. The importer is required to register in the VUCE system using his RUT - Registro Único Tributario (Unique Tax Registry) and a certificate authorizing the electronic use of his signature. Throughout VUCE, the importer can pay and file the import registry procedure, as well as to obtain the previous approvals or certificates required in order to import from the appropriate entities.

For more information and support in determining whether an import registry and other certifications are required, contact one of the certified customs brokers (SIAS) in Colombia. Their contact information can be found on <http://www.proexport.gov.co/VBeContent/NewsDetail.asp?ID=1376&IDCompany=16>.

In addition, if the importer is a company, a *fiscal identification number* (Número de Identificación Tributaria), known as NIT, must be submitted.

Once filled out, the import registry form must be filed at a MINCOMERCIO regional office, along with other required documents. [www.mincomercio.gov.co](http://www.mincomercio.gov.co).

#### **Step 2: Value Declaration**

Filing of a Customs Value Declaration (*Declaración de Valor en Aduanas*) is mandatory for goods valued at US\$ 5000 or more and for partial shipments that make up a total shipment valued at or above US\$ 5000. The form must be requested at one of the regional offices of the Dirección de Impuestos y Aduanas Nacionales (DIAN) - National Tax and Customs Administration.

Colombia has adopted the Valuation Code of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. This means that in most cases the declared value of the imported goods will be based on the transaction method. In other words, the declared value of the goods will be the price actually paid or to be paid for them with certain adjustments.

### **Step 3: Import Declaration and Payment of Customs Duties**

This step must be completed either a maximum of 15 days prior to the goods' arrival to the country or, alternatively, once the goods have arrived at a customs warehouse. First, an Import Declaration (*Declaración de Importación*) form must be requested at a DIAN regional office.

Once filled out, the importer must bring the import declaration form to an authorized financial entity in the city where the goods have been landed. At the authorized financial entity, the importer should proceed to pay the applicable customs duties.

### **Step 4: Withdrawal From Customs**

Upon payment of the applicable duties, the importer must present at the warehouse where the goods have been landed, the original and the third copy of the import declaration form and the following additional documents: transport documents, original copy of the value declaration, as well as original copy of the Certificate of Origin and Certificate of Conformity, if required.

The customs officer will then authorize withdrawal of the goods unless an inspection is deemed to be necessary.

### **Exceptions**

The procedures described above are those that need to be followed in most transactions. However, a small number of goods may still require a license before their importation is authorized. Other import modalities that may have different procedures include: Re-importing for passive reconditioning, Unaltered re-importing, Imports covered by a warranty, Temporary importation for re-export, Temporary importation for active reconditioning, Imports to be transformed or assembled, and postal traffic and urgent deliveries.

For more information on the procedures that apply under the above import modalities: [www.mincomercio.gov.co](http://www.mincomercio.gov.co).

## **9. Technical regulations / labelling/ consumer protection / standards / inspection authorities**

### **Standards**

In Colombia, certain products whether imported or produced locally are required to conform to technical standards established by Decree 300 of 1995 which implements the provisions of Decree 2269 of 1993 which made mandatory Colombian technical standards for some goods sold in the Colombian market (both imported and produced locally). Decree 300 of 1995 establishes that the Industry and Commerce Superintendency (SIC) (under the Foreign Trade, Industry and commerce Ministry), compile the list of products requiring the Certificate of Conformity and issues this certificate for import purposes. To assure compliance with these regulations, some imports require a special certificate of conformity with the appropriate Colombian technical standard. The Foreign Trade, Industry and Tourism Ministry does not approve import registrations for products on this list if the Certificate of Conformity does not accompany the requests.

The manufacturers and importers of products regulated by official mandatory technical standards and technical regulations register with SIC by providing the organization's

contact information and the products requiring compliance with a specific mandatory technical standard or regulation. The Colombian government has notified the World Trade Organization (WTO) about this requirement. It is required product testing laboratories and accreditation entities to sign a mutual recognition agreement with SIC in order for their certificates of conformity to be accepted. The Resolution requires product testing for those producers or importers that lack a valid certificate of conformity or are about to expire.

ICONTEC (Colombian Institute of Technical Standards and Certification), a private nonprofit organization is a certification entity responsible for the development of technical standards. ICONTEC is a member of the International Standards Organization (ISO) and of the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC). It provides quality certification services, training and technical support services, as well as inspection services, recognized by Underwriter's Laboratories (UL).

Other recognized Colombian certification entities include Corporacion Colombia Internacional (fruits, vegetables, and other food products) and S.G.S. Colombia (quality assurance systems). There are 37 testing and 15 metrology (calibration) laboratories accredited by the Industry and Commerce Superintendency operating in public and private institutions, and one accredited inspection entity to evaluate organic agricultural products, Centro Internacional de Agricultura Organica - CIAO.

### **Labeling**

Specific marks or labels are not required, except for food, pharmaceutical products and textiles. Labels on processed food products must indicate the specific name of the product, ingredients in order of predominance, name and address of manufacturer and importer, number of units, instructions for storage and usage (when required), expiration date, and other instructions as required by the Ministry of Health or the Industry and Commerce Superintendency. Labels and illustrations cannot be inaccurate or misleading.

### **Inspection authorities**

#### **Ministerio de Agricultura y Desarrollo Rural**

Avenida Jiménez No. 7- 65  
Bogota  
Phone: (+571) 334 11 99  
http: www.minagricultura.gov.co

Makes pertaining to farming and animal husbandry, fishing and rural development plans and programs.

Coordinates, promotes, looks after and assess the performance of the governmental policies related to the pertaining to farming and animal husbandry, fishing and rural development rural sector.

### **10. Addresses of important public authorities, industry associations, other relevant organisations**

#### **Public Authorities**

<b>ENTITY</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b>	<b>PHONE</b>	<b>FAX</b>	<b>WEB</b>
Colciencias	Tv. 9 No. 133-28 Bogotá	57 1 216 98 00 57 1 258 21 70	57 1 625 05 53 57 1 625 17 88	www.colciencias .gov.co
Commerce, Industry and tourism Ministry	Calle 28 No. 13A-15 Bogotá	57 1 606 76 76	57 1 696 75 21	www.mincomercio.gov.co
Agriculture Ministry	Av. Jiménez No.7-65. Bogotá	57 1 243 79 17 57 1 341 90 05	57 1 283 39 82	www.minagricultura.gov.co

Proexport	Calle 28 No. 13A-15 Bogotá	571 560 01 00	57 1 560 01 18	www.proexport.com.co
SENA	Calle 57 No. 8-69 Bogotá	57 1 546 15 00 Ext. 2090	57 1 212 46 88	www.sena.edu.co

### Industry Associations

ENTITY	ADDRESS	PHONE	FAX	WEB/E-mail
Acoltex	Calle 49B No. 63-21 O. 1106. Medellín	57 4 260 15 49	57 4 230 71 35	www.acoltex.org
Andi	Calle 73 No. 8-13 P.8 Bogotá	57 1 326 85 00	57 1 347 31 98	www.andi.com.co
Ascoltex	Calle 72 No. 9-55 O. 903. Bogotá	57 1 212 62 34	57 1 210 38 94	ascoltex@impsat.net.co
Cidetexco	Cra. 12 No. 90-20 O. 308. Bogotá	57 1 622 85 78	57 1 622 86 01	www.textil- confeccion.com.co
Inexmoda	Calle 14 No. 40A-173. Medellín	57 4 311 59 15	57 4 266 20 50	www.inexmoda.org.co
Conalgodón	Calle 87 No. 20-27 O. 502. Bogotá	57 1 616 41 83	57 1 621 12 09	www.conalgodon.com.co

Date: November 2007  
 Author: Swiss Colombian Chamber of Commerce  
 Author's address: Cra. 7 No. 27-40 P. 7, Bogotá, Colombia  
 suizacam@cable.net.co