

PRECAUTIONARY ANTI-NARCOTICS GUIDELINES

Please find below general, although not exhaustive, guidelines of precautionary measures to be enforced while the vessel is in port in Colombia, no matter if it is anchored or alongside the berth:

- It is mandatory for the vessel to have and to be in a capacity to exhibit on demand from the port authority a comprehensive security plan under de ISPS code.
- Advise the Master and crew that vessels calling at Colombian ports are exposed to an increased risk of drug smuggling, emphasising the need for extra vigilance at all times whilst at anchor or alongside.
- Instruct the crew that suspect packages and suspicious behaviour by third parties (e.g. visitors, stevedores, contractors, shore personnel) should be reported immediately to the Master.
- The entire crew should be warned of the risks of carrying or trafficking drugs. Evidence of these warnings must be clearly displayed at the points of entry/exit of the vessel and within the accommodation areas and must be shown to the authorities when necessary.
- Alert all personnel to the possibility that drug smugglers may attempt to befriend crewmembers in the hope of persuading them to hide drugs on board, either for financial gain or as a favour. Such attempts may be made while alongside or during trips ashore. Crew going ashore must be warned that if they choose to have contact with local people, they should be very careful to ensure the persons they are meeting are not connected with illegal activities. Clearly, if issues involving drugs arise and crewmembers have been seen with people known to be connected to drug trade, there is every likelihood that the authorities will allege crew involvement. Crewmembers should be reminded of the harsh penalties that drug smugglers face if convicted. The crew should also be warned that the finding of even a small quantity of illegal drugs on board may lead to a substantial delay of sail, large fines and the possible confiscation of the vessel.
- Keep a security log at the gangway recording IDs of people boarding or disembarking the vessel, including crewmembers.
- Perform regular security checks and shipboard inspections with the crew and approved security guards throughout the stay at the port. We recommend increasing the frequency of the patrols.
- Do not allow the access of any person who does not have a specific task to perform on board. All points of access must always be controlled.
- Lock access to places where no work is to be carried out while at port, such as storerooms, cabins and internal access. Areas such as the hawse pipe on the forecastle deck and the spurling pipe leading to the chain locker should be properly secured.
- Monitor continuously the places where people (stevedores) are labouring.



- Keep permanent watch over the main deck and boat decks. Areas such as the forecandle, poop deck, main decks, boat decks, etc. should be well lit at night.
- Watch for the approach of small boats or the presence of unauthorized divers or other attempts by unauthorized persons to board the vessel.
- At some ports and terminals, an underwater inspection of the hull is mandatory, particularly at facilities specialising in oil or coal. Vessels calling at other terminals may request such a search. We strongly recommend requesting an anti-narcotics underwater inspection before departure even if it is not mandatory. Providing the vessel has not sailed after one (1) hour of the UWI, it is recommended to conduct a new one to avoid any smuggling of narcotics after the inspection. Divers should be instructed to request access and pay particular attention to the bilge keels, sea chests, tunnel thruster gratings, sacrificial anodes and the inside of the rudder compartment.
- Search the vessel thoroughly before sailing in accordance with the Ship Security Plan.
- Maintain written evidence of all the above.
- If you suspect that illegal substances may be hidden on board or if a search reveals the presence of drugs, the local authorities, owners/managers, port agents and the local P&I correspondent should be contacted immediately. Photographs and/or video recordings of the drugs may be taken to show how they were found, but nothing should be touched. The area should be sealed off and guarded until the authorities arrive.
- In the event of drugs being found on board a vessel in a Colombian port, the local prosecutor's office will almost certainly start a criminal investigation. The vessel may not be permitted to sail until the authorities are content with the evidence they have gathered, which may take several days. However, long delays are to be expected mainly if the authorities suspect that crewmembers were involved. We recommend to always cooperate with the authorities fully for the conduction of the investigation.
- It also very important to alert the relevant port authorities, such as the Maritime Traffic Control Station and Harbour Master Office. The Harbour Master may require information in order to consider a possible breach of Marine Merchant Rules and Regulations. If the Harbour Master decides to open an investigation it would only focus on this aspect and may result in a fine. The sooner they are alerted, the better this can be dealt with, avoiding delays obtaining the authorization to sail.
- **MOST IMPORTANTLY**, if any problems arise, please seek assistance from the local Club's correspondents immediately.