

1. **Local Corporation:** This is very similar to a Canadian corporation. Shareholders should not be fewer than five and they are liable for the corporation's debts up to the amount of their respective capital contributions. The company issues nominative share certificates which are negotiable in the stock market. At least fifty percent of authorized capital must be subscribed and at least 33 percent paid in, at the time of incorporation.
2. **Limited Liability Partnership:** This is a limited company of from two to 25 partners, who are liable up to the amount of their contributions. Capital must be fully paid in at the time of incorporation and must be divided into equal quotas or value units, assignable on terms specified in the bylaws and in legislation.
3. **Branch of a Foreign Corporation:** A branch operates under the rules applicable to Colombian corporations. Its liability is limited to assigned capital. It must be registered with a Notary Public in the place of domicile. Notarized copies of its incorporation document, its bylaws, the resolution or act agreeing to the establishment of the branch, and documents evidencing its existence and legal representation must be registered.

Selling to the Government

Government entities and firms must follow the provisions of Law 80 of October 31, 1993 which regulate purchases and contracts by the Government, and state industrial and commercial enterprises. As a general rule, all individuals and legal entities that wish to execute contracts with state entities have to register with the Chamber of Commerce of their jurisdiction in order to be qualified, classified, and rated in accordance with the provisions of Law 80. Foreign individuals not domiciled in Colombia or foreign private legal entities without a branch in Colombia seeking Government contracts, must provide a copy of their registration at the corresponding registry in their country of origin. They should also submit documents proving their existence and incumbency, whatever is the case. In addition, they must appoint an agent or legal representative, domiciled in Colombia, duly empowered to bid and execute the contracts as well as to represent the foreign enterprise in and out of court.

Under Law 80, Colombian bidders have preferential treatment. Given equal contracting conditions, the offer of goods and services of domestic origin is preferred. When foreign firms bid under equal conditions, the contract is awarded to the one that incorporates a greater number of domestic workers in the