

There are no restriction on foreign investment in companies which participate as contractors and/or suppliers of goods and services to the Ecuadorian petroleum industry.

*** Do foreign oil companies have to use Ecuadorian goods and services in their operations?**

There are no specified local content requirements for companies operating in the country. Ecuador has recently revised its customs regulations to reduce restriction on many types of imports.

*** Is there any protection from misappropriation of proprietary technology brought into Ecuador?**

While there are only general provisions in the ecuadorian legal system relating to trade names, patents and intellectual property, legislation should be introduced before Ecuador's entrance to the GATT, scheduled for July, 1993.

***How does Ecuador's business infrastructure compare to other western countries?**

Although the country has a national network of highways, its seaports, airports and warehouse facilities are still underdeveloped. Currently there is legislation proposed to modernize and privatize ports, warehouse facilities and the telecommunications sector.