

(iv) Special regulations and Procedures

Foods, beverages, pharmaceuticals (including non-prescription medicines, e.g. vitamins) and cosmetics must be approved and registered by the Oficina de Farmacéuticos, Medicinas y Productos Alimenticios. Such registration will require the services of a Panamanian lawyer. The original registration is valid for ten years.

Transportation and Communications

Panama's principal Pacific Ocean port is Balboa, located at the Pacific entrance to the Panama Canal and adjacent to Panama City. The main port at the Caribbean end of the canal is Cristobal, adjacent to the Colon Free Zone. Both are large ports, with good warehousing facilities, reflecting Panama's importance as a trans-shipment point. Other, smaller, ports also exist.

Inland transport is primarily by highway, the principal route being the 550 Km Pan-American Highway, running from Panama City to Costa Rica. The second most important highway is that connecting Panama City and Colon, at opposite ends of the Canal.

Panama has a limited rail network, the principal line running between Panama City and Colon.

While there are no direct flights between Canada and Panama, air service is fairly good. Panama is an important connection point for U.S. and European airlines serving South America, and accordingly receives many flights. Goods shipped by air from Canada will generally connect in Miami or New York, and can arrive within 2 days. Delays in finding space aboard connecting flights are not uncommon, however, and transit times of 5 days to a week are not uncommon. All international flights arrive at Omar Torrijos Airport in Panama City.

Panama has good local and international telephone and telex service. Direct dialing is available to Canada, and to most other parts of the world. Mail services, however, are slow and unreliable. It should be assumed that letters will take two weeks, and sometimes more, to reach their destination.