



COLOMBIA

Water & Waste Water Market Brief 2008

Colombia: Important Links & Contacts

- Ministry of Environment – www.minambiente.gov.co
- Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development – www.minagricultura.gov.co
- Water Regulatory and Basic Sanitation Commission – www.cra.gov.co
- Water Supply and Sewerage Association (ACODAL) – www.acodal.org
- Superintendency of Residential Municipal Services (SSPD) – www.superservicios.gov.co



Market Overview

The Colombian water sector is fully decentralized since the approval of Law 142 of 1994 the Colombian government enacted the Residential Municipal Services Law and it is constantly improved by the Water Regulatory Commission with complementing regulations, allowing private operators and the government has embarked in an ambitious program (Planes Departamentales de Agua) to allow States (Departamentos) to improve existing water treatment infrastructures to increase the current nationwide aqueduct coverage of 83.6 percent (sewerage systems reached 73.4 percent coverage). Urban areas aqueduct coverage reached 94.5 percent and 90.1 percent in sewerage.

The Ministry of the Environment assumes that close to 80 percent of Colombia's municipal entities to dispose of untreated wastewater into rivers or lakes. Colombia is a regional leader in the development and implementation of a wastewater pollution "tax" (*tasa retributiva*). However, only a few environmental agencies have established regional funds to finance wastewater treatment facilities. Cities such as Bogotá and Medellín own wastewater treatment plants, and other cities such as Cartagena are developing an underwater outfall system with World Bank funding or are developing plans for other treatment systems. Nevertheless, funding remains a central concern. Medellín is developing the Bello wastewater treatment plant with an estimated cost of US \$320 million and capable of treating up to 6.5 m³ per second which complements the 1.8 m³ per second San Fernando facility, in operation since 2000.

During 2008, imports of water and wastewater treatment equipment reached US \$315.9 million, up 38.4 percent from 2007.

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Market Highlights

Upon the approval of the US-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement, 79 percent of U.S. environmental goods and equipment will receive duty-free treatment immediately. The remaining equipment tariffs will be eliminated in a period of between five to 11 years.

Best prospects include water and wastewater treatment plants, water pollution monitoring and control equipment, pipes, pumps, valves, and environmental services (consulting).

2008 Colombian Imports
(by Source Country)

