

Drug Smuggling Guideline:

In Brazil, supervision in the terminals and certification concessions are responsibility of Public Safety National Commission for Port, Terminals and Navigable Routes (Conportos), in accordance with the international code provided by the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

The port of Paranagua has been granted definitive ISPS certification, and access to the port area and vessels is restricted only to previously authorised/registered professionals.

It can be noted the great majority of seizures are verified on drugs hidden in containers (mostly in the refrigeration compartment of reefer containers or dry containers carrying wood products).

Following the establishment of a dedicated Federal Police diving task force, there has been an increase in the seizure of narcotics concealed in the underwater sections of vessels' hulls, particularly within sea chests.

In parallel, numerous arrests have been made and funds, properties, firearms and vehicles have been seized ashore as part of ongoing efforts to dismantle local criminal organizations.

Thus, it is imperative that the crew keep an attentive watch whilst the vessel is at anchorage and alongside in line with ISPS regulations and, in case any abnormality is noted, the Master must immediately inform the local agents and authorities to take the necessary measures.

Our firm have conduct an analysis of all publicly reported cocaine seizures connected to the Port of Paranagua (PR), Brazil, throughout 2025 and we can conclude that several MT of cocaine were seizures by the police in a variety of concealment methods, with prevalence in: Reefer evaporator units; Refrigeration motors; Ripon/rip-off contamination inside the terminal; Insertion into bulk cargo (wood, cellulose, pallets, plywood).

The findings demonstrate that Paranagua remains a critical narcotics export corridor, primarily toward Europe, Africa, and the Middle East.

Cocaine concealed inside the container at the Port of Paranagua:



Photo by Sindireceita

We can act as intermediaries for requests made by shipowners to hire independent companies to carry out anti-narcotics services by means of hiring watchmen / camera monitoring / boat monitoring / sniffing dogs / underwater inspections at anchorage prior to sailing from the port.