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Succesful risk navigation



Risk navigation of General Aviation in Venezuela

What are the top five risks related to the General Aviation Panorama?

The Venezuelan general aviation (GA) landscape has undergone significant regulatory reforms in past years, **opening new opportunities for foreign private and charter operators while introducing complex compliance requirements.**

We analyzed the top operational, legal, and financial risks facing GA operators in Venezuela, including permit management, classification of flights, infrastructure limitations, insurance challenges, and liability exposure.

Drawing on the latest INAC regulations and industry reporting, we offer practical guidance for navigating the Venezuelan GA environment successfully and safely.

Slide to view the top five risks we identified

Regulatory Complexity & Multilayered Permit Regime

Under the February 2024 INAC regulation, foreign private aircraft now have six operational permit categories (7, 15, 30, 90, 180, and 365 days) with distinct procedural requirements and renewal intervals, replacing the older 72-hour rule.

Multiple Permit Types and Requirements

- Venezuela's GA framework includes several permit types, each with distinct application procedures. Requirements differ by permit duration—for example, the 7-day permit allows two entries per month, with a maximum of six entries per year. Many applications also require notarized documents and certified Spanish translations.

Operational Risk

- Failure to secure the correct permit, submit it properly, or comply with interval rules can result in application rejection or operational denial by INAC.

Legal Classification of Operations: Private vs. Charter

Venezuelan aviation law makes a strict legal distinction between private flights (general aviation non-commercial) and charter/paid services. That distinction impacts licensing, operational permissions, and regulatory scope.

- A private GA flight that functions like a charter (cost-sharing, passenger transport for compensation) risks being treated as commercial, requiring RAV 119/135 certification.

- Misclassification exposes the operator to enforcement action, fines, or grounding.

Operational Support & Infrastructure Limitations

While major hubs like Simón Bolívar International Airport can support GA traffic with fuel, hangars, and handling, many secondary airports and aerodromes have limited capabilities.

- Limited availability of Jet A1 fuel at smaller GA fields.
- Ground handling quality varies; some lack reliable equipment or trained personnel.
- Emergency or technical support (maintenance/avionics) may be absent outside major hubs.

Financial, Insurance & Sanctions Exposure

Even for GA, financial and compliance risk remains high due to Venezuela's economic environment and international sanctions context.

- Currency controls and non-SWIFT banking complicate payments for services or permits.
- Insurers may impose higher premiums or restrict coverage for Venezuela country risk or political risk.
- Restrictions on spare parts and certified service networks may hamper aircraft support.

Liability Uncertainty in a Non-Montreal Jurisdiction

Venezuela has not ratified the Montreal Convention (1999), meaning liability claims for injury, death, or baggage defaults may default to older Warsaw limits or domestic law.

- However, Venezuela's General Conditions of Air Transport set the rights and obligations of carriers and passengers, establishing liability rules for delays, denied boarding, cancellations, and baggage issues for both domestic and international flights.

Bottom Line for Foreign General Aviation Operators in Venezuela

Venezuela's GA market is increasingly accessible, but true operational success depends on:

- Legal precision in classification and documentation
- Permit strategy optimization to match operational needs
- Pre-arranged operational support and insurance planning
- Structured financial and sanctions compliance

With these elements in place, foreign private and charter operators **can leverage the evolving Venezuelan regulatory landscape to operate effectively and mitigate exposure in a complex environment.**



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