



U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Bombardier DHC-8



FACT SHEET

The Bombardier DHC-8 is a fixed-wing, medium-range multi-role patrol aircraft used by U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Air and Marine Operations (AMO). It comes equipped with multimode radar and electro-optical/infrared that can detect and monitor maritime and surface targets. Video recorders document suspect activities for evidentiary use. The DHC-8 is well-suited to accomplish the mission of detecting, disrupting, and interdicting maritime smuggling.

AMO operates two models of the DHC-8 airframe, the Q200 and Q300. These are some of the most fuel efficient aircraft in operation and have the lowest per hour cost of any maritime patrol aircraft in our inventory.

This maritime patrol aircraft can also be converted to a cargo configuration or into a passenger aircraft, making it an ideal aircraft to respond to natural disasters and other emergencies. In 2010, the Caribbean Air and Marine Branch used this aircraft to assist with the relocation of emergency personnel and medical equipment during the crisis following the massive earthquake in Haiti.

Performance and Weights:

- **Maximum Speed**
242 knots (278 mph)
- **Service Ceiling Altitude**
25,000 feet
- **Range**
1,600 nautical miles (1,841 miles)
- **Endurance**
6-7 hours (depending on flight profile)
- **Maximum Gross Weight**
37,300 pounds (DHC-8 Q200)
43,000 (DHC-8 Q300)

Features:

- Can identify, sort and track multiple marine targets
- SeaVue marine search radar
- Electro-optical/infrared sensor with laser designator
- Microwave downlink provides real-time information to ground personnel