



# NIGERIAN MARITIME ADMINISTRATION AND SAFETY AGENCY (NIMASA)

(Established under the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency Act, 2007)

NIMASA Towers: 35, Adetokunbo Ademola Street, Victoria Island, P.M.B. 12861, Lagos.

E-mail: [info@nimasa.gov.ng](mailto:info@nimasa.gov.ng) Website: [www.nimasa.gov.ng](http://www.nimasa.gov.ng)

MN 1/26/SN01

## MARINE NOTICE

# OPERATION ZERO TOLERANCE

**TO ALL: Ship/Vessel Owners, Operators, Managers, International and National Oil Companies, Masters and Officers of Merchant Ships, Shipping Companies, Shipping Agents, Charterers, Offshore Installations & Platforms operators, Vessel Operators at the Free Trade Zone (FTZ), and Maritime Stakeholders**

Pursuant to the Agency's statutory mandate to promote the development of indigenous commercial shipping in international and coastal shipping trade, regulate and promote maritime safety, security and marine pollution and maritime labour as set out in the NIMASA Act 2007, the Coastal and Inland Shipping (Cabotage) Act 2003, its Regulations and Guidelines, and the Marine Environment (Sea Protection Levy) Regulation, 2012.

This Marine Notice is issued to inform all stakeholders in the Nigerian maritime industry of the commencement of "**Operation Zero Tolerance for Non-Compliance**" with respect to the Agency's statutory obligations.

**Therefore, NOTICE** is hereby given as follows:

- All vessels and Shipping Companies/Agents/Charterers operating or intending to operate within Nigerian waters must be duly registered and obtain necessary certificates and licenses in accordance with the NIMASA Act 2007, Cabotage Act 2003 and the Merchant Shipping Act 2007.
- ALL vessels and Shipping Companies/Agents/Charterers are to **maintain valid statutory certificates and documentation and to update company registration details and ownership information** as required.
- All vessels engaged in the Cabotage activities shall comply with the four foundational pillars of the Cabotage Act:
  - Vessel Ownership – Vessel must be wholly owned by Nigerian citizens or duly approved under the waiver regime.
  - Vessel Registration – Vessel must be registered in Nigeria or obtain the operating license for a foreign vessel under the waiver regime.
  - Vessel Manning – Master, officers, and crew must be Nigerian citizens except where duly approved waivers apply.
  - Vessel Building – Vessel must be built in Nigeria or operating under approved exemptions.
- All vessel owners, operators, and managers shall ensure the payment and remittance of all levies and fees **within the statutory deadlines stipulated for each levy. Specifically:**
  - The 2% Cabotage surcharge shall be remitted as per Section 16 (1) of the Cabotage Act 2003.
  - The 3% cargo levy shall be remitted **within 30 days of the shipment date as provided by Section 15 (a) of the NIMASA Act 2007.**
  - Registration, waiver, license and documentation fees upon application
  - Sea Protection Levy (SPL) shall be remitted before port arrival per Regulation 5 of the Marine Environment (SPL) Regulation 2012.
  - Other statutory charges prescribed by the NIMASA Act 2007. All applicable fees, including those for registration, waivers, and licenses, shall be as detailed in the official '**NIMASA Schedule of Fees and Levies**,' which is available on the Agency's website ([www.nimasa.gov.ng](http://www.nimasa.gov.ng)) and may be updated periodically."
- All vessel owners, operators, managers, masters, and agents are directed to **conduct a bi-annual review** of statutory requirements and ensure updated compliance, submit required returns, reports, and documentation, maintain transparent and verifiable records of payments of all fees and levies and cooperate fully with NIMASA officers during inspections, audits, and monitoring exercises.
- Immediately upon issuance of this Notice, and in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 23 of the NIMASA Act 2007 and Section 21 of the Cabotage Act 2003, the Agency will undertake the following actions:
  - Random and targeted inspections of vessels operating in Nigeria's maritime domain
  - Cross-checking documentation against NIMASA databases
  - Physical and documentary compliance assessments at ports, terminals, and offshore locations.
  - Assessment of proof of payment, which must be presented upon request. Any form of underpayment, forged documentation, misrepresentation, or evasion will be sanctioned accordingly.
- Compliance Grace Period:** Notwithstanding the immediate effect of this notice, a grace period of thirty (30) days from the date of issuance is granted for all stakeholders to conduct a self-audit of their compliance status and to rectify any identified deficiencies without penalty, except for outstanding financial levies which shall accrue applicable interest. After this grace period, the full enforcement actions outlined in Clause 8
- Failure to comply with the Agency's statutory legislation, including but not limited to any form of underpayment, misrepresentation, or evasion, constitutes a violation and will be sanctioned accordingly. In addition, non-compliant vessels shall be subjected to:
  - Detention
  - Monetary penalties as provided under the Cabotage Act, NIMASA Act, and SPL Regulations.
  - Withdrawal of waivers/operational licenses.
  - Denial of port clearance until full compliance is achieved.

**THIS MARINE NOTICE TAKES IMMEDIATE EFFECT FROM THE DATE OF ISSUANCE AND REMAINS IN FORCE UNTIL FORMALLY WITHDRAWN OR SUPERSEDED BY ANOTHER DIRECTIVE.**

For inquiries, clarifications, or compliance support, stakeholders may contact:

**Executive Director, Operations**  
Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA)  
No. 35 Adetokunbo Ademola Street, Victoria Island, Lagos.  
Email: [Edops.office@nimasa.gov.ng](mailto:Edops.office@nimasa.gov.ng)

**Executive Director, Maritime Labour & Cabotage Services**  
Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA)  
No. 35 Adetokunbo Ademola Street, Victoria Island, Lagos.  
Email: [edmls.office@nimasa.gov.ng](mailto:edmls.office@nimasa.gov.ng)

**SIGNED: MANAGEMENT**