



NIGERIAN MARITIME ADMINISTRATION AGENCY (NIMASA) GUIDANCE NOTICE FOR COVID-19

There is every need to religiously and dutifully enforce the letters and spirit of the Nigerian Maritime Administration Agency's (NIMASA) Guidance Notice for COVID-19 and review it from time to time. This Guidance Notice was issued to all Ship Owners, Ship Operators, Masters of Ship, Ship Agents, Shipping Companies and Maritime Stakeholders in order to adhere to the advice from the United Nations (UN) agencies including, World Health Organisation (WHO), the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), and the Nigerian Centre for Disease Control (NCDC).

The Notice requires Marine Stakeholders to develop risk assessments and safety intervention guidelines for their personnel and operations on the areas of vulnerabilities of their maritime operations. These are areas that can be affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and include the offshore operations such as crew/personnel changes, visits from onshore and other locations for provision of supplies, maintenance and repairs etc.

They are required to conduct pre-departure tests for COVID-19 on all ongoing and other scheduled offshore operations requiring new crew or crew changes from affected countries. These persons are to self-isolate for the prescribed period before contact or exposure to other personnel.

The C14 Intelligence System detects all vessels en route to Nigeria and their previous port call location. Some of these vessels are coming from COVID-19 endemic areas like Brazil, Italy, USA,

Russia, Spain, UK, and Germany and their personnel could pose a danger to the country if they are infected and undetected, hence, the need to enforce this Notice. Despite the impact of COVID-19 on lives and businesses, the important nature of maritime trade and operations requires that it carries on with minimal interruptions, however, authorities have the onerous responsibility of deciding if the vessels should call into the ports or not.

Kindly contact us for further clarifications, guidance, information or legal advice.

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Disclaimer

The write-up is meant for general information purposes only. It is not a fully comprehensive work or legal advice on this area of law. In any event, if more clarifications, questions or our assistance is required, kindly, contact us at J-K Gadzama LLP, J-K Gadzama Court, Plot 1805, Damaturu Crescent by Kabo Way, P.O.Box 20304, Garki, Off Ahmadu Bello Way, Garki 2, Abuja, FCT. Tel: +234(0)96233600, E-mail: info@j-kgadzamallp.com, website: j-kgadzamallp.com.