

Circular From NORTH

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West African Countries Apply ‘Traffic Rights’ Levy on Shipowners

Ivory Coast and Senegal are applying a ‘traffic rights’ levy on internationally trading vessels that load or discharge cargo at their ports, which are resulting in significant costs to shipowners.

Regulations issued by L’Union Economique et Monétaire Ouest Africaine (UEMOA) relating to ‘Rights of Maritime Traffic’ took effect on 1 January 2020. They include the collection of fees from vessels based on the amount of cargo being imported or exported.

The tax is levied on the shipowner and the Article 4 of the UEMOA regulation warns they cannot seek reimbursement from cargo interests.

The UEMOA regulation further states that goods in transshipment or in transit do not give rise to fees levied by its member coastal states.

The UEMOA regulation 003/2019 can be read [here](#).

Ivory Coast

In January 2020, the Ivory Coast issued notice on their intention to collect fees from vessels engaged on international voyages and are loading or discharging at Ivorian ports.

Fees:

- Importing: 1,000 FCFA (approx. US\$1.70) per ton of goods. A reduction in fees to 500 FCFA (US\$0.85) is applied for the import of cargoes of wheat, rice and the raw materials used in the manufacture of cement (includes limestone, clinker, slag and gypsum)
- Exporting: 800 FCFA (approx. US\$1.36) per ton of goods.

The Ivorian authorities warn shipowners that they should not seek reimbursement of these fees from cargo interests.

Senegal

It has been reported that ANAM – which is the Authority in charge of the Senegalese merchant marine – has started to present invoices in connection with the ‘traffic rights’ levy.

Fees:

- Importing: Rice and wheat are exempt. Cement has been given a reduced right of 800 FCFA per ton. Other products are charged about 1,000 FCFA per ton. Amount is based upon the cargo manifest. Provision is charged by the Agent in the 'Proforma Disbursement Account' (PDA) to their principals, who could be the Owners and or Charterers. When cargo operations are completed and declarations made, payment is made to ANAM.
- Exporting: Cement is rated at 400 FCFA per ton, all other products are charged at 800 FCFA. Amount to be taxed is assessed once the cargo is loaded as per draft survey.

Other UEMOA countries:

Benin: it is expected that the levy will be applied soon but is currently suspended due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Togo: has not yet stated their intention.

Mali and Niger: are expected to call for the levy to be introduced after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thanks to our correspondents Ivory P&I for this information.

Source of Information: The North P&I Club