

# **GUIDE ON IMMIGRATION REQUIREMENTS**

HEREUNDER IS THE GENERAL GUIDE ON IMMIGRATION REQUIREMENTS AS RECEIVED FROM THE NIGERIAN IMMIGRATION SERVICE BUT WE WOULD WISH TO INFORM YOU THAT THE GREATEST PROBLEM IN OUR PORTS ARE THE IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS. SO IN ADDITION TO THIS GUIDE WE WOULD ADVISE YOU TAKE NOTE OF THE FOLLOWING SALIENT POINTS NOT OTHERWISE MENTIONED BELOW.

1. MASTERS OF THE VESSELS MUST ENSURE THAT ALL SEAMANS' BOOKS ARE DULY STAMPED WITH SHIP'S STAMP, ENDORSED WITH DATES AND SIGNATURES.
2. ALL PASSENGERS, SUPERNUMERARY AND ACCOMPANYING SUPERCARGO MUST BE IN POSSESSION OF A VALID NIGERIAN VISA FROM COUNTRY OF EMBARKATION.

## **GENERAL GUIDE ON NIGERIAN IMMIGRATION REQUIREMENTS AT NIGERIAN SHIP PORT FOR ALL SHIPMASTERS, AGENTS, PASSENGERS AND OTHERS**

Recent events have made it mandatory to enlighten Ship masters, crew members, passengers, Shipping Agents and all interested parties in the shipping industry, on the basic requirement for easy passage to and from NIGERIAN SEA Ports. This is to ensure that Nigerian port users are not misled on what is expected of them by the Nigerian Immigration Service by any other party.

(2) All Shipping Agents should note the following;

- (a) That all persons entering or leaving Nigeria must possess a valid document
- (b) That all passengers on board vessels entering Nigeria are required to have Entry visas except where there is Visa abolition Agreement between Nigeria and each country especially, in the case of ECOWAS countries
- (c) That wives and children of crewmembers are classified as passengers. They are therefore required to obtain Entry Visa to facilitate their entries into Nigeria.
- (d) *That supernumerary trainee and supercargoes shall be treated as passengers and must be in possession of valid visas to determine their Immigration status in Nigeria.*
- (e) On no condition shall seaman's' books/passports be withheld from Immigration by the agent, Charterer or whosoever.
- (f) That all crew of a ship who are to be signed on as members of the crew of a ship at a port in Nigeria shall obtain approval from the Comptroller of Immigration at the seaport before embarkation on the ship.
- (g) That all crew coming to join a ship registered in Nigeria or chartered to operate partly or wholly in Nigeria should have valid Entry Visas Subject To Regularization (STR) for resident or Temporary Work Permit (TWP) for short stay
- (h) That no members of the crew of any ship that is not citizen of Nigeria shall be discharged in Nigeria without the approval of the Immigration authority. Such crew must obtain Transit permit on disembarkation from their vessel(s) pending the time of their flight.
- (i) That any person who arrives at the port in Nigeria, as stowaway shall be treated as prohibited immigrant and should not be admitted into Nigeria. All the cost of repatriation of such person from Nigeria shall be borne by the Shipowners or the Agent or Owner's Representative.