



NIGERIAN PORTS AUTHORITY

DEFINITION OF OPERATIONAL TERMS

A/B or ABLE BODIED SEAMAN - A member of the deck crew who is able to perform all the duties of experienced seaman; certificated by examination and has three years sea service. Also called Able Seaman or AB.

ADDENDUM - Additional terms at the end of a charter party.

AD VALOREM - means 'at value'. A rate or tax on the freight based on the value of goods.

AFT - Near or towards the stern of the vessel.

AGENCY FEE - A fee charged to the ship by the ship's agent, representing payment for services while the ship was in Port. Sometimes also referred to as the attendance fee.

ANCHOR HANDLING TUG - Tug that moves anchors and tow drilling vessels, lighters and similar. Also **ANCHOR HANDLING TUG/SUPPLY** used also for supplies.

AIMS - American Institute of Merchant Shipping

AMIDSHIPS - Means in the middle portion of a vessel.

ARBITRATION - Method of settling disputes usually applied to charter parties.

ASABOSA - Association of Ship's Agents & Brokers.

ASL - Association of Shipping Lines

ASTERN - Behind, or a backward direction in the line of a vessel's fore and aft line when a vessel moves backwards it is said to move astern; opposite to ahead.

AUTOMATIC PILOT - An instrument that controls automatically a vessel's steering gear to enable her to follow a pre-determined track through the water.

BAF - Bunker adjustment factor. A freight adjustment factor reflecting the current cost of bunkers.

BAGGED CARGO - Various kinds of commodities usually packed in sacks or in bags, such as sugar, cement, milk powder, onion, grain, flour etc. Also referred to as Break bulk.

BARGE - Flat bottomed boat for carrying cargo on protected waterways, usually without engine or crew accommodation. On Inland River systems barges can be lashed together and either pushed or pulled by tugs and handle cargo of 60,000 tonnes or more. Small barges for carrying cargo between ship and shore are known as lighters.

BEAM - The width of a ship (breadth).

BILL OF LADING (B/L) - A document of title to the goods being carried on the ship, which acts as a receipt for the cargo and contains the terms of the contract of carriage.

BONDED WAREHOUSE - An area of security approved by custom authorities for the safekeeping or deposit of goods liable for excise duty but not yet subject to that duty.

BOW THRUSTERS - A propeller at the lower sea-covered part of the bow of the ship, which turns at right angles to the fore-and-aft line and thus provides transverse thrust as a maneuvering aid.

B/p or BOP - Balance of payments.

BOX - a term used for a container.

BREADTH - See Beam

BREAKBULK VESSEL - A general, multipurpose, cargo ship that carries cargoes of non-uniform sizes, often on pallets, resulting in labour intensive loading and unloading.

BREAK BULK CARGO - Goods carried in the hold of ships and not in containers.

BULK - Cargo shipped in loose condition and of a homogeneous nature. Cargoes that are shipped unpackaged either dry, such as grain and ore, or liquid, such as petroleum products. Bulk service generally is not provided on a regularly scheduled basis, but rather as needed, on specialized ships, transporting a specific commodity.

BULK CARRIER - Ship specifically designed to transport large amounts of cargoes such as sugar, grain, wine, ore, Chemicals, liquefied natural gas; coal ore etc. see also LNG Carrier, Tanker OBO Ship.

BUNKERS - Fuel consumed by the engines of a ship; compartments or tanks in a ship for fuel storage.

BUOY - A floating object marking the navigable limits of channels, sunken, dangers, isolated rocks, telegraph cables etc.

CABOTAGE - The carriage of goods or passengers for remuneration taken on at one point and discharged at another point within the territory of the same country.

CABOTAGE POLICIES - Reservation of a country's coastal (domestic) shipping for its own flag vessels.

CARGO HANDLING - The act of loading and discharging a cargo ship.

CARGO PLAN - A plan giving the quantities and description of the various grades carried in the ship's cargo tanks, after the loading is completed.

CARGO PREFERENCE - Reserving a portion of a nation's imports and exports to national-flag vessels.

CARRIERS - Owners or Operators of vessels providing transportation to shippers. The term is also sometimes used to refer to the vessels.

CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRY - A document specifying the nation registry of the vessel.

CHANDLER - A person who deals in the selling of provisions, dried stores, etc.

CHARTER - Hiring out of a ship by a ship-owner.

CHARTERER - The person who has chartered the ship for a specified period of time.

CHARTER RATES - The tariff applied for chartering tonnage in a particular trade.

CHARTER PARTY - A contractual agreement between a ship owner and a cargo owner, usually arranged by a broker, whereby a ship is chartered (hired) either for one voyage or a period of time.

CHEMICAL TANKER - Ship specially designed for the transport of chemicals.

CLASSIFICATION SOCIETY - Private organization that undertake inspections and provide advice on the hull and machinery of a ship, also supervise ships during their construction and afterwards in respect to their seaworthiness. Ships are then referred to as being 'in Class'. Although not compulsory, an un-Classed ship will find it difficult to attract insurance.

CLOF - Container Liner Operators Forum

COASTAL SERVICE or COASTWISE - Domestic shipping routes along a single coast.

CODE OF LINER CONDUCT (UNCTAD) - A convention drafted under the auspices of the United Nations conference on Trade and Development which provides that all shipping traffic between two foreign countries is to be regulated as far as the quantities of shipments are concerned on the following percentages – 40% for owners of the country of origin, 40% for owners of country of destination, and 20% for owners of the country which is neither the origin nor the destination.

COGSA - Carriage of Goods by Sea.

CONFERENCE and CONFERENCE LINES – An affiliation of ship-owners operating over the same route(s) who agree to charge uniform rates and other terms of carriage. A conference is “closed” if one can enter only by the consent of existing members of the conference. It is “open” if anyone can enter by meeting certain technical and financial standards.

CONSIGNEE - The person to whom cargo is consigned as stated on the bills of lading.

CONSIGNOR - The person named in the bill of lading as the one from whom the goods have been received for shipment.

CONTAINER - A steel box of a given measurement used for the carriage of goods, often referred to as a TEU (20ft equivalent unit). Can be a standard container, usually either 6m or 12m in length (20ft or 40ft), a Reefer container for refrigerated cargo, a flatrack standard or collapsible container, or an open top container type.

CONTAINER SHIP - A ship designed to handle containerized cargo. A fully cellular container ship is one that carries no cranes and is reliant on shore-based cranes for lading and discharging. Containers ships’ hulls are divided into cells accessible through large hatches into which the containers fit. Specialized types of container ships are the LASH and SeaBee, which carry floating containers (or “lighters”) and RoRo ships, which may carry containers on truck trailers.

CPI - Consumer Price Index

CUBIC CAPACITY - The most important commercial measurement when the intrinsic weight of the cargo is so low that the ship becomes full without being loaded to the cargo line. Usually expressed in cubic metres or cubic feet.

DANGEROUS CARGO - See HAZARDOUS CARGO

DEADWEIGHT (DWT) - A common measure of ship carrying capacity, equaling the number of tonnes of cargo, stores and bunkers that the ship can transport. It is the difference between the number of tonnes of water a vessel displaces 'light' and the number of tonnes it displaces when submerged to the 'deep load line'. A ship's cargo capacity is less than its total deadweight tonnage. The difference in weight between a vessel when it is fully loaded and when it is empty (in general transportation terms, the net), measured by the water it displaces. This is the most common and useful measurement for shipping as it measures cargo capacity and is usually used when referring to liquid and dry bulk ships.

DEMURRAGE - A fee leveled by the shipping company upon the port or supplier for not loading or unloading the vessel by a specified date agreed upon by contract.

DRAFT - The depth of a ship in the water. The vertical distance between the waterline and the keel, is expressed in metres except in the USA where it is in feet.

DRY CARGO - Merchandise other than liquid carried in bulk.

DRY CARGO SHIP - Vessel that carries all merchandise, excluding liquid in bulk.

DRY DOCK - An enclosed basin into which a ship is taken for underwater cleaning and repairing, It is fitted with watertight entrance gates which when closed permit the dock to be pumped dry. Sometimes has two or more compartments separated by watertight doors. Dry docks are also referred to as Graving Docks.

DWT - Deadweight tonnes.

FEU - Forty-foot equivalent Units (containers)

FLAGS OF CONVENIENCE (FOC)- The registration of ships in a country that offer favourable tax structures and regulations; also the flag representing the nation under whose jurisdiction a ship is registered. Ships are always registered under the laws of one nation but are not always required to establish their home location in that country. **FOC** states often offer low tax rates and their requirements concerning manning or maintenance are not stringent. The term is always denotes registration of vessels in foreign nations.

FOB - (FREE ON BOARD): Cost of a product before transportation costs are figured in.

FORCE MAJEURE - Clause limiting responsibilities of charterers, shippers and receiver of cargo.

FPSO - Floating Production, Storage & Offloading vessel. Usually out of service tankers are utilized as FPSO's.

GANG - Term used to describe a selected work force or team that works as a team in a harbor environment, usually in stevedoring.

GANGWAY - A narrow portable platform used as a passage by persons entering or leaving a vessel moored alongside a pier or quay.

GDP - Gross Domestic Product: The total value of goods and services produced by a nation over a given period, usually 1 year.

GENERAL CARGO - A non-bulk oil cargo composed of miscellaneous goods.

GNP - Gross National Product: GDP plus the net income accruing from foreign sources.

GROSS & NET TONNAGE (GT and NT) - Gross tonnage is the basis on which manning rules and safety regulations are applied, and registration fees are reckoned. Port fees are also often reckoned on the basis of GT and NT. GT and NT are defined according to formulas which take account, among other things of the volume of the vessel's enclosed spaces (GT) and the volume of its holds (NT).

GROSS REGISTERED TONS - A common measurement of the internal volume of a ship with certain spaces excluded.

HATCH - An opening, generally rectangular, in a ship's deck providing access into the compartment below.

HAZARDOUS CARGO - All substances of an inflammable, toxic or otherwise dangerous nature.

HOLD - A general name for the large compartments below the main deck designated for stowage of general cargo.

HULL - Shell or body of a ship – applies to the side and bottom of ship.

IAPH - International Association of Ports & Harbours

IHMA - International Harbour Master Association

ILO - International Labour Organization; Based in Geneva, it is one of the oldest components of the UN system of specialized agencies and has been involved over the years in appraising and seeking to improve and regulate conditions for seafarers. In its unusual tripartite way, involving official representatives of government, employer and employee interest, its joint Maritime Commission have been responsible for regulations involving the employment of foreign seafarers and regards to the application of minimum labour standards, on crew accommodation, accident prevention, medical examination and medical care, food and catering and competency of ships' officers.

IMDG - International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code

IMF - International Monetary Fund

IMO - International Maritime Organization: Formerly known as the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO), was established in 1958 through the United Nations to coordinate international maritime safety and related practices.

INFLAMMABLE LIQUIDS - Liquids liable to spontaneous combustion, which gives off inflammable vapours at or below 80 degrees F for example, ether, ethyl, benzene, gasoline, paints, enamels, carbon disulfide etc.

INLAND WATERS - Term referring to lakes, streams, rivers, canals, waterways, Inlets, bays and the like.

INMARSAT - International Maritime Satellite System

KNOT - Unit of speed in navigation, which is the rate of nautical mile (1.852 metres or 6,080 feet) per hour i.e. 1.852 km/h.

LAY-BY - Ships that are laid up usually waiting for cargo or a charter, often outside a Port.

L/C - Letter of Credit

LCL - LESS THAN CONTAINER LOAD – A consignment of cargo which is insufficient to fill a shipping container. It is grouped with other consignments for the same destination in a container at a container freight station.

LLOYD'S REGISTER OF SHIPPING - Well known British classification society.

LNG - Liquefied Natural Gas

LOF - Lloyds Open Form

LOI - Letter of Indemnity

LO-LO - Lift on, lift off; a container ship in which containers are lifted on or off by crane as opposed to Ro-Ro.

LONG TON (LT) - 1,016.05kg or 2,240 pounds.

LPG - Liquefied Petroleum Gas, or a carrier of LPG.

MANIFEST - A document containing a full list of the ship's cargo, extracted from the bills of lading.

MARPOL - The International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, modified by the several protocols. (Part of the IMO).

MOA - Memorandum of Agreement.

NATIONAL FLAG - The flag carrier by a ship to show her nationality.

NET TONNAGE - Equals gross tonnage minus deductions for space occupied by crew accommodations, machinery, navigation equipment and bunkers. It represents space available for cargo (and passengers). Canal tolls are based on net (registered) tonnage.

OCEAN WAYBILL - A document, issued by a shipping line to a shipper which serves as a receipt for the goods and evidence of the contract carriage.

OFF-LOAD - Discharge of cargo from a ship.

PALLET - A flat tray generally made of wood but occasionally of steel, on which goods particularly those in boxes, cartons or bags can be stacked. Its purpose is to facilitate the movement of such goods mainly by the use of forklift trucks.

PER CONTAINER RATE - Rates and/or charges on shipments transported in containers or trailers and rated on the basis of the category of the container or trailer.

PILOT – A person who is qualified to assist the Master of a ship to navigate when entering or leaving a port. In most ports Pilotage is compulsory.

PILOTAGE DUES – A fees payable by the owner or operator of a ship for the services of a pilot. This fee is normally based on the ship's tonnage.

PMAWCA - Port Management Association of Western and Central Africa.

REEFER - Refrigerator ship; a vessel designed to carry goods requiring refrigeration, such as meat and fruit. A reefer ship has insulated hold into which cold air is passed at the temperature appropriate to the goods being carried.

REEFER BOX - An insulated shipping container designed to carry cargoes requiring temperature control. It is fitted with a refrigeration unit, which is connected to the ship's electrical power supply.

RO/RO SHIP- Freight ship or ferry with facilities for vehicles to drive on and of (roll-on roll-off); a system of loading and discharging a ship whereby the cargo is driven on and off on ramps. Equipped with large openings at bow and stern and sometimes also on the side, providing easy access. Fully loaded trucks or trailers carrying containers are accommodated on the deck.

SALVAGE - The property which has been recovered from a wrecked vessel, or the recovery of the vessel herself.

SEA WORTHINESS - The condition of the ship, based on the sufficiency of a vessel in terms of materials construction, equipment, crew and outfit for the trade in which it is employed. Any sort of disrepair to the vessel by which the cargo may suffer – overloading, untrained officers, etc., may constitute a vessel to be unseaworthy.

SHIFTING - This refers to movements or changing positions of cargo from one place to another – a dangerous situation at sea that can easily endanger the seaworthiness or cargo worthiness of the ship.

SHIP'S AGENT - A person or firm who transact all the ship's business in a port on behalf of ship-owners or charterers.

SHIPPER - Individuals or businesses who tender goods or cargo for transportation – usually the cargo owners or their representatives and not to be confused with the party issuing the bills of lading or the ship's operator who is the carrier.

SISTER SHIPS - Ships built on the same design.

SOLAS - Safety of Life at Sea Convention.

STEVEDORE - Labour employed in ship cargo handling, also known as Longshoreman.

STOWAGE - The placing of goods in a ship in such a way as to ensure the safety and stability of the ship not only on a sea or ocean passage but also while in Port when parts of the cargo have been loaded or discharged.

STUFFING (or STRIPPING) - The act of packing or unpacking a container.

TARIFF - Terms and conditions and scale of charges.

TBN - To be named/to be nominated

T/C - Time Charter

TERMINAL - The business unit in Ports where specific cargo, i.e. containers are handled.

TEU - Twenty Foot Equivalent unit (containers): A measurement of cargo-carrying capacity on a containership, referring to a common container size of 20 ft in length. A 40 ft long container is measured as being 2TEU.

THC - Terminal-handling Charge, raised at Port Terminals for the handling of cargo.

TIME BAR - Time after which legal claims will not be entertained.

TONNAGE - A quantity of cargo normally expressed as a number of tons.

TOWAGE - Charges for the services of tugs assisting a ship or other vessels in ports or other locations; the act of towing a ship or other objects from one place to another.

TRAMP SERVICE - Vessels operating without a fixed itinerary or schedule or charter contract.

TUG - A small vessel designed to tow or push large ships or barges. Tugs have powerful diesel engines and are essential for maneuvering large ships around the Port. Pusher tugs are also used to push enormous trains of barges on the rivers and inland waterways of the U.S. Ocean-going salvage tugs provide assistance to ships in distress and engage in such work as towing drilling rigs and oil production platforms.

ULCC - Ultra Large Crude Carriers larger than 300,000DWT

UNCTAD - United Nations Conference on Trade & Development.

VLCC - Very Large Crude Carriers: Tankers between 200,000 and 300,000DWT

VLCS - Very Large Container Ship – a container vessel able to carry 8000 and more TEU. By mid 2007 a number of VLCS ships had a reported capacity in excess of 13,000-TEU.

VOYAGE CHARTER - A contract whereby the ship-owner places the vessel at the disposal of the charterer for one or more voyages. The ship owner being responsible for the operation of the vessel.

WAYBILL - A non-negotiable document that acts as a receipts for the goods and evidence of the contract of carriage.

