



THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA
LIBERIA MARITIME AUTHORITY

Port Notice

LPN-001
Nov. 2015

Office of the Commissioner /CEO

TO: All Liberian Port Terminals, Especially the Freeport of Monrovia and the Port of Buchanan

SUBJECT: Treatment of Vessels Registered and Flagged the People's Republic of China in Liberian Ports

Reference: Agreement Between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Republic of Liberia on Maritime Transport, signed on November 3, 2015

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Port Notice ("Notice") is to provide details of the Liberia Maritime Authority's ("LiMA") guidelines on the implementation of the Agreement between the Government of the People's Republic of China ("PRC") and the Government of the Republic of Liberia ("Liberia") on Maritime Transport signed on November 3, 2015 ("Agreement"). The Agreement sets forth the facilitation and expedition of trade with Chinese registered vessels in Liberian ports; particularly, the directive that Chinese vessels be charged tonnage dues when visiting any Liberian port at precisely the same rate as tonnage dues charged to vessels that are lawfully registered and flagged with Liberia.

APPLICABILITY:

This Notice applies to all Liberian ports, especially the Freeport of Monrovia and the Port of Buchanan regarding the treatment of Chinese registered or flagged vessels and their crew.

1.0 COMPLIANCE/GUIDANCE

Chinese registered vessels and their crew will be accorded the following rights upon entry into Liberian ports in accordance with the Agreement:

1.1 Treatment of Vessels in Port

Liberian ports are advised to facilitate and expedite maritime transport to avoid unnecessary delay of Chinese registered vessels, and simplify and expedite as much as possible the relevant customs and other port formalities.

Additionally, when visiting any Liberian port, Chinese registered vessels are to be charged tonnage dues at precisely the same rate as tonnage dues charged to vessels that are lawfully registered and flagged with Liberia.

1.2 Documentation of Vessels

Liberian Ports are obliged to recognize certificates of nationality and other ship's documents held by Chinese registered vessels and issued by the competent authorities.

1.3 Seaman's Identity Documents

Liberian Ports are obliged to recognize the identification documents issued by the relevant authorities of Chinese registered vessels for its members of crew.

1.4 Stop Over by Members of the Crew

During the stay of a Chinese registered vessel in a Liberian port, members of the crew holding the documents referred to in Section 1.3 may go ashore in accordance with the IMO Convention on Facilitation of International Maritime Traffic, 1965 and with the relevant regulations of Liberia, provided that the Master of the Chinese registered vessel has in accordance with the regulations of the Liberian port, submitted all the necessary documents to the relevant authorities.

1.5 Entry into, Stay, Departure or Transit of Members of Crew

Members of the crew of Chinese vessels holding documents specified in Section 1.3 and in possession of a valid visa, may enter into, stay, depart or travel through the territory of Liberia by any means of transport as passengers for the purpose of joining vessels, repatriation or any other reason acceptable to the relevant Liberian authorities.

1.6 Incidents

Should a Chinese registered vessel encounter danger or any other incident in the territorial sea or the vicinal water of Liberia, the relevant authorities will render the same possible rescue and assistance to the members of the crew and passengers of that vessel as it may give to Liberian vessels and will inform the relevant authorities of the PRC as soon as possible.

1.7 Settlement and Remittance

Revenues of shipping companies of the PRC derived in Liberia may be settled in freely convertible currencies acceptable to both Liberia and the PRC. Such revenues may be used for payment incurred in the territory of either Party and/or freely remitted abroad at the exchange rate published by the national bank of the other Party on the date of transfer.

Liberian Port/Terminal Masters and Agents must be guided by the above principles. Should any questions arise regarding this Notice, please contact the Liberian Maritime Authority (LiMA) directly.