

**NIGERIAN PORTS AUTHORITY PETROLEUM WHARF  
(APAPA) BY-LAWS**

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**NIGERIAN PORTS AUTHORITY PETROLEUM WHARF  
(APAPA) BY-LAWS**

[L.N. 266 of 1959.]

under section 57

[Commencement: 24th December, 1959]

*General*

**1. Short title**

These By-laws may be cited as the Nigerian Ports Authority Petroleum Wharf (Apapa) By-Laws.

**2. Application**

These By-laws shall apply to that portion of the port of Lagos known and designated "the Petroleum Wharf".

**3. Interpretation**

In these By-laws, unless the context otherwise requires—

"**Authority**" means the Nigerian Ports Authority established under the provisions of the Ports Act;

"**cargo**" includes all kinds of movable personal property other than animals;

"**chief fire officer**" means the chief fire officer of the Authority and shall include his duly authorised deputies and assistants;

"**explosives**" shall have the same meaning as contained in the Explosives Act;

[L.F.N. 2004 Cap. E18.]

"**harbour master**" means a harbour master duly appointed by the Authority for the Wharf and shall include his duly authorised deputies and assistants;

[L.N. 142 of 1964.]

"**liquefied petroleum gas**" means light hydrocarbon material, gaseous at atmospheric temperature and pressure, held in the liquid state by pressure to facilitate storage, transport and handling;

"**oil**" shall include petroleum and petroleum products;

"**vehicle**" means any vehicle other than a train or vessel;

"**vessel**" includes any ship, vessel, tug, lighter, canoe or boat of any kind whatsoever, whether propelled by steam or otherwise or towed;

“the Wharf” means the Petroleum Wharf, Apapa.

*Loading and discharging cargo*

**4. Cargo not to be loaded or discharged**

(1) No cargo, other than petroleum, petroleum products, petroleum containers or non-inflammable ships’ stores, shall be loaded from the shore into or discharged to the shore from any vessel lying at the Wharf.

[L.N. 198 of 1960.]

(2) Notwithstanding any of the by-laws herein made, cargo, other than dangerous and inflammable, may be loaded from or discharged to a lighter:

Provided—

- (a) there are no tankers loading or discharging at the Wharf;
- (b) there are no vessels at the Wharf that are not gas-free;
- (c) there is no damage to pipelines, manifolds, and other oil installations on the Wharf; and
- (d) that the berth, by the act of loading or unloading general cargo, is not denied to a vessel carrying oil.

**5. Explosives to be stowed away**

Any vessel containing explosives shall, before berthing at the Wharf, properly stow away such explosives in approved magazines.

**6. Deck scuppers to be securely plugged, etc.**

All main deck scuppers when fitted shall be securely plugged and rendered water-tight during the loading or discharging of petroleum products, and dip trays shall be placed beneath the deck manifold and hose connections.

*Vehicles*

**7. Vehicles not to enter**

No vehicles whatsoever shall enter into the wharf area other than those vehicles and items of mechanical equipment passed safe and in connection with which an appropriate permit has been issued by the Authority and also other than road tankers licensed for the transport of petroleum by the appropriate authority.

*Fire and fire precautions*

**8. No smoking on the Wharf**

No person shall at any time smoke on the Wharf.

**9. No smoking on the docks**

No person shall smoke on the docks of any vessel moored at the Wharf.

**10. Matches, cigarette lighters, torches, etc.**

No person shall enter the Wharf area carrying matches, cigarette lighters, oil lamps, torches (other than approved gas-tight types) or other inflammable material.

**11. Lamps**

No lamps other than approved gas-tight hand or portable lamps shall be used within the Wharf area; and the Chief Fire Officer shall have the right to inspect such lamps before or whilst in use.

**12. Fires, naked lights, etc.**

No naked lights or fires shall be used upon any vessel approaching or lying within 200 feet of the Wharf; provided that this shall not preclude the use of the fire only in the vessel's main boilers.

**13. Vessels not to approach tankers**

No vessel shall approach or lie within 100 feet of vessels loading or discharging.

**14.** All cargo tanks must be securely closed at all points except those ports or ullage plugs which currently are necessary for observation. Such ports or ullage plugs, when open, shall be guarded with wire gauze screens or other flame proof attachment.

**15. Outbreak of fire to be reported**

Any outbreak of fire shall be reported immediately to the Police, Fire Brigade, the harbour master, the dock superintendent, and the Authority's chief fire officer.

**16.** No person shall place or store goods on any part of the Wharf without the prior permission of the dock superintendent or shall do the same in such a manner as to obstruct or delay the free access to or the use of any hydrant or other appliance for the prevention of fire or life-serving on the Wharf.

*Oil leakage and spillage*

**17. Oil leakage**

During loading or discharging, any leakage of oil developing in the shore piping system shall be reported immediately to the chief fire officer; and should the leakage be of such a character that in the opinion of the chief fire officer it constitutes a hazard, loading or discharging shall be suspended until repairs have been effected.

**18. Oil spillage**

In the event of any spillage of oil on the Wharf, immediate action shall be taken by the person on shore who is loading or discharging oil to recover the oil and to prevent its escape onto the harbour waters; and the harbour master and the chief fire officer shall be notified immediately any spillage takes place.

*Repair, maintenance and installation*

**19. Repairs, alterations and addition not to be carried out**

No person shall—

- (a) carry out any repair work including the chipping and scraping of paint-work either on board a vessel moored at the Wharf or to the installations on the wharf without the written permission of the Harbour Master unless such repairs are immediately necessary in order to prevent danger to person or property;
- (b) alter or add to the existing installations on the Wharf unless plans and description of materials to be used shall have been approved in writing by the Authority;
- (c) under any circumstances, carry out work involving the use of naked flames of welding apparatus on the Wharf unless with the written permission of the chief fire officer and strictly in accordance with the directions of the chief fire officer.

**20. Companies to be responsible for maintenance of installation**

Companies shall at all times be responsible for the inspection, maintenance and sound condition of their installations and other appliances on the Wharf.

[L.N. 142 of 1964.]

*Liquefied petroleum gas*

**21. Boiler and galley fires to be extinguished**

Before commencing to load or discharge a liquid petroleum gas cargo, the boiler and galley fires shall be extinguished and remain so until loading or discharging operations have been completed.

**22. Shore hoses to be tested before certain operations**

The shore hoses shall be tested before each operation to a pressure of three kilograms per square centimetre in excess of the maximum anticipated pressure during the handling operations.

**23. Shore hose to be fitted with shut-off valves**

Each shore hose shall be fitted with shut-off valves to ensure that the possibility of an escape of liquefied petroleum gas is kept to the minimum when the hoses are disconnected.

**24. Wearing of metal studded footwear prohibited**

No person shall wear metal studded footwear on the vessel or on the jetty-head.

**25. Fire hoses to be rigged for immediate use**

Fire hoses shall be rigged before and after ready for immediate use to warn craft not to approach during loading or discharging operations.

**26. Master to ensure presence of an officer on deck during loading, etc.**

The master shall ensure that an officer is present on deck at all times during loading or discharging operations. It shall be the master's duty to ensure that the measures provided in by-laws 21 to 33 are carried out.

**27. Leakages to be stopped**

Appropriate steps shall be taken to stop any leakages and should be reported to the chief fire officer.

**28. Doors leading from deck to accommodation or engine room to be kept closed**

During the handling operations, all doors leading from the deck to the accommodation or engine room shall be kept closed to prevent the accumulation of vapour in these spaces.

**29. Master to ensure hose connections are checked**

The master shall ensure that all hose connections are checked and that the couplings are connected by bolts sufficiently long to ensure that the nuts are well held and the bolts tightened evenly.

**30. Access to ship barred during handling operations**

During the handling operations, no person shall have access to the ship who is not directly connected with the operations.

**31. Continuous gas testing to be carried out during handling operations**

During the handling operations, continuous gas testing shall be carried out in the pump house. In the event of a concentration exceeding 40% of the lower explosive limit being detected, pumping operations must cease and all valves on the gas bottles and cross-overs must be closed at once until the leak has been traced and stopped.

**32. Loading or discharging prohibited unless excess flow valves fitted**

No loading or discharging shall take place unless excess flow valves are fitted in suitable positions at the outlet manifold to ensure the automatic shut-off of liquefied petroleum gas in the event of a hose fracture; and in the event of the closure of these valves the liquefied petroleum gas system must be isolated until the cause of the closure has been investigated.

**33. Pipes, etc., to be adequately earthed**

All pipes, joints, flexible hoses and other appliances must be adequately and continuously earthed and the vessel itself must be electrically bounded and earthed.

*Penalty for breach of By-laws*

**34. Penalty**

Any person doing anything prohibited by any of these By-laws or omitting to do anything required by them to be done or otherwise offending against or committing a breach against any of these By-laws shall be liable for every such offences to a penalty not exceeding ₦100 and in the case of a continuing offence a further penalty not exceeding ₦10 for each day during which the offence continues.

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