

CLIENT ALERT

The Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) recently issued a Notice (New Cabotage Compliance Strategy) to all Ship Owners, Ship Operators, Masters of Ships and Ship Agents informing them of the indefinite suspension of waivers on manning requirements under the Coastal and Inland Shipping (Cabotage) Act 2003. By this Notice: a) the grant of waivers on manning requirements for vessels engaged in costal trade with regards to 2nd Officers, 2nd Engineers, 2nd Mates, Able Seamen, Ratings and Stewards continue to remain suspended; b) all applications for the grant of waivers to a duly registered vessel on manning requirements pursuant to the provision of the Cabotage Act 2003 in the absence of qualified Nigerian officer(s) or crew remains suspended save for the position of a Ship Captain, Chief Engineer, Chief Officer or First Mate which will only be considered on merit; and c) all applications for grant of waivers on manning for the position of Ship Captains, Chief Engineers, Chief Officer or First Mates is to be made to the Honourable Minister of Transportation or the Director General of NIMASA and is to be accompanied by a training programme or transition plan for replacement of the positions with a qualified Nigerian within 6 to 12 months of the engagement of the foreigner.