

CUSTOMER ADVISORY

MSC 216 - PALLETIZATION OF CONTAINERIZED CARGO IMPORTS TO NIGERIA

December 7th 2017

Dear Valued Customer,

In line with directives issued by the Federal Ministry of Finance through the Nigeria Customs Service, we are advised that imports of containerized cargo to Nigeria must in future be loaded on pallets.

This directive applies to cargo from all origins with a shipped on board date effective 01st January 2018.

We are expecting further updates, including a list of cargo which may be exempted from palletization requirement. At present we understand that the following types of cargo may be exempted:

1. Motor vehicles in container which can be rolled out of the container on their own wheels for inspection.
2. Certain types of sensitive or fragile machinery which have specific handling requirements to remove them safely from the container – these should anyway be loaded in such a manner that a physical inspection inside the container is possible (there must be access for customs personnel to enter the container to perform inspection.)
3. Cargo loaded in container in such a manner that there is a 2 feet of clearance all around between the container walls and the cargo – allowing physical inspection in the container.

We are expecting a full and detailed list of cargo that is permitted to be shipped un-palletized to be released by the Federal Ministry of Finance and / or the Nigerian Customs service, at time of writing this is as yet undisclosed.

We strongly advise all shippers to liaise closely with their consignee in Nigeria and load cargo in accordance with the consignee instructions, noting that un-palletized cargo shipped on board after 1st January 2018 might face sanctions possibly including penalties or re-export for which non compliant shippers and / or consignees might be liable.

Further updates to follow as information is released to us from the Nigerian Authorities.

Thank you for your support of MSC.

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