



SEMAPHORE

Newsletter of the Maritime Law

Association of Australia and New Zealand



Landmark Shipping Law for Ghana

Legislators are expecting the newly-passed Ghana Shippers' Authority (GSA) Law 2024 to deliver effective regulation to the country's shipping and logistics sector, and position it more favourably as a transit trade channel for landlocked neighbours Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger.

According to a GSA statement, the law will regulate the commercial activities of shippers and primarily address "unfair and excessive charges that burden traders who use Ghana's sea and air ports, as well as land borders, to ply their international trade".

"It will introduce transparency in the determination of port fees and charges, and will by that, ensure that there is accountability in the legal movement of international trade cargo across all of borders of Ghana," stated the GSA.

"Empowered by the new law, the GSA will be enabled to better adapt to emerging trends and complexities within the shipping and logistics industry, protect the interests of shippers and shipping service providers, and improve its regulatory oversight of the entire industry."

The new law is understood to amend the NRCD 254 (1974), which established the GSA to regulate the commercial activities of shippers and shipping service providers in the shipment, storage and delivery of international trade cargo by sea, air and land.

"Over the last five decades, GSA has driven compliance with established standards and guidelines in the commercial shipping sector in Ghana and through Ghana to Burkina Faso, Niger and Mali.

"Since 1974, GSA has spearheaded the development, monitoring and facilitation of transit trade through Ghana's corridors. The law as passed will enable a more effective regulation of transit trade and thereby balance the interests of shippers and service providers for enhanced efficiency and competitiveness in international trade."

September 2024

