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HEREBY DO DECREE

Article 1 – Vessel's Obligations

It is the obligation of every vessel bound for the Port of Bénin to have an embarked armed security team. Failing this, the vessel will automatically be provided with a security service by the Bénin public security forces as soon as the vessel enters Bénin territorial waters. The corresponding costs will be paid to the local agent at the port of call.

Article 2 – Permission to enter with an embarked armed security team

Any vessel bound for a Bénin port which has an embarked armed security team shall send, via the local ship agent, a request for permission to enter the territorial waters of Bénin with their embarked armed security team.

Article 3 – Procedures for requesting permission

The request for permission to enter the territorial waters of Bénin is made by way of a form which must be filled in on line and sent to the Director of the port of call at least 72 hours before the arrival of the vessel.

Article 4 – Prohibition for the storage of weapons in Bénin

Permission to enter the territorial waters of Bénin with an embarked armed security team does not imply permission for the storage of weapons in Benin. The vessel is required to leave with all the weapons of the embarked armed security team at the end of the call in Bénin.

Article 5 – Inspection and placement under seal of the weapons whilst at quay

All vessels which are permitted to enter the Bénin territorial waters are subject to a inspection followed by the placement under seal of all weapons used by the embarked armed security team.

This operation is performed with the vessel at berth by a team from the Bénin armed Forces under the responsibility of the Préfecture Maritime.

Article 6 – Removal of seals at berth upon departure

When the vessel leaves, the Armed Forces team will proceed, when the vessel is still at berth, to the removal of the seals on all weapons of the embarked armed security team.

Article 7 – Calls of vessels which do not have their own embarked armed security team

Vessels without an embarked armed security team which must enter port without anchoring on roads, will be escorted from the reception area until such time as the pilot embarks and the vessel berths at the quayside.

Article 8 – Vessel reception area

The reception area of vessels is a quadrilateral demarcated by the four following points:

- Point A : 06°16'N 002° 28'E
- Point B : 06° 11'N 002° 28'E
- Point C : 06° 11'N 002° 23' E
- Point D : 06° 16'N 002° 23'E

The movement of vessels towards the above-described area is coordinated by the semaphore station of the National Navy.

Article 9 – Protection of vessels at anchorage on roads

Vessels which do not have their own embarked armed security team and which must anchor on roads shall proceed directly to the anchor areas attributed to them by the semaphore station and will allow on board the teams of marine commandos as soon as they reach their place of anchorage.

Article 10 – Armed protection procedure

The armed protection provided by the Armed Forces is as follows:

- a. When the vessel anchors, the team of marine commandos of the National Navy will proceed on board and will provide protection up until the time the vessel berths if the vessel has not remained on roads and has not had a direct escort;
- b. When the vessel leaves, it will be escorted by a craft of the National Navy who will ensure the vessel's protection until it reaches cruising speed whether or not the vessel stayed on roads when it arrived.

Article 11 – Cost of the services

The cost of the services provided by the Armed Forces shall be borne by the Owner of the vessel. The cost is collected by the services at the port of call. Costs are as follows:

Size of the vessel	Inspection at berth	Supply of an embarked armed security team		Supply of an Escort
	Placing seals Removing seals	Lump sum rate for vessel berthed at port	Stay on roads at Owner's decision <i>(per additional day)</i>	Lump sum on leaving berth or roads
Less than 100 m	200 000 F CFA [Equivalent to 304,9€]	350 000 F CFA [Equivalent to 633,78€]	150 000 F CFA [Equivalent to 228,67€]	360 000 F CFA [Equivalent to 548,82€]
Over 100 m	200 000 F CFA [Equivalent to 304,9€]	450 000 F CFA [Equivalent to 686,02€]	170 000 F CFA [Equivalent to 259,16€]	360 000 F CFA [Equivalent to 548,82€]

Article 12 – Monitoring and evaluation of the arrangements

A monitoring and evaluation committee has been set up to assess the efficacy of these arrangements and to provide any necessary improvements. This committee is presided by the Préfet Maritime and consists of:

- The Préfet Maritime
- The Chief of Staff of the national Navy
- Technical Legal Advisor of the Ministry of Infrastructures and Transport
- Director of Ports
- Director General of the Port Authority of Cotonou
- Director of the Merchant Navy
- Representative of the Association of Ship Agents (ACAM)

Article 13 – Sanctions

Any violation of the present interministerial decree is liable to prosecution and the penalty prescribed by the Maritime Code and the Criminal Code.

Article 14 – Entry into force

The present decree, which abrogates all previous regulations contrary to its provisions, shall take effect on the date of its signature and shall be published in the Journal Officiel.

Issued in Cotonou on 13 July 2020

[Signed & Stamped]