

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FREIGHT FORWARDERS CONDEMN SHIPPING LINES DEFIANCE OF COURT RULING AND GHANA SHIPPERS' AUTHORITY DIRECTIVE ON CONTAINER ADMINISTRATIVE CHARGES

Tema, Ghana — 28 July, 2026

The Freight Forwarders Association of Ghana (FFAG) expresses its grave concern and unequivocal disapproval of the continued imposition of container administrative charges above the **GH¢720.00 cap directed by the Ghana Shippers Authority (GSA)**, notwithstanding the determination of the High Court in Accra on the matter.

FFAG has become aware that the Ship Owners and Agents Association of Ghana (SOAAG) sought an injunction to restrain the implementation of the GSA's directive on the cap of GH¢720.00 on container administrative charges. That the said application has since been dismissed by an Accra High Court.

In the considered view of FFAG, the dismissal of the injunction removes any basis for treating the GSA directive as though its implementation has been suspended by the Court. The continued charging of fees in excess of the prescribed cap, therefore, is a matter of serious concern to the freight forwarding community and the wider trading public.

A MATTER OF RESPECT FOR THE RULE OF LAW

FFAG wishes to state in the strongest possible terms that **no association, company, commercial interest or industry grouping is above the laws of Ghana, the lawful directives of a competent regulatory authority, or the orders and decisions of the courts of the Republic.**

The Association is particularly disturbed by what appears to be a continuing disregard for the GSA directive despite the High Court's refusal to grant the injunction sought by SOAAG.

This is not merely a disagreement over charges. It is fundamentally a question of **respect for regulatory authority, judicial process and the rule of law.**

Where a party has sought the intervention of the Court and the Court has declined to restrain the implementation of a regulatory directive, it cannot reasonably be expected that the affected party will simply disregard that regulatory framework and continue operating as though the Court's determination has no consequence.

Such conduct, if established, undermines confidence in Ghana's regulatory and judicial institutions and creates an unacceptable environment in which businesses and



GSA MUST ENFORCE ITS DIRECTIVE

FFAG therefore calls upon the **Ghana Shippers Authority to immediately take all necessary steps within its statutory mandate to enforce the GH¢720.00 cap on container administrative charges.**

The GSA must not only issue directives; it must ensure that those directives are respected and effectively implemented.

We further call on the GSA to take appropriate steps to bring to the attention of the High Court any continued conduct which, in its considered legal assessment, amounts to disobedience or contempt of the Court's processes or determination.

FFAG specifically urges the GSA to consider taking the necessary steps to cite SOAAG for contempt of court, where the legal requirements for such an action are satisfied.

The Association believes that allowing a regulated entity to openly disregard a regulatory directive, particularly in circumstances where an attempt to restrain that directive through the courts has failed, would set a dangerous precedent for the entire maritime and trade facilitation sector.

THE BURDEN ON IMPORTERS AND FREIGHT FORWARDERS

The continued imposition of charges beyond the prescribed GH¢720.00 cap has consequences far beyond the immediate parties involved.

Freight forwarders operate at the frontline of Ghana's international trade system. Any additional and unauthorized charges imposed at the ports ultimately increase the cost of doing business, create uncertainty for importers and exporters, complicate cargo clearance and contribute to the already significant cost of trade in Ghana.

FFAG cannot remain silent while its members and the trading public are subjected to charges which the competent regulatory authority has sought to cap.

The Association is therefore calling for **immediate compliance, transparency and accountability** in the application of container administrative charges.

FFAG WILL NOT RULE OUT FURTHER REMEDIES

FFAG wishes to make its position absolutely clear: **we will not accept the continued imposition of charges above the applicable cap as a matter of normal business practice.**

If SOAAG and its members or constituent entities continue to impose charges which are contrary to the GSA directive, FFAG will consider and pursue **all other lawful avenues available to protect the interests of freight forwarders, importers and the wider trading community.**

These may include further regulatory, administrative and legal remedies as may be advised and considered appropriate in the circumstances.

The Association will not be intimidated by the commercial interests at stake. The issue before us is bigger than any individual association or commercial operator. **It**

concerns whether regulatory directives and judicial decisions in Ghana are to be respected by all persons and institutions equally.

FFAG consequently calls upon SOAAG and all affected shipping lines, agents and other operators to **immediately desist from any charges that are inconsistent with the applicable GSA directive** and to conduct their operations in accordance with the laws and regulatory requirements of Ghana.

OUR POSITION IS CLEAR

The Freight Forwarders Association of Ghana remains committed to constructive engagement with all stakeholders in the maritime and shipping industry. However, constructive engagement cannot be a substitute for compliance with the law.

We accordingly reiterate our demand that:

1. **The GH¢720.00 cap on container administrative charges be immediately respected and implemented;**
2. **All shipping lines, agents and relevant operators comply with the applicable GSA directive;**
3. **The Ghana Shippers Authority take immediate and decisive enforcement action against non-compliance;**
4. **The GSA consider bringing any continued defiance before the appropriate court for contempt proceedings where the legal basis exists; and**
5. **The relevant authorities ensure that importers, freight forwarders and other members of the trading public are not subjected to charges imposed in disregard of applicable regulatory directives.**

Ghana's maritime and trade facilitation system cannot function effectively where regulatory directives are treated as optional and court processes are disregarded whenever their outcome is inconvenient to a commercial interest.

FFAG therefore calls on all parties to respect the law, respect the authority of the Ghana Shippers Authority, and above all, respect the judicial institutions of the Republic of Ghana.

The Freight Forwarders Association of Ghana will continue to monitor the situation closely and reserves the right to pursue **further lawful remedies** should the unlawful or unauthorized charges persist.

SIGNED FFAG For further information: Francis Nyatepe-Attipoe 0244383964



Freight Forwarders
Association of Ghana