

documents would be completed by the Consignee's agent or Forwarder who is already using this or similar systems for shipments to other countries.

- Documents to be attached during ASHI creation include:
  1. Copy of Freight Invoice
  2. Copy of Commercial Invoice
  3. Copy of Export Custom Declaration
  4. Copy of Bill of Lading
  5. Copy of Packing List

**NOTE**

- The ASHI would be a pre-requisite for clearing of goods at the ports. Therefore Clearing Agents must ensure that their forwarders/ shippers provide them with the ASHI details.
- An ASHI would have to be created for each Bill of Lading. The tariffs for each Bill of Lading is as below from any port around the world:

IMPORT	ASHI Fee	
Bulk	€ 20	Per 300mt/BL
Conventional Cargo	€ 20	Per 100mt/BL
Containerized Cargo	€ 20	Per 4TEUs/BL
Vehicles (Less than 5mt)	€ 20	Per 3Units/BL
Vehicles (5m or more)	€ 20	Per Unit/BL

**For further information, contact:**  
**Ghana Shippers' Authority**  
 P. O. Box 1321, Accra.  
 Tel: 0302-666915  
 Email: [info@shippers.org.gh](mailto:info@shippers.org.gh)  
 Website: [www.shippers.org.gh](http://www.shippers.org.gh)



# IMPLEMENTATION OF ADVANCE SHIPMENT INFORMATION (ASHI) SYSTEM IN GHANA

**GHANA SHIPPERS' AUTHORITY**  
*Providing Shipping Solutions*



## INTRODUCTION

The Ghana Shippers' Authority has been at the frontline of Ghana's maritime industry since its establishment in 1974 by NRCD 254. It has over the years collaborated with private and public organizations in the maritime industry to pursue its primary objective of protecting and promoting the interests of shippers in Ghana, in relation to port, ship and inland transport problems in order to ensure safe, reliable and cost effective cargo transportation.

In 2012, the Ghana Shippers' Authority Regulations (L.I.2190) was passed to give vent to the Authority's Establishment Law, NRCD 254. As part of the provisions in the Regulations, the Authority is mandated to provide relevant shipment information through the Advance Shipment Information (ASHI) system.

The ASHI is an electronic platform by which pre-arrival cargo information is received in advance for planning and for the commencement of the pre-clearance process. This will assist in minimizing the cost of clearing cargo at the ports by way of reducing the incidence of payments of high rent and demurrage charges. Studies conducted by the Authority in 2013 indicated that shippers paid demurrage of about US\$75 million and rent of about Gh¢30 million. These costs

resulted from delays in clearing cargo at the ports.

To assist shippers save cost and speed up clearing at the ports, the Authority has initiated the process of deploying the ASHI system which will provide shippers and relevant government agencies with advance information on their shipments.

The ASHI will enable shippers to get advance and real time information about their shipments to facilitate their pre-clearance processes in advance. This would invariably expedite the cargo clearing process at the port and reduce the cost of doing business.

## BENEFITS OF ASHI

- Provision of relevant shipment information to shippers in Ghana in real time to facilitate the commencement of pre-clearance processes. Thus avoiding the payment of huge demurrage and rent charges.
- Building of accurate databases on relevant shipment information such as product costs, freight charges, surcharges, etc conditions of shipment with the shipping service providers as prescribed by L.I.2190.
- Notification to shippers of vessel

arrival times and cargo locations at the ports via personalized text messages or by telephone calls for early commencement of clearance process.

- Provision of advance shipment information to Port Authorities, Terminal Operators, etc. for adequate planning and preparation ahead of ship arrival in port.
- Provision of commercial invoices and other relevant shipment information far in advance of ship arrival to allow for adequate risk management processes by Customs and other relevant agencies, thereby securing Government revenue in duties and taxes.
- Increase security by providing information on the movement of the cargo throughout the international trade environment. Loss of cargo on transit will become very minimal.

## HOW DOES ASHI WORK?

- The shipper/forwarder would first register on a web portal ([www.antaser.com](http://www.antaser.com)) and all relevant business information would have to be scanned and attached before submission of the application form through the web portal. Filling of the ASHI form and attaching relevant