

**Immigration Regulations**  
Under section 51 of the Immigration Act

L.N. 93 of 1963

*1<sup>st</sup> day of August 1963*

**Part I**  
**Administration**

1. (1) Every list of disembarking and transit passengers to be supplied by the master of a ship or aircraft in pursuance of section 3 of the Immigration Act (hereafter referred to as the Act) shall show the surname of every passenger in full together with the initials of such passenger, the port at which he embarked and the port at which he intends to disembark.
- (2) For purposes of this regulation, a passenger shall include every person on board the ship or aircraft except members of the crew or stowaways.
2. Such form of landing or embarkation card as the Minister may, by order direct to be supplied for purposes of paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 4 of the Act (which relates to the production of travel documents by every passenger entering or leaving Nigeria) shall contain the particulars specified in the First Schedule to these Regulations and such other particulars as the Director of Immigration may require, and the landing or embarkation card shall be signed and dated.
3. (1) The authorisation of the Minister for the establishment of a profession, business or trade in Nigeria shall, subject to such conditions as the Minister may impose, take the form of a business permit prescribed in the Second Schedule to these Regulations.
- (2) Nothing, however, in any business permit shall entitle the holder of such permit to enter or remain in Nigeria unless such person is in possession of a valid residence permit or in the case of an alien, a valid visa for residential purposes, as the case may be.
- (3) A business permit may, at any time, be revoked, varied, or cancelled by the Minister, and every person to whom such permit has been issued shall notify the Minister or the Director of Immigration of any change whatsoever in the name or address of the business or trade.
4. (1) Forms A, B, D and E in the Third Schedule to these Regulations are hereby prescribed or purposes of subsection (3) of section 10 of the Act (which deals with residence permits) and shall be valid for a single entry into Nigeria unless otherwise directed by the Director of Immigration.
- (2) No residence permit issued to an alien shall be valid for entry into Nigeria unless the alien is in possession of a valid visa at the time of entry or unless

the alien is the subject of a country with which Nigeria has entered into a visa abolition agreement.

- (3) A residence permit may be issued subject to such conditions as to-
- (a) the area in which the holder of such permit shall reside;
  - (b) the occupation or business (if any) in which the person may engage, and the restrictions, prohibitions or limitations subject to which he may engage therein;
  - (c) the duration of the person's stay in Nigeria;
  - (d) the control of any activities which may offend the religious beliefs of any member of the community; and
  - (e) any provision for security,

as the Director of Immigration may direct or require to be endorsed on such permit.

5. (1) An endorsement by a rubber stamp on the passport of a person visiting Nigeria containing such particulars as relate to the port of entry, the date of entry, the period during which the visitor is permitted to remain in Nigeria and such other conditions or information as the Director of Immigration may require shall be sufficient for purposes of subsection (4) of section 11 of the Act (which enables the Minister to prescribe the form of a visiting permit), and unless otherwise varied or revoked by the Director of Immigration, the initial period for which the visiting permit shall issue shall not exceed twenty-eight days.
- (2) Subject to the next following paragraphs of this regulation, any person requiring an extension or variation of a visiting permit shall make an application in writing to an Immigration Officer at least seven clear days before the expiration of such permit specifying the reasons why the extension or variation is required; and such officer may extend the visiting permit for periods of twenty-eight days at a time.
- (3) In the case of a citizen of the Commonwealth or a citizen of Eire the periods of extension shall not exceed ninety days in the aggregate from the original date of entry into Nigeria without the permission of the Director of Immigration, but no extension beyond the initial period of twenty-eight days shall be granted to an alien without the written consent of the Director of Immigration.
- (4) No visiting permit shall be issued to any person, unless the Immigration Officer is satisfied that such person is in possession of a return ticket or an onward transportation ticket to a country to which his admission is guaranteed, or where such person has not made or is unable to make adequate arrangements for his maintenance in or departure from Nigeria.

6. (1) A transit permit shall take the form of an endorsement by rubber stamp on the passport of the applicant and such stamp shall contain particulars of the port of entry, the date of entry and the period for which the person is permitted to remain in Nigeria in transit.
- (2) The initial period for which a transit permit shall issue shall not exceed seven days unless the period is extended, generally as respects certain persons or class of persons, or in any special case, by the Director of
- (3) All applications requiring extension of transit permits shall be made to an Immigration Officer before the expiration of the original permit and such applications shall state the reasons for which an extension is required and the period of extension; and any Immigration Officer not below the rank of an Assistant Immigration Officer may further extend the transit permit for a period not exceeding fourteen days from the original date of entry, but no further extension beyond this period shall be given except with the consent of the Director of Immigration who shall have the power to renew or extend the period or to refuse and require the person to leave Nigeria.
- (4) No transit permit shall issue unless the Immigration Officer is satisfied that the person applying for the issue of such permit has an onward passage ticket to a destination outside Nigeria and to which he has entry facilities and sufficient funds for his maintenance in Nigeria.
7. (1) Permission by the Immigration Officer may be granted to any transit passenger by the endorsement on the passport of the passenger to the effect that such passenger may land from a ship or aircraft whilst that ship or aircraft is in port, and such permission shall be revocable at the discretion of that Immigration Officer.
- (2) Where permission to land is refused or where such permission has been revoked the master of the ship or aircraft shall accordingly be informed in writing and shall not permit the passenger to land or go ashore.

## **Part II**

### **Control of crews and stowaways**

8. (1) No member of the crew of a ship or aircraft shall land or go ashore without the consent of an Immigration Officer, and every master of a ship or aircraft shall, if so required by an Immigration Officer, or where consent of the port, and such other information as the Director of Immigration may direct.
- (2) On the arrival of a ship or aircraft at any port the master of such ship or aircraft shall provide the Immigration Officer with a list of all the members of the crew including stowaways (if any) on board.

**Part III**  
**Miscellaneous**

9. Any application relating to employment in Nigeria of any person who is a national of any country other than Nigeria, shall be made to the Director of Immigration in writing and the application shall contain particulars as to the full name of the prospective employer, date and place of birth, nationality, date and place of issue of passport, and such other information as the Director of Immigration may direct.
10. The permit to which section 37 of the Act (which provides for the issue of a permit to any person of or above the apparent age of sixteen years) relates shall be in the same form as a residence permit or visiting permit issued pursuant to section 10 or 11 of the Act and shall contain such particulars and conditions as the Director of Immigration may require.
11. Every immigrant whilst in Nigeria, shall if so required by an Immigration Officer or Police Officer, produce as and when necessary a valid passport, a residence permit, visiting permit or transit permit (as the case may be) or other travel documents.
12. All members of the crew of a ship or aircraft who are not citizens of Nigeria and who sign on as members of the crew of a ship or aircraft at a port in Nigeria shall report before an Immigration Officer and complete the departure cards before embarkation on the ship or aircraft on which they are signing on.
13. (1) All members of a crew of an aircraft arriving in Nigeria and disembarking from an aircraft for the purpose of joining another aircraft shall report to an Immigration Officer both on arrival and departure, and every such person shall be in possession of a valid passport and may be issued with a transit permit for the duration of their stay.
  - (2) Further to the foregoing provision of this regulation, every alien member of a crew of an aircraft shall in addition to a valid passport hold a valid visa.
  - (3) The exercise of the power to issue any transit permit for purposes of this regulation by an Immigration Officer shall be subject to any specific or general directions of the Director of Immigration and such permit may be given in the form of an instruction to the agents or master of the aircraft concerned.
14. An immigrant may be permitted to enter or remain in Nigeria if the Immigration Officer thinks fit, conditionally-
  - (a) upon the immigrant or some other person on his behalf, furnishing security by depositing with the Immigration Officer, such sum as in the opinion of the Immigration Officer is sufficient to cover the cost of the return of the immigrant to his country of origin, or to some other

- country into which he may be admitted together with a further sum not exceeding twenty five per cent of the sum first above mentioned; or
- (b) upon the immigrant furnishing security by entering into a bond with one or more sureties to be approved by the Immigration Officer in Form C of the Third Schedule to these Regulations for an amount calculated in accordance with the foregoing paragraph (a) of this regulation,

and a security furnished in accordance with paragraphs (a) and (b) of this regulation may be forfeited or as the case may be, such bond may be treated at the discretion of the Director of Immigration where there has been a contravention of any of the provisions of the principal Act or any regulation herein or any condition of the security.

**15.** Any person who-

- (a) acts in contravention of or fails to comply with any of the provisions of these Regulations; or
- (b) acts in contravention of or fails to comply with any conditions of any visa, permit, or any direction or instruction given pursuant to any of the provisions of these Regulations,

shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding N100 or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding six months or to both such fine and Imprisonment.

**16.** The Immigration Regulations are hereby revoked, save that any forms prescribed before the commencement of these Regulations for purposes of the regulations hereby revoked may, subject to regulation 17 of these Regulations or unless the Director of Immigration shall otherwise direct, be issued for the corresponding purposes of these Regulations.

**17.** Where a person wishes to make an application under any of the provisions of the Act or regulations made thereunder and the form of the application as prescribed by any regulation or an order under the principal Act or under the regulations revoked by regulation 16 of these Regulations is unsuitable to the particular case, the Minister or the person to whom the application is to be made may authorise the application to be made in some other form, and such other form may in like manner be varied to suit any particular case.

**18.** These regulations may be cited as the Immigration Regulations.