

Memo for Cabinet by the Minister of Finance, Customs and Port

Cargo sheeting by Port Foremen

Port foremen are paid at the rate of 1/1^d per ton for cargo landed and this fee covers "handling of general cargo inclusive of the charge for the provision of tarpaulins, dunnage and tools". For quite some time the foremen have pressed for an additional charge to cover sheeting of cargo.

Conciliation meetings were held and it was ruled that foremen "should be paid for sheeting of cargo at an agreed rate per standard tarpaulin per day".

Rather than introduce a separate landing charge it was considered preferable to have the present global rate further increased by one penny per ton as the distribution of the extra charge of one penny over one ton of cargo will definitely not reflect itself in prices for consumers. Meetings were held with G.W.U. (representing the foremen's interest) and agreement was registered for an increase of one penny per ton on cargo handled. On their part the foremen accepted to enter into an agreement with the Malta Landing and Shipping Co in order to regulate the manner in which the work is to be carried out. The scope of the agreement is to ensure that present practice of storing in sheds goods suitable for outside storage under protective sheeting will cease. This will have the beneficial result of further easing congestion in sheds.

In order to give effect to this agreement the Port Workers Regulations, 1966, have to be suitably amended. Draft amendments have been prepared and are with C.A.G.'s Office for vetting.

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Opportunity has been taken to include in the proposed drafts a further amendment in respect of the rate for removing cargo from transit sheds to Bonded Stores. The rate was fixed at 4½d per two cubic feet or per one hundredweight in 1966 and, has never been revised. The sub-contract for this service expired last month and the cheapest tender for this service has now been quoted at 5½d per two cubic feet or per one cwt. This rate is considered fair and reflects reasonably the upward trend in costs since 1966. Besides consideration has also to be given to increased wages of cargo clearance employees brought about by a recent wages Council Order. In order to revise the rate to 5½d the Port Rates Regulations, 1969, have to be suitably amended and a draft has also been prepared and submitted to C.A.G.'s Office for legal clearance.

Copies of the two draft regulations are attached and

Hon. Ministers are invited to advise His Excellency to issue the amending regulations giving legal force to the proposals made above.

- 2 MAR 1970

L.N. of 1970.

PORTS ORDINANCE, 1962
(ORDINANCE NO. XIII OF 1962)

Port Rates (Amendment) Regulations, 1970.

Date of commencement:

IN exercise of the powers conferred by section 42 of the Ports Ordinance, 1962, the Minister of Finance, Customs and Port has made the following regulations:-

- Citation.
1. These regulations may be cited as the Port Rates (Amendment) Regulations, 1970, and shall be read and construed as one with the Port Rates Regulations, 1969, hereinafter referred to as "the principal regulations".
 2. For the figures "18s. 0d." and "15s. 0d." in Columns 2 and 3 respectively against item (k) of the Table in Part 1 of the First Schedule to the principal regulations there shall be substituted the figures "18s. 1d." and "15s. 1d."
 3. For the figure "4d." in Part 11 of the Second Schedule to the principal regulations there shall be substituted the figure "5½d."
- Amends the Table in Part 1 of the First Schedule to the principal regulations.
- Amends Part 11 of the Second Schedule to the principal regulations.

L.N. of 1970.

PORT WORKERS ORDINANCE, 1962
(ORDINANCE NO. XIV OF 1962)

Port Workers (Amendment) Regulations 1970

Date of commencement:

IN exercise of the powers conferred by section 16 of the Port Workers Ordinance, the Minister of Finance, Customs and Port has made the following regulations:-

Citation and commencement.

1. (1) These regulations may be cited as the Port Workers (Amendment) Regulations, 1970, and shall be read and construed as one with the Port Workers Regulations, 1966, hereinafter referred to as "the principal regulations".

(2) These regulations shall come into force on the

Amends Schedule to the principal regulations.

2. For sub-paragraph (iii) of paragraph (b) of the Schedule to the principal regulations there shall be substituted the following:

(iii) engaged in the handling of general cargo (inclusive of the charge for the provision of tarpaulins on lighters and quays until delivery is effected in terms of the Ports Ordinance, 1962; dunnage and tools) 1s. 2d.

Saving.

(3) The provisions of the principal regulations which would have applied to the loading or unloading of cargo on or from ships if these regulations had not come into force shall continue to apply to cargo the loading or unloading of which was commenced prior to the date of commencement of these regulations.