

carry air cargo. River cargo transport offers potential but is relatively undeveloped.

The Nigerian mail service is slow and often unreliable. Air mail between Canada and Nigeria may take six to 15 days. As a result, many Canadian firms rely almost entirely on courier services. The two major carriers that can be addressed from Canada are DHL Nigeria, affiliated with DHL (United States), and IMNL Nigeria, affiliated with IML (Britain).

The domestic telephone network is seriously overloaded, and making connections is a difficult and time-consuming process. International calls to and from Lagos are generally more reliable.

Nigerian External Telecommunications Ltd. (NET) has offices throughout Nigeria from which both telegrams and telexes may be sent.

International telephone, telegram and telex facilities are conveniently available in Lagos at NET's head office, NECOM House, 15 Marina; at Falomo Shopping Centre, Ikoyi Island; and at the Federal Palace Hotel, Victoria Island.

The major ports are Apapa and Tin Can Island at Lagos, Port Harcourt, Warri, and Calabar. Nigeria's port facilities have been substantially expanded in recent years so that there is no shortage of available berths. Delays at port still arise due to customs inspections and procedures but the basic infrastructure is considered more than adequate. Container and roll-on-roll-off facilities are available.

Import Procedures

(A) *Form M*

In Nigeria the main instrument of import control is the "Application to Purchase Foreign Exchange" known as Form M. This form should be completed by importers for all imports before any order is confirmed or shipment takes place. The Form M application and proforma invoice are submitted to the Nigerian Central Bank which numbers the form, notes the value of the shipment and indicates on the form whether preshipment inspection by SGS Supervision Services Inc. is required.