



MINISTRY
OF
HEALTH

P.O. Box MB44, Accra
Digital Address: GA-029-4296

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19TH JANUARY, 2022

**THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
CHAMBER OF CEMENT MANUFACTURERS
ACCRA-GHANA.**

ATTN.: DR. GEORGE DAWSON-AHMOAH,

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DISINFECTION AT POINTS OF ENTRY OF THE REPUBLIC
OF GHANA BY THE GHANA HEALTH SERVICE**

It has come to our attention that the press statements made by The Executive Secretary of Chamber of Cement Manufacturers, Ghana (COCMAG), Dr. George Dawson-Ahmoah on January 17th at **Adomonline.com** media concerning the implementation of the Disinfection Health Service were misrepresenting the facts about what the Biosecurity measures that the Government of Ghana is implementing through the Ministry of Health to protect Ghanaians. The implementation of the Disinfection Health Service is based on the International Health Regulations (2005) prepared by the World Health Organisation and made into international law at the General Assembly of the United Nations in 2007. IHR has been incorporated into Public Health Act 851 as the 7th Schedule in its entirety. The Government of Ghana is simply upholding its commitment to International and Local Law.

Disinfection is defined as the procedure whereby health measures are taken to control or kill infectious agents on the EXTERIOR of the baggage, cargo, containers, conveyances, goods and postal parcels by direct exposure to chemical or physical agents.

This procedure is implemented in the Biosecurity Zone that has been established around the Points of Entry (Border Crossings). Therefore, any vehicle that comes in or out of the Biosecurity Zone is disinfected without exceptions. If we allow exceptions the projects integrity will be compromised.

It is obvious that the Chamber of Cement Manufactures of which you are the Executive Secretary does not have much information about the Disinfection Health Service, its application and the benefits of such service.



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The facts about the case: Disinfection Health Service Fee is not a levy but a fee that is paid for a service that is being received by the beneficiary of the service. Let's us not forget the economic devastation that both Ebola and now Covid 19 has caused the economy. The Disinfection Health Service is trying to prevent the pathogens that attack not only Ghanaians but our economy as well. Disinfection Health Service is also there to protect the very economy that the Chamber of Cement Manufacturers need in order to sell their products.

Sea Ports are one of the most infected areas in the country. All kinds of pathogens can arrive at ports from many different countries. They can be transported out of the port by the exterior of the vehicles that carry the cargo. It is easy to find these pathogens on the wheels of the trucks or on the exteriors of the trucks. So a truck carrying clinker or any cement raw materials can get into the port, get its exterior infected and carry the pathogens out of the port causing infectious diseases in Ghanaians or their animals.

Ghana Health Service Officials have been successfully carrying out the duty to direct these trucks to the Disinfection facilities. The port of Tema even has a designated gate called the "Clinker Gate" where there are two disinfection tunnels to carry out the Disinfection Health Service.

You and the Chamber are soliciting strong support from the Ministry of Trade, Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority, Ghana Standards Authority and other meaningful stakeholders about "the fact that fumigation of cement raw materials is absolutely unnecessary". While none of these institutions have the legal mandate to decide how, where, when Biosecurity measures are to be implemented by both International Law and the Public Health Act 851, they were also misinformed about the reasoning behind the implementation of measures that disinfected the "trucks" coming in and out of the Biosecurity Zone.

Disinfection Health Service Fee is being paid by all industries and the fee itself is not at rates that can make or break the trade.

We would like to inform the stakeholders that the IHR regulations has been implemented in Ghana for some time. As a reminder these include but not limited to the International Certification of Vaccination booklet (yellow fever), Ship Sanitation Certificates, Disinsectification of Aircraft (spraying inside), Disease Tracing, Covid 19 measures, PCR.



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Therefore, we ask the full co-operation of the Chamber of Cement Manufacturers, Ghana to support the Ministry of Health and the brave men and women of the Ghana Health Service to keep our borders biosecure.

Thank you.

KWAKU AGYEMAN-MANU (MP)
MINISTER FOR HEALTH

cc: The Hon. Minister, MOT
Deputy Ministers, MOH
Chief Director, MoH
Director General, GHS
Director General, Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority