

ESTABLISHING A FOREIGN AIRLINE IN NIGERIA — THE GENERAL REQUIREMENTS.

Prior to operating foreign air services in Nigeria there must exist a Bilateral Air Service Agreement (BASA) between Nigeria and the foreign air operators' Country of origin.

Once BASA is signed between the two Countries an airline is duly designated by the respective Nation as having the rights to transport persons, cargo and mail, between the two Countries.

Where a Country fails to designate a carrier, on its part, it does not preclude the other from proceeding with appointing its designee.

Before commencing flight operations, in Nigeria, the designated Airline must do the following:

1. Submit to the Federal Ministry of Aviation through diplomatic channels, the following documents:
 - Application letter disclosing the name of the airline, the address of its principle place of business, the ownership structure, nationality of the airline, address in Nigeria (if any), details of the airlines representatives (if any) and proposed date of commencement of operations. In addition;
 - Proposed Ground Handling Company to be used
 - Types of Aircraft to be used
 - Aircraft Configuration and Specifications
 - Copy of the Air Operators Certificate
 - Copy of Certificate of Aircraft registration for each aircraft to be operated to and from Nigeria
 - Evidence of comprehensive insurance cover for aircraft, passenger and third party liabilities
 - Certificate of Airworthiness for each aircraft to be operated to and from Nigeria
 - Airline security manual
 - Dangerous goods manual
 - Existing and/or proposed commercial arrangement and alliances with other air operators
 - Evidence that substantial ownership and effective control vests in the designating party or its nationals

- Statement on proposed tariff on the route
- Statement showing flight schedules and timetables

Upon evaluation of all aforementioned documentation and conclusion of a technical evaluation a report is published and forwarded to the Honoutable Minister of Aviation who thereafter is empowered to approve or disapprove the award of an operating permit to the designated airline.

It is pertinent to note that carrier's designation to operate flights to and from Nigeria under BASA are exempt from engaging company registration, locally (Section 54(3) of Nigeria's Companies and Allied Matters Act).

The airline is further tasked to consider the following activities:

- Liaison with the Federal Airports Authority, the Nigerian Civil Aviation authorities and The Ministry Aviation, on regulatory.
- Liaison with the Nigerian immigration service on matters relating to the status of expatriate staff.
- Engagement of several service agreements relating to local staff, property leases, office equipment and set up, ticket sales, e.t.c.

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