



**UKGCC**  
UK - GHANA CHAMBER *of* COMMERCE

Creating networks, connecting businesses.

## **POSITION PAPER**

# *UKGCC Logistics and Manufacturing Sector - Shipping Line Charges & Ghana's Ports Competitiveness*

*April 2025*

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## INTRODUCTION

- At the first UKGCC Logistics and Manufacturing Sector Committee Meeting for 2025, sector member companies raised critical concerns affecting trade efficiency and competitiveness.
- One of the pressing issues discussed was the persistently high shipping line charges at Ghana's ports.
- Ghana's ports, particularly Tema and Takoradi, serve as strategic trade hubs for the West African sub-region.
- However, shipping line charges and dollar-indexed port fees remain significantly high compared to regional counterparts like Togo's Port of Lomé and Ivory Coast's Port of Abidjan which offer similar service levels at 20–25% lower costs.
- These charges increase the cost of doing business, making Ghana a less attractive destination for regional and international shipping lines.
- If unaddressed, high shipping charges will continue to divert cargo, harm local industries, and threaten Ghana's industrial growth ambitions.

## THE UKGCC'S POSITION

- **Ghana is Losing Regional Trade Competitiveness** - High shipping line charges are making Ghana's ports less attractive. Exporters and importers report shifting operations to Togo and Ivory Coast, where they experience cost savings of up to 25% on logistics. Freight forwarders face rising service delivery costs, making them less competitive to both domestic and international clients, leading to reduced business volumes.
- **The Current Pricing Structure Harms Local Industry** - The high charges increase operational costs for local manufacturers and exporters. Rising logistics costs have contributed to reduced profit margins, with SMEs particularly affected. This deters participation in regional and global supply chains.
- **A Competitive Logistics Sector is Key to Industrial Growth** - Ghana must align its port costs with regional benchmarks to become a preferred trade destination. Harmonizing charges and reducing dollar-denominated fees will attract more shipping lines, boost throughput, and enhance Ghana's industrialisation agenda.

## UKGCC Logistics and Manufacturing Sector Committee Member Companies

- Unilever Ghana PLC (Sector Chair)
- Agility Logistics Park Ghana
- Consolidated Shipping Company LTD
- Nii Plants and Car Rentals
- Guinness Ghana Breweries PLC
- Crocodile Machetes Ghana Limited
- B5 Plus Limited
- Cyndex Limited
- Trashy Bags Africa
- Aqua Africa
- Japan Motors Trading LTD
- Pioneer Food Cannery (Thai Union)
- G4S Security Services Ghana

## ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF THE SECTOR

- **Manufacturing** contributes over 10% to Ghana's GDP and remains a key driver for industrial transformation and job creation.
- The **logistics sector** facilitates the movement of over \$20 billion in trade volumes annually and supports thousands of jobs across the value chain.
- UKGCC members collectively represent over **\$500 million** in annual investments and contribute to Ghana's export capacity, regional supply chains, and sustainable development.



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**T. 233 (030) 221 3200**

**W. [www.ukgcc.com.gh](http://www.ukgcc.com.gh)**

**E. [tradeservices@ukgcc.com.gh](mailto:tradeservices@ukgcc.com.gh)**

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