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Welcome to the first edition of our monthly newsletter!

We hope you not only find our newsletter informative but also an enjoyable read!

If you have any feedback or comment to make on the content of this newsletter, or if you have something to share that would appeal to our readers, we would love to hear from you.

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## New contract – Equatorial Guinea



Cotecna recently signed a new PSI contract with Equatorial Guinea, commencing 01 December 2007. Our team look forward to serving you. ☎ 020 8277 7700

In the meantime here are some facts about Equatorial Guinea. It is an independent republic on the west coast of Africa consisting of the provinces of Bioko (island) and Ria Muni (mainland). Cameroon is to the north and Gabon to the east and south. The capital is Malabo and the languages spoken are Spanish, French, Bubi, Fang and Ibo. There is no particular instruction on labelling goods. However, labelling in both French and Spanish is advisable.

## Health and Safety Myths

Have you heard the one about kids having to wear goggles while playing conkers?

Or the one about the HSE banning stepladders?

Well these plus others like them are ALL myths.

Help fight the myths by visiting [www.hse.gov.uk/myth/index.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/myth/index.htm) and by telling others about the page also



## Nigeria and Ghana – Description of goods



If you are shipping goods to Nigeria and Ghana under the Destination Inspection Scheme please ensure that the goods descriptions are as complete as possible and include the manufacturer, brand name, part number and pack size where applicable. This will not only ensure that goods are valued and classified correctly to ensure the importer pays the correct amount of import duty but will also assist in the time taken to clear goods through customs when arriving at the port / airport. Please also ensure that your final documents are forwarded to the relevant banks / importers on an urgent basis as this is contributing to delays in clearance of goods.

Mark Crook, Price Analyst and Business Manager ☎ 020 8277 7760

## Tanzania –

### Question mark on vehicle inspection contracts



Vehicle inspection contracts awarded to foreign-based agencies in Japan, UK and Dubai, are now under threat as the government and other stakeholders meet to discuss their relevance.

The government might be losing billions of shillings through current contracts awarded to the agencies by the Tanzania Bureau of Standard (TBS).

It is alleged that a Dubai-based vehicle inspection agency, for instance, earns about 150 US Dollars from each car imported into Tanzania while the government gets 10 US Dollars only.

The above article appeared in the Tanzanian Guardian, 10 September 2007

To read the whole article e-mail [melanie.curtis@cotecna.co.uk](mailto:melanie.curtis@cotecna.co.uk)



## Building a greener future, 09 October 2007

More investors must send strong signals to the market over the importance of a company's environmental record in making investment decisions, Climate Change Minister Joan Ruddock said today.

Mrs Ruddock, who opened a Carbon Disclosure Project launch in London today, emphasised the vital role played by investors in turning companies green.

For the full article see [www.gnn.gov.uk/Content/Detail.asp](http://www.gnn.gov.uk/Content/Detail.asp)

## Cotecna goes green

Like many companies these days, we are starting to seriously consider the impact our operations have on the environment and will be trying over time to minimise that impact.

The obvious areas to start with are energy usage and waste management, particularly recycling. But a recent independent study into the change we made 3 years ago from using physical archive storage space to a digital filing system has opened our eyes to less obvious ways of reducing our impact.

This simple change of operational practice has resulted in us reducing our carbon emissions on just one of our operational processes by 89% and in the near future we will be looking into other areas of our daily work to see if further reductions can be made. On top of this, the fact that we now recycle our physical files has resulted in us saving 23 trees in those 3 years.

If you want to find out more about how you can reduce your carbon emissions, call our Coscan document scanning helpline on 020-8277 7730 or visit [www.coscanservices.co.uk](http://www.coscanservices.co.uk)

## WABA / SABF events

These associations are well known throughout the exporting community. They provide reliable and comprehensive information to both its members and non-members. The associations frequently hold events featuring specific African countries. They also produce detailed, regular economic and risk analyses of Nigeria and its states for its members.

Here's a glimpse of some of their forthcoming events:

- 17Oct07 – VIP Roundtable Meeting on Ghana, with Dr N Westcott CMG
- 24Oct07 – VIP Roundtable Lunchtime Meeting on Nigeria, with Mr J Tansley, DHC Lagos
- 14Nov07 – “Business in High Risk Areas – Are You Fully Prepared?”
- 29Nov07 – WABA / SABF AGM – speaker Mr A Mitchell MP

For more information see [www.waba.co.uk](http://www.waba.co.uk) or ☎ 020 7828 5544

### ***Internet site of the month***

***If you are an exporter and freight forwarder you may be interested in [www.searates.com](http://www.searates.com). This site allows you to obtain freight rates and has a really useful tool to establish exactly how much of your products can fit, or will fit, in certain sized containers.***

Future issues will include in-depth articles on each of the following services:

- Preshipment and Destination Inspections
- Commercial inspection services
- Laboratory testing
- Document scanning service
- Health and Safety Audits
- Disabled Access Audits

Full details of our services can be found on our website [www.cotecna.co.uk](http://www.cotecna.co.uk)

Please feel free to forward this on to your friends and colleagues. If you have received this second hand and would like your own personal copy of future issues, please e-mail [melanie.curtis@cotecna.co.uk](mailto:melanie.curtis@cotecna.co.uk). If you received this issue by fax but would prefer it as an e-mail, please forward your e-mail address to Melanie Curtis with the text “New address details” in the subject line. If you do not want to receive future issues, please e-mail [melanie.curtis@cotecna.co.uk](mailto:melanie.curtis@cotecna.co.uk) with the text “Unsubscribe” in the subject line.