



MARITIME LAW

THE SINGLE PORT INVOICE

As part of the SIMPLEX programme, the FUP is the billing document that brings together the assessment and invoicing of all the public entities that provide services to ships, upon the departure notification, for each call by a ship.

Ministerial Order no. 14/27 was published on 10 January and establishes the procedure for the issuance, availability and voluntary payment of the Single Port Invoice by Ship Call (*Fatura Única Portuária por Escala de Navio* – “FUP”). The FUP is provided for in article 9-A of the Continental Ports Tariff System Regulations, appearing in the annex to Decree-Law no. 273/2000 of 9 November (amended by Decree-Law no. 129/2010 of 7 December, and by Decree-Law no. 6/2017 of 6 January).

As part of the SIMPLEX programme, the FUP is the billing document that brings together the assessment and invoicing of all the public entities that provide services to ships, upon the departure notification, for each call by a ship.

The FUP is charged to ships by the port authorities in question and the port authorities then ensure the respective payments to all the other entities involved in the process (including the Foreigners and Borders Service, the Tax and Customs Authority, the Directorate-General of the Maritime Authority and the Directorate-General of Health).

Furthermore, shipping companies will only have to make one single payment – which they can learn about in advance by means of a “pre-invoice” – using the dedicated one-stop computer application, the Single Port Window (*Janela Única Portuária* – “JUP”).

If the shipping company does not pay the FUP by the legally established deadline, the port authority must inform the other authorities involved of this fact within two business days. When these authorities, except for the Tax and Customs Authority, enforce collection of the outstanding invoices or assessments, they must inform the port authority within five business days, for the purposes of settlement of accounts.

As provided for in article 8 of the Ministerial Order now introduced, all ports in Continental Portugal have already signed protocols with the relevant authorities on which the implementation of the FUP depends. This is a sign that the measure will be applied effectively throughout Portuguese “port territory”, which is to be welcomed.

Besides the clear financial saving (both for the public authorities and for private companies), this measure will mean an important simplification of the procedures and significant time-saving, which has already been witnessed since the implementation of the JUP, and a reduction in the time ships are immobilised.

It is hoped the FUP will contribute to strengthening the – much-needed – competitiveness of Portuguese ports, and made them more attractive to global shipping companies.

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