Moving to Nigeria: Your Relocation Guide





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TELEPHONE:	Country code (234) + area code
STANDARD TIME:	GMT +1 hour
WEIGHTS & MEASURES:	Metric
ELECTRICITY:	220V AC 50Hz
INOCULATIONS / VACCINATIONS:	Protection against Cholera, Small Pox, Yellow Fever, Malaria, Meningococcal Meningitis, Rabies, Typhoid and Hepatitis A and B is highly recommended as the risks of contracting these diseases are very high
PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:	Jan 1, 2 Mar 14 - 17 Good Friday, Easter Monday, May 1, 29, Jun 25, Sept 1, 2, Oct 1 Independence Day, Nov 30, Dec 25 Christmas Day, Dec 26 Boxing-Day, 6 various religious holidays
OFFICE HOURS:	08.00-17.00 Weekdays 08.00-13.00 Saturdays
BANK HOURS:	08.00-15.00 Monday 08.00-13.30 Tuesday to Friday Some banks may be open for a short period on Saturdays
EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS:	Police / Ambulance / Fire – 199
TOURIST & TRAVEL INFORMATION:	Nigeria Tourist Board Tel: (234) 1 261 7932
NIGERIAN HIGH COMMISSION IN LONDON:	Nigeria House, 9 Northumberland Ave London WC2N 5BX Tel: 020 7839 1244 Fax: 0207 839 8746 Email: hc@nigeriahc.org.uk Web: http://nigeria.embassyhomepage.com/

## Moving to Nigeria from the UK – Information and Advice: Abels Relocation Guide



To the best of our knowledge, the following documentation is required to import household goods and personal effects into Nigeria. However, it is advisable to check with the authorities that documentation is in order, prior to despatch.

#### **Customs**

#### Household goods

Documents Required

## Sea Shipment

- Original international passport of consignee (both passports if dual national)
- Original resident permit / green card (non Nigerians)
- Consignee's signature on the original Bill of Lading (OBL) and a letter of authority
- · Packing list
- "A Tax Identification Number (TIN) is required to allow the Customs Clearance of your consignment. You must register in Nigeria, in person with the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS). Failure to have this in place could result in delays and additional port charges."
- Consignment Instruction
- Consignee must have had nine months uninterrupted stay outside the country (Nigeria) with visa and Immigration stamps as proof
- Must ensure that their shipment is imported to arrive in Nigeria within two months of their arrival into the country
- Must ensure that all the items in the shipment have been in use for not less than six months, otherwise they may be classified as luxury items which attract duties

#### **Air Shipment**

- Original international passport of consignee
- Original Resident permit / green card (for non-Nigerians)
- Airway Bill (AWB) rightly consigned
- Packing list

Nigerian customs regulations require that for any returning national to qualify for the Personal Unaccompanied Baggage Declaration (PUBD) or personal effects privileges, the returning national.

- Must have had nine months uninterrupted stay outside the country (Nigeria)
- Must ensure that their shipment is imported to arrive in Nigeria within two to three months of their arrival into the country (Nigeria)
- Must ensure that all items in the shipment have been in use for not less than six months, otherwise they may be classified as luxury items which are dutiable

#### Sea Shipment

Customs clearance takes twenty working days to four weeks, from receipt of all requirements before final delivery.

Containerised cargo must be palletised (please consult your destination agent for more information).

#### **Air Shipments**

Customs clearance takes about seven days from receipt of all requirements before final delivery.

Brand new furniture is prohibited from being shipped into Nigeria in household goods shipments. If new furniture is found in a shipment, this will lead to the total seizure of the container as well as seizure of the whole consignment.

Also note that old and used furniture shipped in quantities larger than a set per room, will attract fines and duties / taxes from Nigeria Customs.

#### **Diplomatic Removals**

Documents required:

- Original Bill of Lading duly endorsed by the consignee, stamped by the applicable Embassy and stamped by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Form CC1 and / or CC2 and / or CC3 duly stamped by Customs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the applicable

Embassy. Form CC1 applies to Personal Effects, CC2 applies to Alcohol and CC3 applies to Vehicles

- Packing list stamped by the Embassy
- Vehicle papers if applicable
- Consignee's passport page (for an individual diplomat)
- 8 letters of authority from the Embassy, each addressed to Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), the applicable shipping company, Nigeria Police Force (NPF), State Security Service (SSS), National Agency for Food & Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC), Nigeria Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), Plant Quarantine, Directorate of Naval Intelligence (DNI), duly endorsed and stamped by the Embassy

These are shipments belonging to Embassies and High Commissions, or persons with diplomatic status in Nigeria. Such shipments are duty-free and are not physically examined by Customs in Nigeria.

However, the Diplomatic mission must ensure that the diplomatic exemption document is transmitted via the official government channels to the port command where the shipment will be cleared. Failure to do this will result in delays which means demurrage and storage costs increase.

#### **Cars and Motorcycles**

Documents Required:

- Original international passport of consignee
- Original Resident permit / green card (for non-Nigerian)



- · Original registration card
- · Car's invoice
- Certificate of ownership
- Original Bill of Lading (OBL) showing chassis number, engine number, cylindrical power, age, brand and model of vehicle

This information must not only be shown on the OBL, but must also be available on at least one of the official car documents provided (certificate of ownership, car title, car invoice etc).

There will be duty payable on cars and new items, as advised by Customs. Used motor vehicles above fifteen years from the year of manufacture are not allowed into the country. The log book and any other relevant vehicle papers will be required for Customs Clearance at arrival.

Customs clearing takes five working days from receipts of all requirements before final delivery.

#### Dogs, Cats, Pets

Documents required:

- International Veterinary Certificate for cats and dogs
- Import permit
- Vaccination Certificate
- Pet Passport

Customs clearing takes one day from receipts of all requirements before final delivery.

#### **Prohibited Items**

- Firearms & Explosives
- Recreational weapons i.e air rifles and guns (irrespective of the fact that the owner has a licence in their home country)
- Dangerous chemicals
- · Drugs and narcotics
- Endangered species & Ivory
- · Liquor & Wine
- Live or dead poultry
- Matches made with white phosphorous
- Pornography
- · Textiles and fabrics
- Fruits and vegetables (including tomato puree & paste) including bulk vegetables
- Used refrigerators, air conditioners, compressors

### **IMPORT**

• Furniture – H.S Codes 9401.1000.00 – 9401.9000.99 and 9403.1000 – 9404.9000, but excluding Baby walkers, laboratory cabinets such as microscope table, fume cupboards, laboratory benches (9403), stadium chairs, height adjustments device, base sledge, seat frames and

control mechanism, arm guide and head guides. Also excluded are; skeletal parts of furniture such as blanks, upholstered or unfinished part of metal, plastics, veneer, chair shell etc

- Live or Dead birds including frozen poultry H.S Codes 0105.1100 0105.9900, 0106.3100 0106.3900, 0207.1100 0207.2600 and 0210.9900
- Pork, Beef H.S Codes 0201.1000 0204.5000, 0206.1000 0206.9000, 0210.1000 0210.2000
- Birds Eggs H.S Code 0407.1100 0407 .9000, excluding hatching eggs
- Refined vegetable oils and fats H.S Codes 1507.1000

   1516.2090.00 (but excluding Linseed, Castor and Olive oils. Crude vegetable oil are however NOT banned from importation
- Cane or beet sugar and chemically pure sucrose, in solid form containing added flavouring or colouring matter – H.S Code 1701.91.1000 – 1701.99.9000 in retail packs.
- Cocoa butter, powder and cakes H.S Codes 1802.00.0000
   1803.2000, 1805.001000 1805.00.9000, 1806.10.0000
   1806.20.0000 and 1804.00.1000 1804.00.9000
- Spaghetti/Noodles-H.S Codes 1902.1100-1902.30.0000
- Fruit juice in retail packs H.S Codes 2009.11.1000 2009.11.9000 – 2009.90.9000
- Waters, including mineral water and aerated water containing added sugar or sweetening matter or flavoured, ice snow H.S Codes 2201.10.1000 2201.90.0000, other non-alcoholic beverages H.S Code 2202.10.0000 2202.90.9000 (but excluding energy or health drinks (Liquid dietary supplements) eg Power Horse, Red ginseng) H.S Code 2202.90.1000 and Beer and Stout (bottled, canned or otherwise packed). H.S Code 2203.0010.00 2203.0090.00
- Bagged cement H.S Code 2523.2900.00
- Medicaments falling under Headings 3003 and 3004 as indicated below:
  - Paracetamol tablets and syrups
  - Cotrimoxazole tablets and syrups
  - Metronidazole tablets and syrups
  - Chloroquine tablets and syrups
  - Haematinic formulations; Ferrous Sulphate and Ferrous Gluconate tablets, folic acid tablets, Vitamin B Complex tablets (except modified released formulations)
  - Multivitamin tablets, capsules and syrups (except special formulations)
  - Aspirin tablets (except modified released formulation and soluble aspirin)
  - Magnesium trisilicate tablets and suspensions.
  - Piperazine tablets and syrups



- Levamisole tablets and syrups
- Clotrimazole cream
- Ointments Penicillin / Gentamycin
- Pyrantel Pamoate tablets and syrups
- Intravenous fluids (Dextrose, Normal Saline etc)
- Waste pharmaceuticals H.S Code 3006.9200
- Soaps and detergents H.S Code 3401.11.1000 3402.90.0000 in retail packs. Mosquito repellent coils H.S Code 3808.91.1700 (Mosquito coils)
- Sanitary wares of plastics H.S Code 3922.1000 3922.9000 and Domestic Articles and Wares of plastics H.S Code 3924.1000 3924.9090.00 (but excluding Baby Feeding bottles 3924.9020.00) and flushing cisterns and waterless toilets
- Rethreaded and used Pneumatic tyres but excluding used truck tyres for rethreading of sized 11.00 x 20 and above 4012.2010.00
- Corrugated paper and paper boards H.S Code 4808.1000 and cartons, boxes and cases made from corrugated paper and paper boards H.S Code 4819.1000, toilet paper, cleaning or facial tissue H.S Code 4818.1000 4818.9000 excluding baby diapers and incontinent pads for adult use 9619.00.2200 and Exercise books H.S Code 4820.20.0000
- Telephone Re-charge cards and vouchers H.S Code 4911.99.91.00
- Carpets and other Textile floor coverings falling under H.S Code 5701.10.0000 – 5705.00.0000, 5516.2400, 5516.3400 and 5514.4900.00
- All types of foot wears, bags and suitcases H.S Codes 6401.10.9000 6405.90.9000 and 4202.11.9000 4202.99.9000 (but excluding Safety Shoes used in oil industries, Sports shoes, canvass shoes all completely knocked down (CKD) blanks and parts)
- Hollow glass bottles of a capacity exceeding 150 mls (0.15 litres) of all kinds used for packaging of beverages by breweries and other beverage and drink companies H.S Code 7010.90.4900 – 7010.9031.00
- Used compressors H.S Code 8414.30.9000, Used Air conditioners H.S Codes 8415.10.1000 – 8415.90.9000 and Used Fridges / Freezers H.S Codes 8418.10.1000 – 8418.69.0000
- Used Motor Vehicles above fifteen years from the year of manufacture H.S Codes 8703.10.0000 – 8703.90.0000
- Ball point pens and parts including refills (excluding tip)
- Goods: Schedule 4 The Importation of which is Absolutely Prohibited

#### **EXPORT**

- Maize
- Timber (rough or sawn)

- Raw hides and skin (including Wet Blue and all unfinished leather) H.S Codes 4101.2000.00 – 4108.9200.00
- · Scrap metals
- Unprocessed rubber latex and rubber lumps
- Artefacts and Antiquities
- Wildlife animals classified as endangered species and their products e.g Crocodile, elephant, lizard, eagle, monkey, zebra, lion etc
- All goods imported

There are many more items prohibited from Nigeria, please contact Abels Moving Services and they will be able to assist you further.

#### **Food**

We strongly recommend that shippers be advised not to ship any commercially prepared and purchased food product with your unaccompanied personal goods.

This includes: wines, spirits, beer, cider, spices, herbs, canned packed or wrapped foods, pet food, pastas, rice, food supplements, vitamins, fruit juices, carbonated / noncarbonated drinks, milk, perishable foods, dry foods and any other item intended for human or animal consumption.

If the shipper insists on shipping food items, the specified information below must be gathered and provided for each food item imported. If the information is not provided, the food items may face refusal of entry, requiring segregation / manipulation of the shipment under customs supervision at a bonded facility, at substantial additional cost. Costs could be in the thousands of dollars and can not be anticipated.

These costs will be the responsibility of the client.

- Product brand name
- Product classification
- Country of production
- · Country of packaging
- Type of product (canned, bottled, packaged)
- Quantity

Ask for Abels **form QF565** for completing.

# General Information on The Federal Republic of Nigeria Background

British influence and control over what would become Nigeria and Africa's most populous country grew through the 19th century. A series of constitutions after World War II granted Nigeria greater autonomy. After independence in 1960, politics were marked by coups and mostly military rule, until the death of a military head of state in 1998 allowed for a political transition. In 1999, a new constitution was adopted and a peaceful transition to civilian government was completed. The government continues to face the daunting task of institutionalizing democracy and reforming a petroleum-based economy, whose revenues have



been squandered through corruption and mismanagement. In addition, Nigeria continues to experience longstanding ethnic and religious tensions. Although both the 2003 and 2007 presidential elections were marred by significant irregularities and violence, Nigeria is currently experiencing its longest period of civilian rule since independence. The general elections of April 2007 marked the first civilian-to-civilian transfer of power in the country's history and the elections of 2011 were generally regarded as credible. The 2015 election is considered the most well run in Nigeria since the return to civilian rule, with the umbrella opposition party, the All Progressives Congress, defeating the long-ruling Peoples Democratic Party that had governed since 1999.

Joint Border Commission with Cameroon reviewed 2002 ICJ ruling on the entire boundary and bilaterally resolved differences, including June 2006 Greentree Agreement that immediately cedes sovereignty of the Bakassi Peninsula to Cameroon with a phase-out of Nigerian control within two years while resolving patriation issues; the ICJ ruled on an equidistance settlement of Cameroon-Equatorial Guinea-Nigeria maritime boundary in the Gulf of Guinea, but imprecisely defined coordinates in the ICJ decision and a sovereignty dispute between Equatorial Guinea and Cameroon over an island at the mouth of the Ntem River all contribute to the delay in implementation; only Nigeria and Cameroon have heeded the Lake Chad Commission's admonition to ratify the delimitation treaty which also includes the Chad-Niger and Niger-Nigeria boundaries; location of Benin-Niger-Nigeria tripoint is unresolved.

#### Climate

Varies; equatorial in south, tropical in center, arid in north.

#### **Population**

Current estimates for this country explicitly take into account the effects of excess mortality due to AIDS; this can result in lower life expectancy, higher infant mortality, higher death rates, lower population growth rates, and changes in the distribution of population by age and sex than would otherwise be expected.

Nigeria, Africa's most populous country, is composed of more than 250 ethnic groups; the following are the most populous and politically influential: Hausa and Fulani 29%, Yoruba 21%, Igbo (Ibo) 18%, Ijaw 10%, Kanuri 4%, Ibibio 3.5%, Tiv 2.5%

## Language

The main ethnic groups Yoruba, Igbo (Ibo), Huasa and Fulani each have their own language. There are over 200 smaller groups. English is the national language and most southerners speak English although in the north this is less common and you might experience some difficulty.

#### Religion

Nigeria is a society with Christianity, Islam and Traditional African religion being professed. According to recent estimates Christianity is practiced by 50.5% of the population. (19.9% Protestantism, 12.3% Churches of Christ, 10.1% Anglicanism and 8.2% Catholicism). Islam is the second greatest religion by 43.5% consisting of 95% Sunni Islam and 5% Shia Islam. 6% of the Nigerian people practices Traditional African religion.

#### **Economy**

Following an April 2014 statistical "rebasing" exercise, Nigeria has emerged as Africa's largest economy, with 2015 GDP estimated at \$1.1 trillion. Oil has been a dominant source of income and government revenues since the 1970s. Following the 2008-9 global financial crises, the banking sector was effectively recapitalized and regulation enhanced. Nigeria's economic growth over the last five years has been driven by growth in agriculture, telecommunications, and services. Economic diversification and strong growth have not translated into a significant decline in poverty levels, however - over 62% of Nigeria's 170 million people still live in extreme poverty.

Despite its strong fundamentals, oil-rich Nigeria has been hobbled by inadequate power supply, lack of infrastructure, delays in the passage of legislative reforms, an inefficient property registration system, restrictive trade policies, an inconsistent regulatory environment, a slow and ineffective judicial system, unreliable dispute resolution mechanisms, insecurity, and pervasive corruption. Regulatory constraints and security risks have limited new investment in oil and natural gas, and Nigeria's oil production has contracted every year since 2012.

Because of lower oil prices, GDP growth in 2015 fell to around 3%, and government revenues declined, while the nonoil sector also contracted due to economic policy uncertainty. President BUHARI, elected in March 2015, has established a cabinet of economic ministers that includes several technocrats, and he has announced plans to increase transparency, diversify the economy away from oil, and improve fiscal management. The government is working to develop stronger public-private partnerships for roads, agriculture, and power. The medium-term outlook for Nigeria is positive, assuming oil output stabilizes and oil prices recover.

#### Currency

The unit of currency in Nigeria is the Naira (N) and is divided into 100 kobo (k).

The following denominations are available:

- Notes: N5, N10, N20, N50, N100, N500 and N1000
- Coins: 10k, 25k, N1

The Central Bank of Nigeria is the sole authority for issuing notes and coins.

'Dash' is small monetary gifts given to anyone you are



trying to get information or help from. It is advisable to carry additional cash constantly for these occasions when people will expect 'dash'.

Never carry large amounts of money with you if you are robbed you will lose all of it.

#### **Personal Safety**

For up to date information please visit website: www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/nigeria

The British High Commission has advised against all travel to the Delta States (Delta, Bayelsa and River States). We also advise against all travel to riverine areas of Cross River State. This is because of the very high risk of kidnapping, armed robbery, and other armed attacks in these areas. Since January 2006, 36 British nationals (including 1 child) and more than 180 other foreign nationals have been kidnapped in the Niger Delta area, with one British national being killed.

Violent street crimes e.g. muggings, car-jacking and especially armed robberies are on the increase in the south of the country. Hitherto comparatively safe areas of Lagos have seen a rise in these crimes. There is little sign of lawenforcement activity to combat this increase.

Parts of Nigeria regularly experience localized civil unrest and violence. The causes and locations vary. States where outbreaks of violence have occurred in the past year include Abuja, Lagos, Oyo, Plateau, Enugu, Ebonyi, Bauchi, Akwa Ibom, Delta, Bayelsa, Rivers, Ondo, Benue, and Kaduna.

On arriving at the airport only hand your passport to a uniformed Customs or Immigration Official. They are likely to ask for a dash when you hand over your papers, take it in your stride and pay it, you are more likely to pay a considerable amount more if you make a fuss. Ensure you check the latest travel safety information in Nigeria and with other expatriates on which roads or areas of town to avoid.

#### **Education**

The school year is divided into three terms, September - December, January - March, April - June. Classes generally begin in the morning (0700 - 0800) and end around Midday. Various educational classes are available.

Schools available to expatriate children are as follows:

#### **International School of IIT (Age 3 to 12)**

Oyo Road, PMB 5320, Ibadan, Nigeria Tel: 234 22 400300

#### **Aisha Mihammed International School**

(Age 3 to 12)

PO Box 2947, Kaduna, Nigeria Tel: 234 62 214563

## **University of Lagos International School**

(Age 3 to 17)

Akoka, Yaba, Lagos, Nigeria

## **University of Ibadan International School**

Agbowo, Ibadan, Nigeria

#### **Lagos British School**

Kingsway Road, Ikoyi, Lagos, Nigeria

#### Health

Public and private health facilities are located in most major towns and cities but may not always be up to Western standards. Dental and eye care are expensive and not always readily available. It is advisable to have the necessary work done before departure and to bring copies of eyeglass prescriptions. Over the counter American or British medicines are usually available. As tap water is not suitable for drinking, it is recommended that you boil your drinking water. Bottled water is available; alternatively bring a supply of purifying tablets and water purification filters with you.

Some of the Hospitals that provide good medical facilities include:

- First Consultant
- St Nicholas Hospital
- International Medical Center
- Eko Hospital, Bank Anthony Way, Ikeja

Food and waterborne diseases are the number one cause of illness. The risk of Malaria is high and it is advisable to take mosquito nets with you as they are not readily available. A Yellow Fever vaccination certificate is required when traveling from affected areas, the risk of contracting the disease in Nigeria is very high. Diseases carried by insects are: Dengue, Filariasis, Leishmaniasis, Onchocerciasis, and Trypanosomiasis (sleeping sickness). Protecting yourself from insect bites will help to prevent these diseases. Schistosomiasis, is a parasitic infection found in fresh water, do not swim in fresh water.

There is also a risk of AIDS.

Other health risks: scorpions and snakes are common and both can be fatal if you come into contact with them. Check your shoes and clothing before putting them on. Milk is unpasturised and should be boiled before use. Eat only thoroughly cooked food, boil it, cook it, peel it or forget it.

#### **Communications**

The general assessment is: further expansion and modernization of the fixed-line telephone network is needed; network quality remains a problem.

The addition of a second fixed-line provider in 2002 resulted in faster growth but subscribership remains only about 1 per 100 person; mobile-cellular services growing rapidly, in part responding to the shortcomings of the fixed-line network; multiple cellular providers operate nationally with subscribership approaching 60 per 100 persons in 2010.

International: landing point for the SAT-3/WASC fiber-optic submarine cable that provides connectivity to Europe and Asia; satellite earth stations - 3 Intelsat (2 Atlantic Ocean and 1 Indian Ocean) (2009).

The Nigerian Television Authority has a network of



stations which covers the whole country. The Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria also operates a network of radio stations over the country. Many states own radio stations. Broadcasts are in English and main local languages. Subscription channels may be purchased and include CNN and ESPN.

#### **Electricity and Appliances**

Appliances in Nigeria are a great deal more expensive than those purchased in the UK so you may want to bring whatever you need. However, only one of each type is allowed per household. TV sets are not compatible with local broadcasting signals. Japanese TV sets are available but very expensive. TV sets can be rented at reasonable rates, which usually include maintenance. Programming is in black and white and primarily in English. There are many radio stations and a good multi-band radio will pick up European broadcasts as well.

#### **Transport**

#### Road

Nigeria's road network is extensive but is in bad shape outside of major cities. Traffic is a serious problem in Lagos, while road safety in general is a major cause of loss of life. Exercise caution when travelling by road, especially at night, and wear seat belts when possible (not all cars, especially older vehicles, are equipped with them in the back seats). In the north you may encounter military checkpoints; carry your passport with you at all times. Traffic police regularly ask for bribes. Other drivers can also prove a hazard, particularly truck drivers who may not always take frequent breaks.

There are three basic modes of public transport:

**Shared-Taxis:** These travel at extremely fast speeds (up to 140kmph for long stretches) and are not for the timid. Their advantages are that apart from short pit stops they roll on regardless and do not stop to pick up people on the way. They go from major town to major town. The front seat is considered to be the 'big mans' (i.e. the most important persons seat).

**Mini Buses:** There are two types; those that stop at every village, and those that go directly to major places. They are crowded and you might have to share your seat with a goat or two. They are, however, safer than taxis and buses.

**Big Buses:** Best avoided. They are slow, uncomfortable and dangerous!

The International Maritime Bureau reports the territorial and offshore waters in the Niger Delta and Gulf of Guinea as high risk for piracy and armed robbery against ships; in 2010, 19 commercial vessels were boarded or attacked with most occurring in the vicinity of the port of Lagos; crews were robbed and stores or cargoes stolen.

#### Rail

A railway line runs between Lagos and Kano, via Ibadan and Kadema and another line links Port Harcourt and Maiduguri via Enugu and Jos. The two lines are joined by a third, running between Kaduna and Kajanchan.

#### **Telephone System**

Nearly 70 federal-government-controlled national and regional TV stations; all 36 states operate TV stations; several private TV stations operational; cable and satellite TV subscription services are available; network of federal-government controlled national, regional, and state radio stations; roughly 40 state-government-owned radio stations typically carry their own programs except for news broadcasts; about 20 private radio stations also operate; transmissions of international broadcasters are available (2007).

Although every care is taken to ensure that all information in the Abels Relocation Guide is accurate and up to date Abels cannot accept liability for any inaccuracy.