

IFIA Recommended Terms and Conditions of Business



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF INSPECTION AGENCIES

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF BUSINESS (1999)

1. Unless otherwise specifically agreed in writing (hereinafter called "the Company") undertakes services in accordance with these general conditions (hereinafter called "General Conditions") and accordingly all offers or tenders of service are made subject to these General Conditions. All resulting contracts, agreements or other arrangements will in all respects be governed by these General Conditions, except only to the extent that the law of the place where such arrangements or contracts are made or carried out shall preclude any of the General Conditions and in such case such local law shall prevail wherever, but only to the extent that, it is at variance with these General Conditions.
2. The Company is an enterprise engaged in the trade of inspection and testing. As such, it:
 - 2.1 carries out such standard services as are referred to in General Condition 6.
 - 2.2 renders advisory and special services as may be agreed by the Company and as referred to in General Condition 7.
 - 2.3 issues reports and/or certificates as referred to in General Condition 8.
3. The Company acts for the persons or bodies from whom the instructions to act have originated (hereinafter called "the Principal"). No other party is entitled to give instructions, particularly on the scope of inspection or delivery of report or certificate, unless so authorised by the Principal and agreed by the Company. The Company will however be deemed irrevocably authorised to deliver at its discretion the report or the certificate to a third party if following instructions by the Principal a promise in this sense had been given to this third party or such a promise implicitly follows from circumstances, trade custom, usage or practice.
4. The Company will provide services in accordance with:
 - 4.1 the Principal's specific instructions as confirmed by the Company;
 - 4.2 the terms of the Company's Standard Order Form and/or Standard Specification Sheet if used;
 - 4.3 any relevant trade custom, usage or practice;
 - 4.4 such methods as the Company shall consider appropriate on technical, operational and/or financial grounds.
5. 5.1 All enquiries and orders for the supply of services must be accompanied by sufficient information specifications and instructions to enable the Company to evaluate and/or perform the services required.

5.2 Documents reflecting engagements contracted between the Principal and third parties, or third parties' documents, such as copies of contracts of sale, letters of credit, bills of lading, etc., are (if received by the Company) considered to be for information only, without extending or restricting the mission or obligations accepted by the Company.

6. The Company's standard services may include all or any of the following:-

6.1 quantitative and/or qualitative inspection;

6.2 inspection of goods, plant, equipment, packing, tanks, containers and means of transport;

6.3 inspection of loading or discharging;

6.4 sampling;

6.5 laboratory analysis or other testing;

6.6 surveys and audits.

7. Special services where the same exceed the scope of standard services as referred to in General Condition 6 will only be undertaken by the Company by particular arrangement.

Such special services are illustratively not exhaustively:-

7.1 qualitative and/or quantitative guarantees;

7.2 tank calibration, meter calibration and meter proving;

7.3 supply of technicians and other personnel;

7.4 pre-shipment inspection under government mandated import or customs schemes;

7.5 supervision of complete industrial project schemes, including engineering review, expediting and progress reporting;

7.6 advisory services.

8. 8.1 Subject to the Principal's instructions as accepted by the Company, the Company will issue reports and certificates of inspection which reflect statements of opinion made with due care within the limitation of instructions received but the Company is under no obligation to refer to or report upon any facts or circumstances which are outside the specific instructions received.

8.2 Reports or certificates issued following testing or analysis of samples contain the Company's specific opinion on those samples only but do not express any opinion

upon the bulk from which the samples were drawn. If an opinion on the bulk is requested special arrangements must be made in advance with the Company for the inspection and sampling of the bulk.

9. The Principal will:
 - 9.1 ensure that instructions to the Company and sufficient information are given in due time to enable the required services to be performed effectively;
 - 9.2 procure all necessary access for the Company's representatives to enable the required services to be performed effectively;
 - 9.3 supply, if required, any special equipment and personnel necessary for the performance of the required services;
 - 9.4 ensure that all necessary measures are taken for safety and security of working conditions, sites and installations during the performance of services and will not rely, in this respect, on the Company's advice whether requested or not;
 - 9.5 take all necessary steps to eliminate or remedy any obstruction to or interruptions in the performance of the required services;
 - 9.6 inform the Company in advance of any known hazards or dangers, actual or potential, associated with any order or samples or testing including, for example, presence or risk of radiation, toxic or noxious or explosive elements or materials, environmental pollution or poisons;
 - 9.7 fully exercise all its rights and discharge all its liabilities under any related contract whether or not a report or certificate has been issued by the Company failing which the Company shall be under no obligation to the Principal.
10. The Company shall be entitled at its discretion to delegate the performance of the whole or any part of the services contracted for with the Principal to any agent or subcontractor.
11. If the requirements of the Principal necessitate the analysis of samples by the Principal's or by any third party's laboratory the Company will pass on the result of the analysis but without responsibility for its accuracy. Likewise where the Company is only able to witness an analysis by the Principal's or by any third party's laboratory the Company will provide confirmation that the correct sample has been analysed but will not otherwise be responsible for the accuracy of any analysis or results.
12.
 - 12.1 The Company undertakes to exercise due care and skill in the performance of its services and accepts responsibility only where such skill and care is not exercised.
 - 12.2 The liability of the Company in respect of any claims for loss, damage or expense of whatsoever nature and howsoever arising in respect of any breach of contract and/or any failure to exercise due skill and care by the Company shall in no

circumstances exceed a total aggregate sum equal to times the amount of the fee or commission payable in respect of the specific service required under the particular contract with the Company which gives rise to such claims provided however that the Company shall have no liability in respect of any claims for indirect or consequential loss including loss of profit and/or loss of future business and/or loss of production and/or cancellation of contracts entered into by the Principal. Where the fee or commission payable relates to a number of services and a claim arises in respect of one of those services the fee or commission shall be apportioned for the purposes of this paragraph by reference to the estimated time involved in the performance of each service.

- 12.3 The limit of liability of the Company under the terms of Condition 12.2 may be increased upon request received by the Company in advance of the performance of the service to such figure as may be agreed upon payment of additional fees equal to an appropriate fraction of the increase in such compensation or as may be agreed upon.
13. The Principal shall guarantee, hold harmless and indemnify the Company and its officers, employees, agents or subcontractors against all claims made by any third party for loss, damage or expense of whatsoever nature and howsoever arising relating to the performance, purported performance or non-performance of any services to the extent that the aggregate of any such claims relating to any one service exceed the limit mentioned in Condition 12.
14. Every officer, employee, agent or subcontractor of the Company shall have the benefit of the limitation of compensation and the indemnity contained in these General Conditions and so far as relates to such limitations any contract entered into by the Company is entered into not only on its own behalf but also as agent and trustee for every such person as aforesaid.
15. In the event that any unforeseen problems or expenditure arise in the course of carrying out any of the contracted services the Company shall be entitled to make additional charges to cover additional time and cost necessarily incurred to complete the service.
16. 16.1 The Principal will punctually pay not later than days after the relevant invoice date or within such other period as may have been agreed in writing by the Company all proper charges rendered by the Company failing which interest will become due at the rate of per cent per annum from the date of invoice until payment.
- 16.2 The Principal shall not be entitled to retain or defer payment of any sums due to the Company on account of any dispute, cross claim or set off which it may allege against the Company.
- 16.3 In the event of any suspension of payment arrangement with creditors, bankruptcy, insolvency, receivership or cessation of business by the Principal the Company shall be entitled to suspend all further performance of its services forthwith and without liability.

17. In the event of the Company being prevented by reason of any cause whatsoever outside the Company's control from performing or completing any service for which an order has been given or an agreement made, the Principal will pay to the Company
 - 17.1 the amount of all abortive expenditure actually made or incurred,
 - 17.2 a proportion of the agreed fee or commission equal to the proportion (if any) of the service actually carried out;and the Company shall be relieved of all responsibility whatsoever for the partial or total non-performance of the required service.
18. The Company shall be discharged from all liability to the Principal for all claims for loss, damage or expense unless suit is brought within months after the date of the performance by the Company of the service which gives rise to the claim or in the event of any alleged non-performance within months of the date when such service should have been completed.
19. The Company is neither an insurer nor a guarantor and disclaims all liability in such capacity. Principals seeking a guarantee against loss or damage should obtain appropriate insurance.
20. No alteration, amendment or waiver of any of these General Conditions shall have any effect unless made in writing and signed by an officer of the Company.