

Maritime Arbitrators Association of Nigeria (MANN)

Arbitration Rules

(May 2006 edition)

Article 1

1. Where parties have agreed in writing to arbitrate disputes under these Arbitration Rules or have provided for arbitration of a dispute by the Maritime Arbitrators Association of Nigeria ("the Association") without designating particular rules, or whenever a dispute is referred to a sole arbitrator or arbitrators who are members of the Association, the arbitration shall take place in accordance with these rules, as in effect at the date of commencement of the arbitration, subject to whatever modifications the parties may adopt in writing.

2. These rules govern the arbitration, except that, where any such rule is in conflict with any provision of the law applicable to the arbitration from which the parties cannot derogate, the provision shall prevail.

3. These rules specify the duties and responsibilities of the Maritime Arbitrators Association of Nigeria. The Association may provide services through its own facilities or through the facilities of arbitral institutions with which it has agreements of cooperation.

4. Any function required to be performed by the Association under these rules shall be performed by the President for the time being of the Association, or where he/she cannot act, by the Vice-President or such other member of the Executive Council of the Association as he/she may designate. All notices, request or information required to be given under these rules to the Association shall be addressed to the President of the Association.

Notice of Arbitration and Statement of Claim - Article 2

1. The party initiating arbitration ("Claimant") shall give written notice of arbitration to the Association and at the same time to the party against whom a claim is being made ("Respondent").

2. Arbitral proceedings shall be deemed to commence on the date on which the Association receives the notice of arbitration.

3. The notice of arbitration shall contain a Statement of Claim including the following:

- a demand that the dispute be referred to arbitration;
- the names and addresses of the parties;
- a reference to the arbitration clause or agreement that is invoked;
- a reference to any contract out of or in relation to which the dispute arises;

- a description of the claim and an indication of the facts supporting it;
- the relief or remedy sought and the amount claimed; and
- may include proposals as to the means of designating and the number of arbitrators, the place of arbitration and the language(s) of the arbitration.

4. A Claimant may attach to its Statement of Claim clear copies of all the documents including any experts' reports with which it intends to prove its Claim.

5. Upon receipt of the notice of arbitration, the Association shall communicate with all parties with respect to the arbitration and shall acknowledge the commencement of the arbitration.

Statement of Defence and Counterclaim - Article 3

1. Within 30 days after the commencement of the arbitration, a Respondent shall submit a written Statement of Defence, responding to the issues raised in the notice of arbitration, to the Claimant and any other parties, and to the Association.

2. At the time a Respondent submits its Statement of Defence, a Respondent may make Counterclaims or assert setoffs as to any claim covered by the agreement to arbitrate, as to which the Claimant shall within 30 days submit a written Statement of Defence to the Respondent and any other parties and to the Association.

3. A Respondent may attach to its Statement of Defence and/or Counterclaim clear copies of all the documents including any experts' reports with which it intends to prove its Defence or Counterclaim

4. A Respondent shall respond to the Association, the Claimant and other parties within 30 days after the commencement of the arbitration as to any proposals the Claimant may have made as to the number of arbitrators, the place of the arbitration or the language(s) of the arbitration, except to the extent that the parties have previously agreed as to these matters.

5. The arbitral tribunal, or the Association if the arbitral tribunal has not yet been formed, may extend any of the time limits established in this article if it considers such an extension justified.

Number of Arbitrators - Article 5

If the parties have not agreed on the number of arbitrators, one arbitrator shall be appointed unless the Association determines in its discretion that three arbitrators are appropriate because of the large size, complexity or other circumstances of the case.

Appointment of Arbitrators - Article 6

1. The parties may mutually agree upon any procedure for appointing arbitrators and shall inform the Association as to such procedure.

2. The parties may mutually designate arbitrators from a Panel of Arbitrators obtainable from the Association, with or without the assistance of the Association. When such designations are made, the parties shall notify the Association so that notice of the appointment can be communicated to the arbitrators, together with a copy of these rules.

3. If within 45 days after the commencement of the arbitration, all of the parties have not mutually agreed on a procedure for appointing the arbitrator(s) or have not mutually agreed on the designation of the arbitrator(s), the Association shall, at the written request of any party, appoint the arbitrator(s) from its Panel of Arbitrators and designate the presiding arbitrator. If all of the parties have mutually agreed upon a procedure for appointing the arbitrator(s), but all appointments have not been made within the time limits provided in that procedure, the Association shall, at the written request of any party, perform all functions provided for in that procedure that remains to be performed.

4. In making such appointments, the Association, after inviting consultation with the parties, shall endeavour to select suitable arbitrators from its Panel of Arbitrators. At the request of any party or on its own initiative, the Association may appoint nationals of a country other than that of any of the parties.

5. Unless the parties have agreed otherwise no later than 45 days after the commencement of the arbitration, if the notice of arbitration names two or more Claimants or two or more Respondents, the Association shall appoint all the arbitrators from its Panel of Arbitrators.

Impartiality and Independence of Arbitrators - Article 7

1. Arbitrators acting under these rules shall be impartial and independent. Prior to accepting appointment, a prospective arbitrator shall disclose to the Association any circumstance likely to give rise to justifiable doubts as to the arbitrator's impartiality or independence. If, at any stage during the arbitration, new circumstances arise that may give rise to such doubts, an arbitrator shall promptly disclose such circumstances to the parties and to the Association. Upon receipt of such information from an arbitrator or a party, the Association shall communicate it to the other parties and to the tribunal.

2. No party or anyone acting on its behalf shall have any ex parte communication relating to the case with any arbitrator, or with any candidate for appointment as party-appointed arbitrator except to advise the candidate of the general nature of the controversy and of the anticipated proceedings and to discuss the candidate's qualifications, availability or independence in relation to the parties, or to discuss the suitability of candidates for selection as a third arbitrator where the parties or party-designated arbitrators are to participate in that selection. No party or any one acting on its behalf shall have any ex parte communication relating to the case with any candidate for presiding arbitrator.

Challenge of Arbitrators - Article 8

1. A party may challenge any arbitrator whenever circumstances exist that give rise to justifiable doubts as to the arbitrator's impartiality or independence. A party wishing to challenge an arbitrator shall send notice of the challenge to the Association within 15 days after being notified of the appointment of the arbitrator or within 15 days after the circumstances giving rise to the challenge become known to that party.

2. The challenge shall state in writing the reasons for the challenge.

3. Upon receipt of such a challenge, the Association shall notify the other parties of the challenge. When an arbitrator has been challenged by one party, the other party or parties may agree to the acceptance of the challenge and, if there is agreement, the arbitrator shall withdraw. The challenged arbitrator may also withdraw from office in the absence of such agreement. In neither case does withdrawal imply acceptance of the validity of the grounds for the challenge.

Article 9

If the other party or parties do not agree to the challenge or the challenged arbitrator does not withdraw, the Association in its sole discretion shall make the decision on the challenge.

Replacement of an Arbitrator - Article 10

If an arbitrator withdraws after a challenge, or the Association sustains the challenge, or the Association determines that there are sufficient reasons to accept the resignation of an arbitrator, or an arbitrator dies, a substitute arbitrator shall be appointed pursuant to the provision of Article 6, unless the parties otherwise agree.

Article 11

1. If an arbitrator on a three-person tribunal fails to participate in the arbitration for reasons other than those identified in Article 10, the two other arbitrators shall have the power in their sole discretion to continue the arbitration and to make any decision, ruling or award, notwithstanding the failure of the third arbitrator to participate. In determining whether to continue the arbitration or to render any decision, ruling or award without the participation of an arbitrator, the two other arbitrators shall take into account the stage of the arbitration, the reason, if any, expressed by the third arbitrator for such nonparticipation, and such other matters as they consider appropriate in the circumstances of the case. In the event that the two other arbitrators determine not to continue the arbitration without the participation of the third arbitrator, the Association on proof satisfactory to it shall declare the office vacant, and a substitute arbitrator shall be appointed pursuant to the provisions of Article 6, unless the parties otherwise agree.

2. If a substitute arbitrator is appointed under either Article 10 or Article 11, the tribunal shall determine at its sole discretion whether all or part of any prior hearings shall be repeated.

Representation - Article 12

Any party may be represented in the arbitration. The names, addresses and telephone numbers of representatives shall be communicated in writing to the other parties and to the Association. Once the tribunal has been established, the parties or their representatives may communicate in writing directly with the tribunal.

Place of Arbitration - Article 13

1. If the parties disagree as to the place of arbitration, the Association may initially determine the place of arbitration, subject to the power of the tribunal to determine finally the place of arbitration within 60 days after its constitution. All such determinations shall be made having regard to the contentions of the parties and the circumstances of the arbitration.

2. The tribunal may hold conferences or hear witnesses or inspect property or documents at any place it deems appropriate. The parties shall be given sufficient written notice to enable them to be present at any such proceedings.

Language - Article 14

If the parties have not agreed otherwise, the language of the arbitration shall be the English language, subject to the power of the tribunal to determine otherwise based upon the contentions of the parties and the circumstances of the arbitration. The tribunal may order that any documents delivered in another language shall be accompanied by a translation into the English language or the language(s) of the arbitration as otherwise determined.

Pleas as to Jurisdiction - Article 15

1. The tribunal shall have the power to rule on its own jurisdiction, including any objections with respect to the existence, scope or validity of the arbitration agreement.

2. The tribunal shall have the power to determine the existence or validity of a contract of which an arbitration clause forms a part. Such an arbitration clause shall be treated as an agreement independent of the other terms of the contract. A decision by the tribunal that the contract is null and void shall not for that reason alone render invalid the arbitration clause.

3. A party must object to the jurisdiction of the tribunal or to the arbitrability of a Claim or Counterclaim no later than the filing of the Statement of Defence, as provided in Article 3, to the Claim or Counterclaim that gives rise to the objection. The tribunal may rule on such objections as a preliminary matter or as part of the final award.

Conduct of the Arbitration - Article 16

1. Subject to these rules, the tribunal may conduct the arbitration in whatever manner it considers appropriate, provided that the parties are treated with equality and that each party has the right to be heard and is given a fair opportunity to present its case.
2. The tribunal, exercising its discretion, shall conduct the proceedings with a view to expediting the resolution of the dispute. It may conduct a preparatory conference with the parties for the purpose of organizing, scheduling and agreeing to procedures to expedite the subsequent proceedings.
3. The tribunal may in its discretion direct the order of proof, bifurcate proceedings, exclude cumulative or irrelevant testimony or other evidence, and direct the parties to focus their presentations on issues the decision of which could dispose of all or part of the case.
4. Documents or information supplied to the tribunal by one party shall at the same time be communicated by the party to the other party or parties.

Further Written Statements- Article 17

1. The tribunal may decide whether the parties shall present any written Statements in addition to Statements of Claims and Counterclaims and Statement of Defence, and it shall fix the periods of time for submitting any such Statements.
2. The periods of time fixed by the tribunal for the communication of such written Statements should not exceed 45 days. However, the tribunal may extend such time limits if it considers such an extension justified.

Notices - Article 18

1. Unless otherwise agreed by the parties or ordered by the tribunal, all notices, Statements and written communications may be served on a party by mail, courier, facsimile transmission, telex, telegram, or other written forms of electronic communication addressed to the party or its representative at its last known address or by personal service.
2. For the purpose of calculating a period of time under these rules, such period shall begin to run on the day following the day when a notice, Statement or written communication is received. If the last day of such period is an official holiday at the place received, the period is extended until the first business day which follows. Official holidays occurring during the running of the period of time are included in calculating the period.

Evidence - Article 19

1. It shall be for the tribunal to decide all procedural and evidential matters subject to the right of the parties to agree any matter. In the absence of agreement it shall be for the tribunal to decide whether and to what extent there should be oral or

written evidence or submission in the arbitration. The parties should however attempt to agree at an early stage whether the arbitration is to be on documents alone (i.e. without a hearing) or whether there is to be an oral hearing.

2. Each party shall have the burden of proving the facts relied on to support its Claim or Defence.

3. The tribunal may order a party to deliver to the tribunal and to the other parties' copies of all supporting documents and other evidence which that party intends to present in support of its Claim, Counterclaim or Defence.

4. At any time during the proceedings, the tribunal may order parties to produce other documents, exhibits or other evidence it deems necessary or appropriate.

Hearings - Article 20

1. The tribunal shall give the parties at least 30 days' advance notice of the date, time and place of the initial oral hearing. The tribunal shall give reasonable notice of subsequent hearings.

2. At least 15 days before the hearings, each party shall give the tribunal and the other parties the names and addresses of any witnesses (including experts) it intends to present, the subject of their testimony and the language in which such witnesses will give their testimony.

3. At the request of the tribunal or pursuant to mutual agreement of the parties, the Association shall make arrangements for the interpretation of oral testimony or for a record of the hearing.

4. Hearings are private unless the parties agree otherwise or the law provides to the contrary. The tribunal may require any witness or witnesses to retire during the testimony of other witnesses. The tribunal may determine the manner in which witnesses are examined.

5. Evidence of witnesses may also be presented in the form of sworn written Statements signed by them.

6. The tribunal shall determine the admissibility, relevance, materiality and weight of the evidence offered by any party. The tribunal shall take into account applicable principles of legal privilege, such as those involving the confidentiality of communications between a lawyer and client.

Interim Measures of Protection - Article 21

1. At the request of any party, the tribunal may take whatever interim measures it deems necessary, including injunctive relief and measures for the protection or conservation of property.

2. Such interim measures may take the form of an interim award, and the tribunal may require security for the cost of such measures.

3. A request for interim measures addressed by a party to a judicial authority shall not be deemed incompatible with the agreement to arbitrate or a waiver of the right to arbitrate.

4. The tribunal may in its discretion apportion cost associated with applications for interim relief in any interim award or in the final award.

Experts - Article 22

1. The tribunal may limit the number of expert witnesses to be called by any party or may direct either that no expert be called on any issue(s) or that no expert evidence shall be called save with the leave of the tribunal.

2. Subject to whatever directions may be given above, the tribunal may appoint one or more independent experts to report to it, in writing, on specific issues designated by the tribunal and communicated to the parties.

3. The parties shall provide such an expert with any relevant information or produce for inspection any relevant documents or goods that the expert may require. Any dispute between a party and the expert as to the relevance of the requested information or goods shall be referred to the tribunal for decision.

4. Upon receipt of an expert's report, the tribunal shall send a copy of the report to all parties and shall give the parties an opportunity to express, in writing, their opinion on the report. A party may examine any document on which the expert has relied in such a report.

5. At the request of any party, the tribunal shall give the parties an opportunity to question the expert at a hearing. At this hearing, parties may present expert witnesses to testify on the points at issue.

Default - Article 23

1. If a party fails to file a Statement of Defence within the time established by the tribunal without showing sufficient cause for such failure, as determined by the tribunal, the tribunal may proceed with the arbitration.

2. If a party, duly notified under these rules, fails to appear at a hearing without showing sufficient cause for such failure, as determined by the tribunal, the tribunal may proceed with the arbitration.

3. If a party, duly invited to produce evidence or take any other steps in the proceedings fails to do so within the time established by the tribunal without showing sufficient cause for such failure, as determined by the tribunal, the tribunal may make the award on the evidence.

Closure of Hearing - Article 24

1. After asking the parties if they have any further testimony or evidentiary submissions and upon receiving negative replies or if satisfied that the record is complete, the tribunal may declare the hearings closed.
2. The tribunal in its discretion, on its own motion or upon application of a party, may reopen the hearing at any time before the award is made.

Waiver of Rules - Article 25

A party who knows that any provision of the rules or requirement under the rules has not been complied with, but proceeds with the arbitration without promptly stating an objection in writing thereto, shall be deemed to have waived the right to object.

Awards, Decisions and Rulings - Article 26

1. When there is more than one arbitrator, any award, decision or ruling of the arbitral tribunal shall be made by a majority of the arbitrators. If any arbitrator fails to sign the award, it shall be accompanied by a Statement of the reason for the absence of such signature.
2. When the parties or the tribunal so authorize, the presiding arbitrator may make decisions or rulings on questions of procedure, subject to revision by the tribunal.

Form and Effect of the Award - Article 27

1. Awards shall be made in writing, promptly by the tribunal, and shall be final and binding on the parties. The parties undertake to carry out any such award without delay.
2. The tribunal shall state the reasons upon which the award is based, unless the parties have agreed that no reasons need be given.
3. The award shall contain the date and the place where the award was made, which shall be the place designated pursuant to Article 13.
4. An award may be made public only with the consent of all parties or as required by law.
5. Copies of the award shall be communicated to the parties by the Association.
6. If the arbitration law of the country where the award is made requires the award to be filed or registered, the tribunal shall comply with such requirement.
7. In addition to making a final award, the tribunal may make interim, interlocutory, or partial orders and awards

Applicable Laws and Remedies - Article 28

1. The tribunal shall apply the substantive law(s) or rules of law designated by the parties as applicable to the dispute. Failing such a designation by the parties, the tribunal shall apply such law(s) or rules of law as it determines to be appropriate.
2. In arbitrations involving the application of contracts, the tribunal shall decide in accordance with the terms of the contract and shall take into account usages of the trade applicable to the contract.
3. The tribunal shall not decide as amiable compositeur or ex aequo et bono unless the parties have expressly authorized it to do so.
4. A monetary award shall be in the currency or currencies of the contract unless the tribunal considers another currency more appropriate and the tribunal may award such pre-award and post-award interest, simple or compound, as it considers appropriate, taking into consideration the contract and applicable law.
5. Unless the parties agree otherwise, the parties expressly waive and forego any right to punitive, exemplary or similar damages unless a statute requires that compensatory damages be increased in a specified manner. This provision shall not apply to any award of arbitration costs to a party to compensate for dilatory or bad faith conduct in the arbitration.

Settlement or Other Reasons for Termination - Article 29

1. If the parties settle the dispute before an award is made, the tribunal shall terminate the arbitration and, if requested by all parties, may record the settlement in the form of an award on agreed terms. The tribunal is not obliged to give reasons for such an award.
2. If the continuation of the proceedings becomes unnecessary or impossible for any other reason, the tribunal shall inform the parties of its intention to terminate the proceedings. The tribunal shall thereafter issue an order terminating the arbitration, unless a party raises justifiable grounds for objection.

Interpretation or Correction of the Award - Article 30

1. Within 30 days after the receipt of an award, any party, with notice to the other parties, may request the tribunal to interpret the award or correct any clerical, typographical or computation errors or make an additional award as to claims presented but omitted from the award.
2. If the tribunal considers such a request justified, after considering the contentions of the parties, it shall comply with such a request within 30 days after the request.

Costs - Article 31

The tribunal shall fix the costs of arbitration in its award. The tribunal may apportion such cost among the parties if it determines that such apportionment is reasonable, taking into account the circumstances of the case.

Such costs may include:

- the fees and expenses of the arbitrators;
- the costs of assistance required by the tribunal, including its experts;
- the fees and expenses of the Association;
- the reasonable costs for legal representation of a successful party; and
- any such costs incurred in connection with an application for interim or emergency relief pursuant to Article 21.

Compensation of Arbitrators - Article 32

Arbitrators shall be compensated based upon the amount of service, taking into account their stated rate of compensation as may be approved by the Association from time to time and the size and complexity of the case. The Association shall arrange an appropriate daily, hourly or lump sum rate, based on such considerations, with the parties and with each of the arbitrators as soon as practicable after the commencement of the arbitration. If the parties fail to agree on the terms of compensation, the Association shall establish an appropriate rate and communicate it in writing to the parties.

Deposit of Costs - Article 33

1. When a party files Claims, the Association may request the filing party to deposit appropriate amounts as an advance for the costs referred to in Article 31, paragraphs (a), (b) and (c).
2. During the course of the arbitral proceedings, the tribunal may request supplementary deposits from the parties.
3. If the deposits requested are not paid in full within 30 days after the receipt of the request, the Association shall so inform the parties, in order that one or the other of them may make the required payment. If such payments are not made, the tribunal may order the suspension or termination of the proceedings.
4. After the award has been made, the Association shall render an accounting to the parties of the deposits received and return any unexpended balance to the parties.

Confidentiality - Article 34

Confidential information disclosed during the proceedings by the parties or by witnesses shall not be divulged by an arbitrator or by the Association. Unless otherwise agreed by the parties, or required by applicable law, the members of the tribunal and the Association shall keep confidential all matters relating to the arbitration or the award.

Exclusion of Liability - Article 35

The members of the tribunal and the Association shall not be liable to any party for any act or omission in connection with any arbitration conducted under these rules, except that they may be liable for the consequences of conscious and deliberate wrongdoing.

Interpretation of Rules - Article 36

The tribunal shall interpret and apply these rules insofar as they relate to its powers and duties. The Association shall interpret and apply all other rules.