

SCHEDULE

THE TEXT OF THE CODE

PART ONE

CHAPTER IV

FREIGHT RATES

Article 12

CRITERIA FOR FREIGHT-RATE DETERMINATION

In arriving at a decision on questions of tariff policy in all cases mentioned in this Code, the following points shall, unless otherwise provided, be taken into account:

- (a) Freight rates shall be fixed at as low a level as is feasible from the commercial point of view and shall permit a reasonable profit for shipowners ;
- (b) The cost of operations of conferences shall, as a rule, be evaluated for the round voyage of ships, with the outward and inward directions considered as a single whole. Where applicable, the outward and inward voyage should be considered separately. The freight rates should take into account among other factors, the nature of cargoes, the interrelation between weight and cargo measurement, as well as the value of cargoes;
- (c) In fixing promotional freight rates and/or special freight rates for specific goods, the conditions of trade for these goods of the countries served by the conference particularly of developing and land-locked countries, shall be taken into account.

Article 13

CONFERENCE TARIFFS AND CLASSIFICATION OF TARIFF RATES

1. Conference tariffs shall not unfairly differentiate between shippers similarly situated. Shipping lines members of a conference shall adhere strictly to the rates, rules and terms shown in the tariffs and other currently valid published documents of the conference and to any special arrangements permitted under this Code.
2. Conference tariffs should be drawn up simply and clearly, containing as few classes/categories as possible, depending on the commodity and, where appropriate, for each class/category ; they should also indicate, wherever practicable, in order to facilitate statistical compilation and analysis, the corresponding appropriate code number of the item in accordance with the Standard International Trade Classification, the Brussels Tariff Nomenclature or any other nomenclature that may be internationally adopted ; the classification of commodities in the tariffs should, as far as practicable, be prepared in co-operation with shippers' organizations and other national and international organizations concerned.

Article 14

GENERAL FREIGHT-RATE INCREASES

1. A conference shall give notice of not less than 150 days, or according to regional practice and/or agreement, to shippers' organizations or representatives of shippers

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and /or shippers and, where so required to appropriate authorities of the countries whose trade is served by the conference, of its intention to effect a general increase in freight rates, an indication of its extent, the date of effect and the reasons supporting the proposed increase.

2. At the request of any of the parties prescribed for this purpose in this Code, to be made within an agreed period of time after the receipt of the notice, consultations shall commence, in accordance with the relevant provisions of this Code, within a stipulated period not exceeding 30 days or as previously agreed between the parties concerned ; the consultations shall be held in respect of the bases and amounts of the proposed increase and the date from which it is to be given effect.
3. A conference, in an effort to expedite consultations, may or upon the request of any of the parties prescribed in this Code as entitled to participate in consultations on general freight-rate increases shall, where practicable, reasonably before the consultations, submit to the participating parties a report from independent accountants of repute, including, where the requesting parties accept it as one of the bases of consultations, an aggregated analysis of data regarding relevant costs and revenues which in the opinion of the conference necessitate an increase in freight rates.
4. If agreement is reached as a result of the consultations, the freight-rate increase shall take effect from the date indicated in the notice served in accordance with article 14, paragraph 1, unless a later date is agreed upon between the parties concerned.
5. If no agreement is reached within 30 days of the giving of notice in accordance with article 14, paragraph 1, and subject to procedures prescribed in this Code, the matter shall be submitted immediately to international mandatory conciliation, in accordance with chapter VI. The recommendation of the conciliators, if accepted by the parties concerned, shall be binding upon them and shall be implemented, subject to the provisions of article 14, paragraph 9, with effect from the date mentioned in the conciliators' recommendation.
6. Subject to the provisions of article 14, paragraph 9, a general freight-rate increase may be implemented by a conference pending the conciliators' recommendation. When making their recommendation, the conciliators should take into account the extent of the above-mentioned increase made by the conference and the period for which it has been in force. In the event that the conference rejects the recommendation of the conciliators, shippers and/or shippers' organizations shall have the right to consider themselves not bound, after appropriate notice, by any arrangement or other contract with that conference which may prevent them from using non-conference shipping lines. Where a loyalty arrangement exists, shippers and/or shippers' organizations shall give notice within a period of 30 days to the effect that they no longer consider themselves bound by that arrangement, which notice shall apply from the date mentioned therein, and a period of not less than 30 days and not more than 90 days shall be provided in the loyalty arrangement for this purpose.
7. A deferred rebate which is due to the shipper and which has already been accumulated by the conference shall not be withheld by, or forfeited to, the conference as a result of action by the shipper under article 14, paragraph 6.
8. If the trade of a country carried by shipping lines members of a conference on a particular route consists largely of one or few basic commodities, any increase in the freight rate on one or more of those commodities shall be treated as a general freight-rate increase, and the appropriate provisions of this Code shall apply.

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9. Conferences should institute any general freight-rate increase effective in accordance with this Code for a period of a stated minimum duration, subject always to the rules regarding surcharges and regarding adjustment in freight rates consequent upon fluctuations in foreign exchange rates. The period over which a general freight-rate increase is to apply is an appropriate matter to be considered during consultations conducted in accordance with article 14, paragraph 2, but unless otherwise agreed between the parties concerned during the consultations, the minimum period of time between the date when one general freight-rate increase becomes effective and the date of notice for the next general freight-rate increase given in accordance with article 14, paragraph 1 shall not be less than 10 months.

Article 15

PROMOTIONAL FREIGHT RATES

1. Promotional freight rates for non-traditional exports should be instituted by conferences.
2. All necessary and reasonable information justifying the need for a promotional freight rate shall be submitted to a conference by the shippers, shippers' organizations or representatives of shippers concerned.
3. Special procedures shall be instituted providing for a decision within 30 days from the date of receipt of that information, unless mutually agreed otherwise, on application for promotional freight rates. A clear distinction shall be made between these and general procedures for considering the possibility of reducing freight rates for other commodities or of exempting them from increases.
4. Information regarding the procedures for considering applications for promotional freight rates shall be made available by the conference to shippers and /or shipper's organizations and, on request, to the Governments and/or other appropriate authorities of the countries whose trade is served by the conference.
5. A promotional freight rate shall be established normally for a period of 12 months, unless otherwise mutually agreed between the parties concerned. Prior to the expiry of the period, the promotional freight rate shall be reviewed, on request by the shipper and/or shippers' organization concerned, when it shall be a matter for the shipper and/or shippers' organization, at the request of the conference, to show that the continuation of the rate is justified beyond the initial period.
6. When examining a request for a promotional freight rate, the conference may take into account that, while the rate should promote the export of the non-traditional product for which it is sought, it is not likely to create substantial competitive distortions in the export of a similar product from another country served by the conference.
7. Promotional freight rates are not excluded from the imposition of a surcharge or a currency adjustment factor in accordance with articles 16 and 17.
8. Each shipping line member of a conference serving the relevant ports of a conference trade shall accept, and not unreasonably refuse, a fair share of cargo for which a promotional freight rate has been established by the conference.

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Article 16

SURCHARGES

1. Surcharges imposed by a conference to cover sudden or extraordinary increases in costs or losses of revenue shall be regarded as temporary. They shall be reduced in accordance with improvements in the situation or circumstances which they were imposed to meet and shall be cancelled, subject to article 16, paragraph 6, as soon as the situation or circumstances which prompted their imposition cease to prevail. This shall be indicated at the moment of their imposition, together, as far as possible, with a description of the change in the situation or circumstances which will bring about their increase, reduction or cancellation.
2. Surcharges imposed on cargo moving to or from a particular port shall likewise be regarded as temporary and likewise shall be increased, reduced or cancelled, subject to article 16, paragraph 6, when the situation in that port changes.
3. Before any surcharge is imposed, whether general or covering only a specific port, notice should be given and there shall be consultation, upon request, in accordance with the procedures of this Code, between the conference concerned and other parties directly affected by the surcharge and prescribed in this Code as entitled to participate in such consultations, save in those exceptional circumstances which warrant immediate imposition of the surcharge. In cases where a surcharge has been imposed without prior consultation, consultations, upon request, shall be held as soon as possible thereafter. Prior to such consultations, conferences shall furnish data which in their opinion justify the imposition of the surcharge.
4. Unless the parties agree otherwise, within a period of 15 days after the receipt of a notice given in accordance with article 16, paragraph 3, if there is no agreement on the question of the surcharge between the parties concerned referred to in that article, the relevant provisions for settlement of disputes provided in this Code shall prevail. Unless the parties concerned agree otherwise, the surcharge may, however, be imposed pending resolution of the dispute, if the dispute still remains unresolved at the end of a period of 30 days after the receipt of the above-mentioned notice.
5. In the event of a surcharge being imposed, in exceptional circumstances, without prior consultation as provided in article 16, paragraph 3, if no agreement is reached through subsequent consultations, the relevant provisions for settlement of disputes provided in this Code shall prevail.
6. Financial loss incurred by the shipping lines members of a conference as a result of any delay on account of consultations and/ or other proceedings for resolving disputes regarding imposition of surcharges in accordance with the provisions of this Code, as compared to the date from which the surcharge was to be imposed in terms of the notice given in accordance with article 16, paragraph 3, may be compensated by an equivalent prolongation of the surcharge before its removal. Conversely, for any surcharge imposed by the conference and subsequently determined and agreed to be unjustified or excessive as a result of consultations or other procedures prescribed in this Code, the amounts so collected or the excess thereof as determined hereinabove, unless otherwise agreed, shall be refunded to the parties concerned, if claimed by them within a period of 30 days of such claim.

Article 17

CURRENCY CHANGES

1. Exchange rate changes, including formal devaluation or revaluation, which lead to changes in the aggregate operational costs and/or revenues of the shipping lines members of a conference relating to their operations within the conference provide a valid reason for the introduction of a currency adjustment factor or for a change in the freight rates. The adjustment or change shall be such that in the aggregate the member lines concerned neither gain nor lose, as far as possible, as a result of the adjustment or change. The adjustment or change may take the form of currency surcharges or discounts or of increases or decreases in the freight rates.
2. Such adjustments or changes shall be subject to notice, which should be arranged in accordance with regional practice, where such practice exists, and there shall be consultations in accordance with the provisions of this Code between the conference concerned and the other parties directly affected and prescribed in this Code as entitled to participate in consultations, save in those exceptional circumstances which warrant immediate imposition of the currency adjustment factor or freight-rate change. In the event that this has been done without prior consultations, consultations shall be held as soon as possible thereafter. The consultations should be on the application, size and date of implementation of the currency adjustment factor or freight-rate change, and the same procedures shall be followed for this purpose as are prescribed in article 16, paragraphs 4 and 5, in respect of surcharges. Such consultations should take place and be completed within a period not exceeding 15 days from the date when the intention to apply a currency surcharge or to effect a freight-rate change is announced.
3. If no agreement is reached within 15 days through consultations, the relevant provisions for settlement of disputes provided in this Code shall prevail.
4. The provisions of article 16, paragraph 6 shall apply, adapted as necessary to currency adjustment factors and freight-rate changes dealt with in the present article.