

SMA CODE OF ETHICS

This Code of Ethics applies to the conduct of arbitrations by members of the Society of Maritime Arbitrators ("SMA") under SMA Rules.

1. Arbitrators shall be thoroughly familiar with and abide by the Rules of the Society of Maritime Arbitrators, Inc. (the "SMA Rules").
2. Each arbitrator shall observe the highest standards of personal and professional conduct, free from impropriety or the appearance of impropriety. An Arbitrator's personal behavior in the performance of the Arbitrator's official duties should be beyond reproach.
3. Arbitrations shall be conducted with dignity and decorum and in such a manner as to reflect the importance and seriousness of the proceeding.
4. Before accepting appointment, an Arbitrator may only inquire as to the general nature of the dispute, the amounts involved, the names of the parties and their affiliates, counsel for the parties, and the other arbitrators.
5. Following completion of the Panel, all Arbitrators are required to make disclosures in accordance with Section 9 of the SMA Rules.
6. No Arbitrator shall accept an appointment or sit on a Panel, where the Arbitrator or the Arbitrator's current employer or an affiliate has a direct or indirect interest in the outcome of the arbitration.
7. No Arbitrator shall confer with the Arbitrator's appointing party (or its counsel or representative) regarding the selection of the third Arbitrator except as provided in Section 11 of the SMA Rules.
8. Once the Panel is complete, all communications between the disputants or their counsel and the Panel shall be conducted through the Chairperson. Neither of the other Arbitrators shall become involved in direct communication with either disputant or its counsel.
9. In the conduct of an arbitration, each Arbitrator shall exercise care to remain absolutely impartial and always abide by principles of honesty and fair dealing. Arbitrators are obliged to render decisions on the merits, and compromise awards should be avoided in favor of objective adjudication.
10. Once the proceedings start each Arbitrator shall become familiar with all facts, arguments and discussions relative to the proceeding so that the Arbitrator may properly understand the dispute in arbitration.
11. During the deliberation process and prior to the award being finalized, the Arbitrators shall confer and jointly discuss the case in all its aspects. No discussion on the merits of the case is permitted at any time between Arbitrators unless all three are present.
12. Each member of the SMA shall be held accountable for the member's conduct as an Arbitrator. In case of complaint of misconduct of a member, the member shall be given a hearing before the Committee on Professional Conduct, at which time the evidence of such alleged misconduct shall be presented to the member. The member shall have the right of explaining or denying the alleged complaint to the Committee, which shall make such recommendations to the Board of Governors, as it deems advisable. All members agree to abide by the decision of a majority of the Board without right of appeal in any other forum whatsoever.

Signature : _____

Print Name: _____

Date: _____

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