

# STANDARD TRADING CONDITIONS

## PART I: General Conditions

**1. Application**  
1.1 Subject to Clause 1.2, all services of the Company whether gratuitous or not are undertaken subject to these Conditions and not otherwise and:  
(a) The provisions of Part I shall apply to all such services.  
(b) The provisions of Part II shall only apply to the extent that such services are provided by the Company as agents.  
(c) The provisions of Part III shall only apply to the extent that such services are provided by the Company as principals.  
1.2 Where a document is issued by or on behalf of the Company and bears the title of or includes the words, "bill of lading" (whether or not negotiable), or sea or air "waybill" and provides that the Company contracts as carrier, the provisions set out in that document, if inconsistent with these Conditions, shall be paramount and prevail over these Conditions to the extent that such provisions are inconsistent but no further.

**2. Provision of Services**  
2.1 All services are provided by the Company as agents only, except in the following circumstances where the Company acts as principal:  
(a) where the Company performs any carriage, handling or storage of Goods, but only to the extent that the carriage is performed by the Company itself or its servants and the Goods are in the actual custody and control of the Company, or  
(b) where, prior to the commencement of the carriage of Goods, the Customer in writing instructs from the Company particulars of the identity, services or charges of persons performing the Company to perform part or all of the carriage, and the Company fails to give the particulars demanded within 28 days. However, for the purposes of this sub-clause, the Company "meant by duty constituted" as such and is not to be construed in respect of that part of the carriage which the Company fails to give the particulars demanded, or  
(c) to the extent that the Company expressly agrees in writing to act as a principal, or  
(d) to the extent that the Company is held by a court of law to have acted as a principal.  
2.2 Without prejudice to the generality of clause 2.1, the Company shall be deemed to be acting as a principal in the following circumstances:  
(a) the charging by the Company of a fixed price for any services whatsoever shall in itself determine or be evidence that the Company is acting as an agent or a principal in respect of those services.  
(b) the supplying by the Company of its own or leased equipment shall not in itself determine or be evidence that the Company is acting as an agent or a principal in respect of any carriage, handling or storage of Goods;  
(c) the Company acts as an agent where the Company procures a bill of lading, sea or air waybill or other document of title for the carriage of cargo between a person, other than the Company, and the Customer or Owner;  
(d) the Company acts as an agent and never as a principal when providing services as a Customs Broker in respect of or relating to customs requirements, taxes, licenses, consular documents, certificates of origin, inspection, certificates and other similar services or when obtaining insurances for or on behalf of the Customer or relating to the Goods (other than where by law the Company is deemed to be an agent of the insurer) or when providing any other services whatsoever for or on behalf of the Customer.

2.3 The Company is not an agent in respect of carriage of Goods and the Customer reserves the right to accept or refuse the carriage of any Goods or any other Service at its discretion. All Services are performed subject only to these Conditions (and when applicable but subject to clause 2.1.6, the conditions on any Bill of Lading or Air Waybill issued by the Company as Principal).

**3. Definitions**  
In these conditions:  
(a) "Company" is Apex International Forwarding and/or Apex International Customs;  
(b) "Customer" means any person at whose request or on whose behalf the Company provides a service;  
(c) "Person" includes persons or any body or bodies corporate;  
(d) "Owner" includes the owner, shipper and consignee of the Goods and any other person who is or may become interested in the Goods and anyone acting on their behalf;  
(e) "Authority" means a duly constituted legal or administrative person, acting within its legal powers and exercising jurisdiction within any nation, state, municipality, port or airport;  
(f) "Goods" includes the cargo and any container not supplied by or on behalf of the Company, in respect of which the Company provides a service;  
(g) "Container" includes any rigid, portable tank, flat, pallet, or any other article of transport used to carry or consolidate goods and any equipment or connected thereto;  
(h) "Dangerous Goods" includes goods which are or may become a dangerous, inflammable, radioactive or damaging nature and goods likely to harbour or encourage vermin or other pests;  
(i) "Hague-Visby-Rules" means the provisions of the International Convention for the Unification of Certain Rules Relating to Bills of Lading signed at Brussels on 25th August 1924 as amended by the Visby Protocol signed at Brussels on 23rd September 1968 and as amended by the 1979 "Incidental matters" means anything done or done in relation to the Goods or the provision of any services ancillary to the Goods including but not limited to moving, storing or leaving the Goods at any warehouse, terminal, yard, wharf or other place or area, loading or unloading the Goods from any vehicle, vessel or other conveyance, stowing or packing the Goods during, transhipping, unshipping or otherwise handling the Goods or anything done in relation thereto;  
(k) "Instructions" means a statement of the Customers specific requirements.  
(l) "Services" means the Services provided by the Company to the Customer and all matters necessarily related to the provision of the Services ancillary to the provision of the Services.  
(m) "Warsaw Convention" means the Convention for the Unification of Certain Rules Relating to International Carriage by Air dated 12th October 1924 as amended by the Montreal Convention and supplemented by the Guadalajara Convention dated 18 September 1961 as applied respectively by the legislation of the Commonwealth of Australia and of New Zealand.

**4. Obligations of Customer**  
4.1 The Customer warrants that it is either the Owner or the authorised agent of the Owner of the Goods and that it is authorised to accept and accept these Conditions, not only for itself, but also as agent or on behalf of the Owner.  
4.2 The Customer warrants that it has reasonable knowledge of matters affecting the conduct of its business, including, but not limited to, the terms of sale and purchase of the Goods and all other matters relating thereto.  
4.3 The Customer gives any efficient and executable instructions.  
4.4 The Customer warrants that the description and particulars of the Goods are complete and correct.  
4.5 The Customer warrants that the Goods are properly packed and labelled, except where the Company has accepted instructions in respect of packaging and/or labelling.

**5. Special Instructions, Goods and Services**  
5.1 Unless agreed in writing, the Customer shall not deliver to the Company, or cause the Company to deal with or handle, Dangerous Goods.  
5.2 If the Customer is in breach of Clause 5.1:  
(a) The Customer shall be liable for all loss or damage whatsoever caused by or to or in connection with the Goods however arising;  
(b) The Customer shall defend, indemnify and hold harmless the Company against all penalties, claims, damages, costs and expenses whatsoever arising in connection therewith; and  
(c) The Company or any person or persons who have custody of the Goods may, at the relevant time) may, at the Company's sole discretion, have the Goods destroyed or otherwise dealt with. For the purposes of this sub-clause, notice is not required to be given to any person of the intention to destroy or otherwise deal with the Goods.  
5.3 If the Company agrees to handle Dangerous Goods and the Customer (or any other person) reasonably perceives the view that those Goods constitute a risk to their goods, property, life or health, it may (without notice and without liability) have the Goods destroyed or otherwise dealt with at the expense of the Customer or Owner.

5.4 The Customer undertakes to provide for transportation any Goods which require temperature control without previously giving written notice of their nature and the particular temperature range to be maintained and, in the case of a temperature controlled Container stuffed by or on behalf of the Customer, the Customer further undertakes that:  
(a) the Container has been properly sealed or re-sealed as appropriate;  
(b) the Goods have been properly stuffed in the Container; and  
(c) the Container's thermocouple controls have been properly set by the Customer.  
5.5 If the requirements of Clause 5.4 are not complied with the Company shall not be liable for any loss or damage to the Goods caused by such non-compliance.  
5.6 Unless agreed in writing, the Company shall not be obliged to make any declaration for the purposes of any statute, convention or contract as to the nature or value of any Goods or as to any special interest in delivery or to make any declaration as to specific storage requirements of any Goods.  
5.7 Unless agreed in writing or otherwise provided for under the provisions of a document signed by the Company, instructions relating to the delivery or release of Goods against payment or against surrender of a particular document shall be in writing and the Company's liability shall not exceed that which would be incurred by any Authority.  
5.8 Unless agreed in writing that the Goods shall depart by or arrive by a particular date, the Company accepts no responsibility for departure or arrival dates of Goods.

**6. Insurance**  
6.1 No insurance shall be effected except upon express instructions given in writing by the Customer and in effecting any such insurances, the Company shall be deemed to be an agent only of the Customer (other than where by law the Company is deemed to be an agent of the insurer) and not as an insurer, insurance broker or other form of intermediary.  
6.2 All insurances effected by the Company are effected as agent only for the Customer (other than where by law the Company is deemed to be an agent of the insurer) and all such insurances are subject to the usual exceptions and conditions of the policies of the insurance company or underwriters taking the risk.  
6.3 Unless agreed in writing, the Company shall not be under any obligation to effect a separate insurance on each container but may do so at the request of the Customer.  
6.4 The Company is an agent only of the Customer in respect of the effecting of insurance (other than where by law the Company is deemed to be an agent of the insurer) and in any event should the insurers dispute their liability for any reason the insured shall have recourse against the insurers only to the extent that the insured has been advised by any Authority in relation thereto, notwithstanding that the premium upon the policy may not be at the same rate as that charged by the Company or paid to the Company by the customer.

**7. General Indemnities and Liabilities of the Customer and Owner**  
7.1 The Customer and Owner shall defend, indemnify and hold harmless the Company against all liability, claims, damages, costs and expenses whatsoever arising:  
(a) from the nature of the Goods, other than to the extent caused by the Company's negligence, or  
(b) from the Company acting in accordance with the Customer's or Owner's instructions, or  
(c) from a breach of warranty or obligation by the Customer or arising from the negligence of the Customer or Owner.  
7.2 Except to the extent caused by the Company's negligence, the Customer and Owner shall be liable for all such claims, damages, costs and expenses arising in respect of all duties, taxes, imposts, levies, deposits and outlays whatsoever levied by any Authority or for payments, fines, costs, interest, loss and damage whatsoever incurred or sustained by the Company in connection therewith.  
7.3 Advice and information, in whatever form it may be given, is provided by the Company for the Customer only and the Customer shall defend, indemnify and hold harmless the Company for all liability, loss, damage, costs and expenses arising out of any other person relying on such advice or information.  
7.4 The Customer shall be liable for the loss, damage, contamination, soiling, detention or demurrage before, during and after the Carriage and after the Carriage:  
(a) the Company (including, but not limited to, Containers);  
(b) the Company's servants, sub-contractors or agents;  
(c) independent contractors engaged by the Company for performance of part or all of the Services.

(d) any person; or  
(e) any vessel;  
caused by the Customer or Owner or any person acting on behalf of either of them or for which the Customer is otherwise responsible.  
7.5 Instructions to collect payment on delivery in cash or otherwise are accepted by the Company upon and on the condition that the Company in the matter of such collection will be liable for the exercise of reasonable diligence and care only. Unless express written instructions are received that the Goods are not to be delivered without payment, the Company accepts no liability if, upon delivery of the goods, payment is not made.

**8. Subcontractors**  
8.1 The Customer undertakes that no claim will be made against any servant, sub-contractor or agent of the Company which imposes or attempts to impose upon any of them any liability whatsoever in connection with the Goods. If any such claim should nevertheless be made, the Customer undertakes to indemnify the Company against all consequences thereof.  
8.2 Without prejudice to the generality of clause 8.1, the Company undertakes that the Company shall have the benefit of all provisions herein as if such provisions were expressly for their benefit. In entering into this contract, the Company, to the extent of those provisions, does so not only on its behalf, but as agent and trustee for such servants, sub-contractors and agents.  
8.3 The Customer undertakes to defend, indemnify and hold harmless the Company from and against all claims, costs and demands whatsoever and by whomsoever made or preferred, in excess of the liability of the Company under these Conditions.  
8.4 Without prejudice to the generality of this Clause 8, the indemnity referred to in Clause 8.3, shall cover all claims, costs and demands made from or in connection with the negligence of the Company, its servants, sub-contractors and agents.  
8.5 In this Clause, "sub-contractors" includes direct and indirect sub-contractors and their respective employees, servants and agents.

**9. Charges etc.**  
9.1 The Customer shall pay to the Company in cash, or as agreed, all sums immediately when due without deduction or deferral on account of any claim, counterclaim or set-off.  
9.2 Where the Company is instructed to collect freight, duties, charges or other expenses from any person other than the Customer, the Customer:  
(a) shall remain responsible for these amounts; and  
(b) shall remain responsible to the Company on demand where these amounts have become due and have not been paid by such person.  
9.3 On all accounts overdue to the Company, the Company shall be entitled to liquidated damages, such liquidated damages to be calculated at 4 per cent above the base interest rate of the Company's bank applicable during the period that such amounts are overdue.  
9.4 The Customer shall be liable for and pay to the Company any loss or expenses the Company may incur and for any loss or damage occasioned either directly or indirectly to the Company as a result of the Company relying upon the description and particulars provided by the Customer or for reason of any illegal, incorrect or insufficient marking, numbering or addressing of the Goods.

**10. Liberties and Rights of the Company**  
10.1 Unless otherwise agreed in writing, the Company shall be entitled to enter into contracts on behalf of itself or the Customer and without notice to the Customer:  
(a) for the carriage of Goods by road, air, sea, inland waterway, canal, or otherwise;  
(b) for the carriage of Goods of any description, whether containerised or not, on or under the deck of any vessel;  
(c) for the storage, packing, transhipment, loading, unloading or handling of Goods by any person at any place whether on shore or afloat and for any length of time;  
(d) for the carriage of Goods of any description, whether containerised or not, on or under the deck of any vessel;  
(e) for the performance of its own obligations, and to do such acts as the Company reasonably considers may be necessary or incidental to the performance of the Company's obligations.  
10.2 The Company shall be entitled (without incurring any additional liability), but shall be under no obligation to the Customer, to do as it sees fit in respect of the Company if the Company considers there is good reason to do so in the Customer's interest.  
10.3 The Company may at any time comply with the orders or recommendations given by any Authority. The responsibility and liability of the Company in respect of the Goods shall cease on the delivery or other disposition of the Goods in accordance with such orders or recommendations.  
10.4 The Company shall be entitled (but under no obligation) at any time and from time to time to inspect the Goods and for this purpose to open or remove any Containers.  
10.5 If at any time the Company is reasonably satisfied that the Goods should not be undertaken or continued or only continued after effecting any necessary incidental matters or incurring additional expense or risk, the Company shall be entitled to:  
(a) abandon the carriage of such cargo or to effect such additional incidental matters and incur such additional expense, as may be reasonably necessary in order to enable the carriage to be effected or further effected; and  
(b) be reimbursed by the Customer for the cost of all such additional incidental matters and all such additional expense incurred.

10.6 If the Company (or any person who services the Company makes use of) considers:  
(a) the performance of the Company's obligations are likely to be effected by any hindrance, risk, delay, difficulty or disadvantage whatsoever; and  
(b) the hindrance, risk, delay, difficulty or disadvantage cannot be avoided by reasonable endeavours of the Company or such person;  
the Company may (upon giving notice in writing to the Customer or Owner) treat the performance of its obligations as terminated and may, at the Customer's expense, place the Goods or any part of them at the Customer's or Owner's disposal at any place which the Company deems suitable.  
10.7 The notice in writing referred to in Clause 10.6 is not required where it is not reasonably possible to give such notice.  
10.8 Where the Company exercises its rights and obligations under Clause 10.6, responsibility and liability of the Goods of the Customer shall terminate absolutely.  
10.9 Where the Company (or any person who services the Company makes use of) is entitled to call upon the Customer or Owner to take delivery of the Goods at a designated time and place and delivery of the Goods, or any part thereof, is not taken by the Customer or Owner at the designated time and place the Company (or any person who services the Company) is entitled to store the Goods in the open or under cover at the sole risk and expense of the Customer.  
10.10 Notwithstanding Clauses 10.6 to 10.9, the Company shall be entitled (but under no obligation) without any responsibility or liability to the Customer and Owner, to sell or dispose of:  
(a) all Goods which the Company considers cannot be delivered as instructed, but only upon giving 21 days notice in writing to the Customer, and  
(b) without notice, Goods which have perished, deteriorated or altered, or are in immediate prospect of doing so in a manner which has caused (or may be reasonably expected to cause) loss or damage to any person or property or to contravene applicable regulations.  
10.11 Where the Company sells or disposes of Goods pursuant to Clause 10.10 the Customer shall be responsible for any costs and expenses of the sale or disposal.  
10.12 The Company shall be entitled to retain and be paid all brokerages, commissions, allowances and other remuneration customarily retained by or paid to freight forwarders without notice to the Customer.  
10.13 The Company shall have the right to enforce against the Owner and the Customer jointly and severally any liability of the Customer under these Conditions or to recover from them any sums to be paid by the Customer which upon demand have not been paid.

**11. Lien**  
11.1 The Company shall have a particular and general lien on all Goods or documents relating to Goods in its possession the property of the Customer or Owner for all sums due at any time from the Customer or Owner (whether those sums are due from the Customer on those Goods or in respect of the storage of those Goods).  
11.2 Where any sum due to the Company from the Customer or Owner remains unpaid, the Company, on giving 28 days notice in writing to the Customer, shall be entitled (without liability to the Customer and Owner) to sell or dispose of such Goods or documents by public auction or by private treaty at the risk and expense of the Customer and Owner and to apply the proceeds of any such sale or disposal in or towards the payment of the sums due.

**12. Containers**  
12.1 If a Container has not been packed or stuffed by the Company, the Company shall not be liable for loss of or damage to the contents if caused by:  
(a) the manner in which the Container has been packed or stuffed;  
(b) the unsuitability of the contents for carriage in Containers, unless the Company has approved the suitability.  
(c) the unsuitability or defective condition of the Container, provided that where the Container has been supplied by the Company this paragraph (c) shall only apply if the unsuitability or defective condition arose:  
(i) without any negligence on the part of the Company; or  
(ii) would have been apparent upon reasonable inspection by the Customer or Owner or person acting on their behalf of either of them.  
12.2 The fact that the Container is not sealed at the commencement of the Carriage, except where the Company has agreed to seal the Container.  
12.3 The Customer shall defend, indemnify and hold harmless the Company against all liability, loss, damage, costs and expenses arising from one or more of the matters referred to in Clause 12.1, except for Clause 12.1(c)(i).  
12.4 Where the Company is instructed to provide a Container, in the absence of a written request to the contrary, the Company is not under an obligation to provide a Container of any particular type or quality.

**13. General Liability**  
13.1 Except where otherwise provided in these Conditions, the Company shall not be liable for any loss or damage whatsoever arising from:  
(a) the act or omission of the Customer or Owner or any person acting on their behalf,  
(b) compliance with instructions given to the Company by the Customer, Owner or any other person entitled to give them,  
(c) insufficiency of the packing or labelling of the Goods, except where such service has been provided by the Company,  
(d) handling, loading or unloading of the Goods by the Customer or Owner or any person acting on their behalf,  
(e) inherent vice of the Goods,  
(f) riots, civil commotions, strikes, lockouts, stoppage or restraint of labour from whatsoever cause,  
(g) fire, flood, storm, explosion or theft or  
(h) any cause which the Company could not avoid and the consequences whereof it could not prevent by the exercise of reasonable diligence.  
13.2 Subject to Clause 13.1, the Company shall be liable for loss or damage however caused (whether or not indirect or consequential) to property other than the Goods themselves and shall not be liable for any pure economic loss or loss of profit, delay or deviation however arising.

**14. Amount of Compensation**  
14.1 The amount of compensation provided by these Conditions, the liability of the Company, however arising, shall not exceed the following:  
(a) in respect of all claims other than those subject to the provisions of Clause 14.4 whichever is the lesser of:  
(i) the value of, or  
(ii) the equivalent of US\$2.00 per gross kilogram in the currency of the loss or damage, (the exchange rate to apply being the rate as at the date of the delivery of the Goods) of the Goods lost, damaged, misdirected or in respect of which a claim arises;  
(b) in respect of claims for delay where not excluded by the provisions of these Conditions, the amount of the Company's charges in respect of the Goods delayed.  
14.2 The limitation of liability referred to in Clause 14.1 shall apply notwithstanding that the cause of the loss or damage is not explained.  
14.3 If agreed in writing prior to receipt of the Goods, the Company may accept liability in excess of the limits set out in these Conditions upon the Customer agreeing to pay the Company's additional charges for accepting such increased liability. Details of the Company's additional charges will be provided upon request.  
14.4 Compensation shall be calculated by reference to the invoice value of the Goods plus freight and insurance if paid.

14.5 If there be no invoice value for the Goods, the compensation shall be calculated by reference to the value of such Goods at the place and time they were delivered to the Customer or Owner or should have been so delivered. The value of the Goods shall be fixed according to the current market price, or, if there be no commodity exchange price or current market price, by reference to the normal value of goods of the same kind and quality.  
14.6 Unless agreed in writing prior to receipt of the Goods, the Company will not accept or deal with bullion, coin, precious stone, jewellery, antiques, works of art or other valuable Goods. Should any Customer nevertheless deliver any such Goods to the Company or cause the Company to handle or deal with any such Goods other than in accordance with prior written agreement, the Company shall be under no liability whatsoever for or in connection with such Goods however arising.  
15. **Notice of Loss, Timobar**  
15.1 The Company shall be discharged of all liability unless:  
(a) notice of any claim is received by the Company or its agent in writing within 14 days of the date of receipt of the Goods, or, if the Goods are not received, within a reasonable time after that date if the Customer proves that it was impossible to notify, and  
(b) suit is brought in the proper form and written notice thereof received by the Company within 9 months after the date specified in Clause 15.2.  
15.2 For the purposes of clause 15.1, the applicable date shall be:  
(a) in the case of loss or damage to Goods, the date of delivery of the Goods,  
(b) in the case of delay or non-delivery of the Goods, the date that the Goods should have been delivered,  
(c) in any other case, the event giving rise to the claim.

**16. General Average**  
16.1 The Customer shall defend, indemnify and hold harmless the Company in respect of any claims of a General Average nature, including any claims or demands for General Average security which may be made on the Company, and the Customer shall forthwith provide such security as may be required by the Company in this connection.  
17. **Miscellaneous**  
17.1 **Notice**  
Any notice served by post shall be deemed to have been given on the third day following the day on which it was posted to the address last known to the Company to be the address of the recipient of the notice.  
17.2 **Defences and Limits of Liability**  
The defences and limits of liability provided in these Conditions shall apply in any action against the Company whether founded in contract or in tort or howsoever otherwise founded.  
17.3 **Legislation**  
Legislation is compulsorily applicable to any business undertaken, these Conditions shall, as regards such business, be read subject to such legislation and nothing in these Conditions shall be construed as a surrender by the Company of any of its rights or immunities or as an increase of any of its responsibilities or liabilities under such legislation and in any part of these Conditions which is repugnant to or inconsistent with any such legislation to any extent such part shall as regards such business be over-riden to that extent and no further.  
17.4 **Headings**  
Headings of clauses or groups of clauses in these Conditions are for indicative purposes only.

**18. Governing Law and Jurisdiction**  
18.1 In the event of a dispute arising out of or in connection with the services of the Company shall be subject to the law of the State or Territory of Australia in which the Company has its principal place of business and any such claim or dispute shall be determined by the Courts of that State or Territory and no other Court.  
18.2 Notwithstanding anything herein contained, the Company shall continue to be subject to any implied warranty provided by the Trade Practices Act 1974 (as amended) of the Commonwealth of Australia or any other Commonwealth or State legislation, if and to the extent that the said Act is applicable to the contract evidenced by these Conditions and prevents the exclusion, modification or limitation of such warranty.  
18.3 Notwithstanding Clause 18.1, where any claim or dispute arising out of or in connection with the services of the Company arises in New Zealand, such claim or dispute shall be determined at the Company's option in accordance with New Zealand law and by New Zealand Courts of competent jurisdiction.  
18.4 If any claim or dispute is to be determined in accordance with New Zealand law, Clause 18.2 shall be deemed to be varied so as to apply on like terms any compulsorily applicable provisions of the Fair Trading Act 1986 (as amended) of New Zealand in place of the legislation referred to in Clause 18.2.  
18.5 Where any national law has application to these Conditions, all Services provided by the Company as a carrier (within the meaning of the Carriage of Goods Act 1979 (as amended) of New Zealand are provided as limited carrier's risk in accordance with these Conditions and (other than when Clause 14.5 applies) the provisions of that Act shall prevail over any inconsistency in these Conditions to the extent of such inconsistency but no further.

**PART II: Company As Agent**  
19. **Special Liability and Indemnity Conditions**  
19.1 In the event that the Company acts as an agent, the Company does not make or purport to make any contract with the Customer for the carriage, storage or handling of the Goods nor for any other physical service in relation to them and acts solely on behalf of the Customer in securing such services by establishing contracts with third parties so that direct contractual relationships are established between the Customer and such third parties.  
19.2 The Company shall not be liable for the acts and omissions of third parties referred to in Clause 19.1.  
19.3 The Company, when acting as an agent, has the authority of the Customer to enter into contracts on behalf of the Customer and to do such acts which the Customer in all respects notwithstanding any departure from the Customer's instructions.  
19.4 Except to the extent caused by the Company's negligence, the Customer shall defend, indemnify and hold harmless the Company in respect of all liability, loss, damage, costs or expenses arising out of any contract made in the procurement of the Customer's requirements in accordance with Clause 19.1.

**20. Choice of Rates**  
20.1 Where there is a choice of rates according to the extent or degree of liability assumed by persons carrying, storing, or handling the Goods, no declaration of value (where available) shall be required by the Company unless previously agreed in writing between the Customer and the Company.

**PART III: Company as Principal**  
21. **Special Liability Conditions**  
21.1 Where the Company contracts as principal for the performance of the Customer's instructions, the Company undertakes to perform, or in its own name to procure, the performance of the Customer's instructions and, subject to the provisions of these Conditions, shall be liable for the loss or damage to the Goods occurring from the time that the Goods are taken into its charge until the time of delivery.  
21.2 Where:  
(a) the Company contracts as a principal and sub-contracts the performance of the Company's services; and  
(b) it can be proved that the loss of or damage to or in respect of the Goods arose or was caused whilst the Goods were in the care or custody of the sub-contractor;  
the Company shall have the full benefit of all rights, limitations and exclusions of liability available to the sub-contractor in the contract between the Company and the sub-contractor and in any law, statute or regulation and the liability of the Company shall not exceed the amount recovered, if any, by the Company from the sub-contractor.  
21.3 Notwithstanding other provisions in these Conditions, if it can be proved where the loss of or damage to the Goods occurred, the Company's liability shall be determined by the provisions contained in any international convention or national law, the provisions of which:  
(a) cannot be departed from by private contract, to the detriment of the claimant, and  
(b) would have applied if the claimant had made a separate and direct contract with the actual provider of the particular service or stage of the service or stage of the carriage where the loss or damage occurred and received as evidence thereof any particular document which must be issued if such international convention or national law shall apply.

21.4 Notwithstanding other provisions in these Conditions, if it can be proved that the loss of or damage to the Goods occurred at sea or on inland waters and the provisions of Clause 21.2 do not apply, the Company's liability shall be determined by the Hague-Visby Rules. Reference to the Hague-Visby Rules to carriage by sea shall be deemed to include reference to carriage by inland waterways and to inland waters and shall be construed accordingly. Notwithstanding the provisions of Clauses 21.2, 21.3 and 21.4, if the loss of or damage to the Goods occurred at sea or on inland waters and the Owner, Charterer or operator of the carrying vessel is entitled to limit its liability at law and establishes a limited fund, the liability of the Company shall be limited to the proportion of such limitation fund as allocated to the Goods.  
21.6 In the event of any inconsistency between these Conditions and the conditions of any Bill of Lading or Air Waybill issued by or on behalf of the Company as Principal, the conditions of any such Bill of Lading or Air Waybill shall prevail to the extent of such inconsistency but no further.

**22. Both-to-Blame Collision Clause**  
22.1 The Both-to-Blame Collision Clause as recommended by BIMCO as at the same of the provision of Services is incorporated into and forms part of these Conditions.

**23. USA and/or Canada and Additional Responsibility Clause**  
23.1 Where respect to transportation within the USA or Canada, the responsibility of the Company shall be to procure transportation by carrier (one or more) and such transportation shall be subject to such carrier's contracts and tariffs and any law compulsorily applicable. The Company guarantees the fulfillment of such carrier's obligations under their contracts and tariffs.  
23.2 If and to the extent that the provisions of the Harter Act of the USA 1893 would otherwise be compulsorily applicable to regulate the Company's responsibility for the Goods during any period prior to loading on or after discharge from the vessel on which the Goods are to be or have been carried, the Company's responsibility shall be determined by the provisions of the Harter Act of the USA 1893. If and to the extent that the provisions of the Regulations made pursuant to the Carriage of Goods by Sea Act 1924 (as amended) of the USA apply to the Goods, the Company's responsibility shall be determined by the provisions of the said Carriage of Goods by Sea Act.  
23.4 If the Hamburg Rules should be held to be compulsorily applicable to any carriage of goods by sea undertaken by the Company as principal, these Conditions shall be read subject to the provisions of the Hamburg Rules and any national law which is repugnant to the Hamburg Rules shall be void to the extent of such repugnancy but no further.

**24. Air Carriage**  
24.1 Where the Company acts as a principal in respect of a carriage of Goods by air, the following notice is hereby given:  
*If the carriage involves an ultimate destination or stop in a country other than the country of departure, the Warsaw Convention may be applicable and the Convention governs and in most cases limits the liability of carriers in respect of loss of or damage to Goods. Agreed stopping places are those places (other than the places of departure and destination) shown under requested routing and/or those places shown in carrier's timetables as scheduled stopping places for the route of carriage. The address of the first carrier is the airport of departure.*  
Notwithstanding any other provision of these Conditions, where the Company acts as a principal in respect of a carriage of Goods by air, the Company's liability in respect of loss of or damage to such Goods shall be determined in accordance with the Warsaw Convention.