

INT GROUP BB

Standard form Letter of Indemnity to be given in return for delivering cargo at a port other than that stated in the Bill of Lading incorporating a Bank's agreement to join in the Letter of Indemnity

Information to the Member

The basic rule for delivery under a B/L is that it should be made to the first party who turns up at the port of destination in possession of and presenting an original B/L. If a cargo owner request to take delivery in any other port, the carrier should insist on presentation of a full set of all originals. The Member should make it a condition before agreeing that a back-letter is signed by charterers. Due to the risk involved, the Club's advice is to resist such requests.

The standard form below is the text recommended by the International Group.

N.B

- *Liability arising from delivery of cargo in other port than that stated in the B/L is not covered by the P&I insurance.*
- *In many jurisdictions, the carrier has no means to sue the shipper under a back-letter following the principle that a claim based on a fraudulent document is unenforceable.*
- *It is advisable to have the back-letter countersigned by a first class bank, if not use form INT GROUP B.*
- *For situations where a full set of original B/L cannot be presented, another form, INT GROUP C or CC, should be used. Please contact the Club for assistance.*

4. The liability of each and every person under this indemnity shall be joint and several and shall not be conditional upon your proceeding first against any person, whether or not such person is party to or liable under this indemnity.
5. This indemnity shall be governed by and construed in accordance with English law and each and every person liable under this indemnity shall at your request submit to the jurisdiction of the High Court of Justice of England.

Yours faithfully,
For and on behalf of
[insert name of Requestor]
The Requestor

.....
Signature

We, [insert name of the Bank], hereby agree to join in this Indemnity providing always that the Bank's liability: -

1. shall be restricted to payment of specified sums of money demanded in relation to the Indemnity (and shall not extend to the provision of bail or other security)
2. shall be to make payment to you forthwith on your written demand in the form of a signed letter certifying that the amount demanded is a sum due to be paid to you under the terms of the Indemnity and has not been paid to you by the Requestor or is a sum which represents monetary compensation due to you in respect of the failure by the Requestor to fulfil its obligations to you under the Indemnity. For the avoidance of doubt the Bank hereby confirms that: -
 - (a) such compensation shall include, but not be limited to, payment of any amount up to the amount stated in proviso 3 below in order to enable you to arrange the provision of security to release the ship (or any other ship in the same or associated ownership, management or control) from arrest or to prevent any such arrest or to prevent any interference in the use or trading of the ship, or other ship as aforesaid, and
 - (b) in the event that the amount of compensation so paid is less than the amount stated in proviso 3 below, the liability of the Bank hereunder shall continue but shall be reduced by the amount of compensation paid.
3. shall be limited to a sum or sums not exceeding in aggregate [insert currency and amount in figures and words]
4. subject to proviso 5 below, shall terminate on [date six years from the date of the Indemnity] (the 'Termination Date'), except in respect of any demands for payment received by the Bank hereunder at the address indicated below on or before that date.
5. shall be extended at your request from time to time for a period of two calendar years at a time provided that: -

- a) the Bank shall receive a written notice signed by you and stating that the Indemnity is required by you to remain in force for a further period of two years, and
- b) such notice is received by the Bank at the address indicated below on or before the then current Termination Date.

Any such extension shall be for a period of two years from the then current Termination Date and, should the Bank for any reason be unwilling to extend the Termination Date, the Bank shall discharge its liability by the payment to you of the maximum sum payable hereunder (or such lesser sum as you may require).

However, in the event of the Bank receiving a written notice signed by you, on or before the then current Termination Date, stating that legal proceedings have been commenced against you as a result of your having delivered the said cargo as specified in the Indemnity, the Bank agrees that its liability hereunder will not terminate until receipt by the Bank of your signed written notice stating that all legal proceedings have been concluded and that any sum or sums payable to you by the Requestor and/or the Bank in connection therewith have been paid and received in full and final settlement of all liabilities arising under the Indemnity.

- 6. shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the law governing the Indemnity and the Bank agrees to submit to the jurisdiction of the court stated within the Indemnity.

It should be understood that, where appropriate, the Bank will only produce and deliver to you all original bills of lading should the same come into the Bank's possession, but the Bank agrees that, in that event, it shall do so.

The Bank agrees to promptly notify you in the event of any change in the full details of the office to which any demand or notice is to be addressed and which is stated below and it is agreed that you shall also promptly notify the Bank in the event of any change in your address as stated above.

Please quote the Bank's Indemnity Ref in all correspondence with the Bank and any demands for payment and notices hereunder.

Yours faithfully

For and on behalf of

[insert name of bank]

[insert full details of the office to which any demand or notice is to be addressed]

.....

Signature