

General Conditions of Participation for Trade Fairs outside Germany



I. Application

1 By signing and returning the registration form, these General Conditions of Participation shall – together with the Special Conditions of Participation – be acknowledged as legally binding. The information and data being provided by the exhibitor will be electronically saved by the organizer but always observing the regulations stipulated under the Federal Data Protection Law of the Federal Republic of Germany and such information will be transmitted or disclosed to third parties only to fulfil contractual duties.

2 The regulations stipulated in the Special Conditions of Participation shall prevail over the regulations stipulated in these General Conditions of Participation should there be a conflict between the regulations stipulated in the Special Conditions of Participation and the regulations stipulated in these General Conditions of Participation. The house rules, the technical specifications and the regulations stipulated in the Special Conditions of Participation constitute also a part of the contract.

3 The application shall constitute a legally binding offer of the exhibitor to conclude a contract from the date the organizer receives the application, irrespective of acceptance; the application cannot be appended with conditions or reservations.

II. Acceptance / Transfer of Stand Space / Contractual Obligation

1 The organizer shall accept the application in accordance with the Conditions of Participation, which apply to all participants (acceptance).

2 The acceptance is subject to the organizer's discretion. If the number of application forms complying with the requirement profile and received by the organizer prior to the expiration of the registration period exceeds the number of available exhibition space, the organizer shall have the right to make a discretionary decision regarding the admission of applicants to the exhibition.

3 The exhibitor may be disqualified from admission to the exhibition, if the exhibitor failed in the past to fulfil his financial obligations vis-a-vis the organizer at any time, or if he failed to fulfil such financial obligations within the prescribed period of time.

4 The legally binding contract shall be concluded upon written notification of acceptance. Should the content of the acceptance differ from that of the application (registration), the contract shall be concluded under the terms of the acceptance – even if the acceptance differs from the application – unless the applicant objects in writing within 2 weeks after receipt of the acceptance. At the beginning of the period, the organizer has to particularly point the exhibitor to the right to object and the consequences of the non-objection in writing. The same shall apply, if it is necessary to postpone the event or to transfer the venue of the event, provided that the change can be regarded to be reasonable; in this case, the corresponding notification of change from the organizer shall supersede the admission.

5 The acceptance only applies to the respective event, the company or corporation applying, its products and services. Products, which do not conform to the list of permitted goods, must not be exhibited at the trade fair.

6 The organizer allocates stand space in accordance with the exhibits being registered to belong to a certain topic or theme within the exhibition.

7 There is no legal entitlement for the allocation of stand space in a certain hall or in a certain hall area. If deemed necessary by the organizer, the organizer is entitled to subsequently allocate the stand space other than stated in the acceptance, to change the size and dimensions of the stand space, to relocate or close entrances or exits from and to the stand and to undertake structural changes in the exhibition halls without legal claims against the organizer, provided there is substantial cause for doing so. In the event of a reduction in stand space size, the exhibitor will be credited with the prorated difference arising from the correspondingly lower space cost.

The exhibitor will be notified without undue delay, if the stand space becomes unavailable due to reasons, which are beyond the organizer's control. In this case, the exhibitor will be entitled to a reimbursement of the participation fee. Any further claims for damages, exceeding the aforementioned reimbursement, shall be expressly excluded.

8 Any complaints by the exhibitor must be submitted in writing without undue delay but at the latest while the event is in progress; the organizer cannot consider complaints at a later date.

9 Furthermore, the organizer shall have the right to rescind the contract for a substantial cause. Such a substantial cause shall be constituted, in particular, if an admissible application for opening insolvency proceedings against the exhibitor's assets has been made or such an application has been dismissed due to lack of funds. The exhibitor must inform the organizer of such circumstances without undue delay.

10 The organizer is entitled to rescind the contract, if the event utilization falls below 50 % of the rental stand space. In this case the organizer is not liable for any damages or losses but has to refund already paid fees or downpayments.

11 After the binding registration and the consequent acceptance, release from the contractual relationship is not possible without the organizer's consent.

12 The organizer may agree to the request for release from the contract only in exceptional cases, e.g. if the stand space in question can be rented to another exhibitor. In this case, the organizer is entitled to demand liquidated damages in the amount of 25 % of the participation fee without providing any proof. The exhibitor shall have the right to prove that a damage or loss has not been incurred or that the quantum of damage or loss incurred is considerably less. In addition to the liquidated damages, the exhibitor is liable for catalogue fees and other costs and expenses, which in particular, have been incurred as a result of a claim by a third party. The occupancy of stand space by an already accepted and allotted participant by means of a stand exchange does not constitute a mitigating form of stand area rental.

13 Should the exhibitor fail to assume the stand space allotted to him at the beginning of the construction period, the organizer will demand the exhibitor to assume the stand space by setting a reasonable timeframe.

14 Should the timeframe set in accordance with II 13 fruitless expire, the organizer shall have the right to rescind the contract and to assert a claim for damages due to non-performance.

15 The following cases will fall solely within the exhibitor's scope of risk:

- a) the products, which have been stipulated for the presentation, cannot be introduced at the venue of the event due to legal requirements prevailing there or due to other reasons, or
- b) such products do not arrive in time, do not arrive undamaged or do not arrive at the venue of the event at all – e.g. as a result of any loss, delay in transport or customs, etc. – or

c) the journey, the journey of the exhibitor's employees or the exhibitor's stand or installation personnel is delayed or becomes impossible. The exhibitor will in all these cases remain under the obligation to pay all the contractual charges and fees agreed upon.

16 After the exhibition has ended the exhibitor is obliged to leave and return the allotted stand space in a condition that equals the condition when the exhibitor took over the stand space. The timeframe in which the exhibitor has to leave shall be determined by the organizer in the Special Terms of Participation. Should the exhibitor fail to comply with this obligation to vacate in time, the organizer is entitled to remove the exhibitor's belongings from the exhibition place on the exhibitor's expense. Furthermore the organizer shall have the right to sell the exhibitor's belongings and to set off claims against him.

III. Construction and Arrangement of Stands

1 All stand constructions and stand designs must comply with statutory safety regulations, and comply with the specified requirements stipulated in the Special Conditions of Participation.

2 All stand construction service providers must have a special permit from the organizer in order to construct the trade fair stands in the exhibition halls. Any additional technical services that may be required, particularly the installation of electricity, water and safety devices, the recruitment of local auxiliary personnel, etc., may be ordered exclusively through the organizer by means of special order forms and against a separate charge, whereas the charges shall be in accordance with the usual charges being market price at the place of venue.

3 For the duration of the event the stands must display the exhibits and be staffed by personnel as stated in the acceptance.

4 The organizer is entitled to demand the removal of exhibits from the stand, which could constitute a considerable disruption to the operation of the event or put the safety of exhibitors and visitors at risk due to their odor, noise, other emissions or appearance. Furthermore, the exhibitor will be responsible for ensuring compliance with all statutory provisions of the host country. In case of non-compliance, the organizer shall also have the right to demand the removal of exhibited articles or the forbearance of a certain activity. Should the exhibitor fail to comply with this demand without undue delay, the organizer is entitled to have the exhibits in question removed at the exhibitor's expense and risk and to close the exhibitor's stand, without any claims for loss or damages against the organizer.

5 The exhibitor is obliged to co-ordinate the construction and design measures for his stand with the organizer in advance. The organizer has to notify the exhibitor about any requested amendments or alterations as early as possible. Furthermore, the exhibitor is obliged to inquire about the relevant statutory regulations, laws etc. or building regulations on his own initiative. Should the exhibitor violate those regulations, the organizer is entitled to vacate or alter the stand on the exhibitor's expense. The organizer does not assume liability for any information provided by him.

IV. Participation Fee and Other Costs / Terms of Payment

1 The amount of the participation fee, the down payment as well as the flat-rate cost of energy will be calculated according to the rates specified in the Special Conditions for Participation. The Invoicing amount will be calculated on the basis of the total stand floor space as allocated and will not exclude any projecting or overhanging parts, pillars, installation connections and other permanent internal fittings.

2 After the exhibitor's admission, the exhibitor will receive an invoice for the participation fee and other costs and possibly a registration fee invoice. The invoice less the downpayment must be paid not later than 10 weeks before the commencement date of the event. The aforesaid invoice amount is to be paid in full without any deductions. Invoices being issued less than 10 weeks prior to the commencement date are due immediately.

3 The organizer is entitled to request a downpayment whereas the due day of such downpayment is stipulated in the Special Conditions of Participation or the downpayment invoice. The rates contractually agreed upon (in the acceptance) are net fixed rates plus legally applicable taxes.

4 The organizer shall have the right to increase the rates by the amount of the corresponding cost increment in the event of any increase in its own prime cost, particularly as a result of higher production, purchasing and labor costs as well as higher fees, taxes and other fiscal charges imposed at the venue of the event. Should the increment exceed 10% of the rates being published by the Organizer in the application forms the Organizer grants the exhibitor the right to terminate the contract within 10 working days from the date of the receipt of such an increment notice.

5 The payment of all invoices on or before the due date shall be a prerequisite for the occupation of the stand space.

6 Failure to conduct payment in time will result in interest charges amounting to 6% per annum. Should the damages incurred by the organizer exceed this interest amount, he shall be entitled to these additional damages. The claim for compensation will cease or be reduced, if the exhibitor may prove that the organizer has incurred substantially less or no damage as a result of the payment default.

7 Should settlement of the invoice not be effected within the deadline (due date), the organizer is entitled to terminate the contract.

8 As a security for all claims the organizer might have against the exhibitor, the organizer has a pledge on all movable objects belonging to the exhibitor on the stand area.

9 Any services that the organizer has provided will be invoiced either in EUR, in USD or in another currency to be determined by the organizer at the organizer's discretion. The exhibitor is obliged to pay the amount and currency stipulated on the invoice ("billing currency"). Should the organizer, as a courtesy, accept settlement of the invoice in a currency other than the billing currency, such payment must be calculated based on the conversion on the official buying rate of the billing currency on the date of payment. Any exchange rate losses in relation to the billing currency after the invoice becomes due for payment are at the exhibitor's expense.

10 Any complaints relating to the invoice must be made in writing, without undue delay, at the latest 2 weeks after receipt; complaints submitted at a later date cannot be considered.

11 Any projecting or overhanging parts, pillars, installation connections and other permanent internal fittings in the stand space do not entitle the respective exhibitor to any reduction in the participation or other costs.

12 The organizer shall also be entitled to the payment of the full amount, should the exhibitor fail to fulfil any of his contractual obligations. This does not affect further claims for damages. Should the organizer fail to fully or partially fulfil his contractual obligation, the exhibitor is entitled to a proportional reimbursement of any payments already made by the exhibitor. Exceeding claims are excluded in accordance with section VII.

13 In the event of counter claims being made against those claims arising from the contract, the exhibitor may only set off or assert his right of retention in as far as these claims are undisputed or have been awarded by an enforceable judgement.

14 Should an invoice upon request of the exhibitor be sent to a third party, this does not constitute any waiver of claims or obligations of the exhibitor. The latter remains obliged to pay until such time as the account receivable has been settled in full.

15 All payments being due to the organizer must be made in full without deductions, whereas bank charges, currency exchange fees etc. have to be borne by the exhibitor or debtor.

V. Co-exhibitors, Additional, Group and Joint Stands

1 Stand spaces shall be rented out only as a whole unit and only to one contracting party. The exhibitor is not permitted to relocate, exchange, share, or in any other way make the stand space allocated to him completely or partially accessible to third parties, without the prior consent of the organizer.

2 Use of the stand area by another company with its own products and own staff (co-exhibitor) requires a special application for admission and the consequent approval by the organizer. This also applies to companies for which one of the requirements mentioned (own products or own staff) is not fulfilled (additionally represented company). Companies, which are members of a corporate group as well as subsidiaries, are considered to be co-exhibitors. The organizer reserves the right to demand an additional participation charge and other costs for the admission of co-exhibitors/ additionally represented companies. Such charges and costs will be invoiced to the exhibitor.

3 Co-exhibitors and additionally represented companies are accepted only under the conditions stipulated in section II of these General Conditions of Participation; these Co-exhibitors and additionally represented companies are equally subject to the Conditions of Participation as they apply to exhibitors.

4 Should an exhibitor accommodate a co-exhibitor or an additionally represented company without the express permission of the organizer, this shall entitle the organizer to immediate termination of the entire contract and to have the stand space vacated at the exhibitor's risk and expense.

5 After the acceptance has been received, the contractual relationship remains exclusively between the organizer and the exhibitor, who is liable for his and the co-exhibitor's and the additionally represented company's non-performance, breach of contract etc.

6 Should several exhibitors wish to participate at the event together on one stand, the General and Special Conditions of Participation are binding for each exhibitor. In addition, they are obliged to name a contact person in their application, jointly appointed as an authorized representative. Moreover the conditions stated in section IV apply analogously. In the event of permitted joint use of the stand space, all exhibitors are liable to the organizers for payment of the participation and other costs and the fulfilment of other obligations – regardless on which legal grounds – as co-debtors.

VI. Domestic Authority

1 The organizer has the right to establish rules of the house for every event. These rules come into force after their publication at the place of the event. The rules of the house become part of the contract. There is no obligation to hand out these rules of the house to each exhibitor and the exhibitors have to inform themselves about the content of the rules of the house.

2 The organizer shall exercise domestic authority throughout the exhibition area. The organizer is entitled to have exhibits removed from stands if their display contravenes statutory laws, is offensive or do not comply with the list of permitted goods.

3 The promotion of political and ideological contents is prohibited. In the event of serious offences against these Conditions of Participation, the organizer is entitled to close the stand or have it vacated.

VII. Warranty / Liability / Insurance

1 The organizer does not assume any obligation to exercise proper care of exhibits, stand fittings and objects, which are the property of the stand personnel. Any liability for damages and losses is expressly excluded, if it is possible to underwrite the risks. This does not affect the liability incurred by wilful acts or grossly negligent misconduct. This exclusion of liability is not affected by security measures of the organizer.

2 Within the scope of liability, the statutory regulations concerning the burden of proof shall continue to apply; they will not be affected by this clause except in cases concerning liquidated damages.

3 It is recommended to conclude an exhibition insurance policy, which can be obtained via the Exhibitor Service Manual. In addition the exhibitor may order special security measures by applying so with the corresponding form in the Exhibitor Service Manual.

4 The exhibitor is liable to the organizer for any damage inflicted on the organizer, provided that such damage is attributable to the exhibitor's culpable (wilful action or negligence) action or the culpable action of the exhibitor's personnel, the exhibitor's employees or any third party which the exhibitor has appointed or any other third parties, whose services the exhibitor is using for the purpose of fulfilling his obligations.

5 Instead of proving the quantum of an incurred damage, the organizer shall be entitled to demand liquidated damages in the amount of 25 % of the participation fee (including rent and additional services) without providing any proof. However, in this case the exhibitor shall have the right to prove that a damage or loss has not been incurred or that the quantum of the damage or loss incurred is less than the liquidated damage. The organizer may choose to claim damages exceeding the amount of 25 % of the participation fee if the organizer can prove such higher damage.

6 The exhibitor is obliged to strictly comply with the Technical Guidelines, which will be handed over to the exhibitor by the organizer, as well as with the information from the organizer's circular letters with regard to questions on the preparation and implementation of the event. The exhibitor is furthermore obliged to inform himself about legal requirements and necessary permits and to obtain the same.

7 The organizer may request from the exhibitor to obtain an insurance to cover certain risks, which have been specifically addressed to the exhibitor.

8 In the event of any claims regarding fatal injuries, bodily or health injuries, the organizer shall be liable for damages caused intentionally or by gross negligence in accordance with statutory obligations. Other contractual and/or legal damage claims of any type, including damage claims for consequential damages, shall be excluded, unless the damage was caused by the intentional or grossly negligent action of the organizer.

9 The foregoing limitations of liability shall apply, to the full extent, to the executive organs, employees, legal representatives, persons employed in performing an obligation and vicarious agents, whose services are used by the organizer for the performance of the contract. However, all claims shall be restricted to the payment of typical, foreseeable damages. Furthermore, the organizer shall be liable for every culpable infringement of an essential contractual obligation. Essential contractual obligations shall include only those contractual obligations, which are indispensable to the execution of the contract. This applies to all claims, which could arise as a result of, and in connection with, this contract. If the organizer is compelled to temporarily vacate or permanently close the exhibition area or parts thereof, to postpone, shorten or extend the event as the result of a force majeure, or for other reasons beyond his control, the exhibitor is not entitled to any claims, in particular, not to claims for damages or losses against the organizer.

10 The responsibility of the event organizer is limited to fault in all cases without prejudice to any limitations of liability under these Conditions of Participation. If a contract provides for the procurement of certain items, the organizer does not assume the risk of procurement, unless expressly agreed otherwise in individual cases.

11 The warranty period for deliveries of new items is 1 year if there is no shorter statutory warranty period applicable. For second hand articles, any liability based on warranty is excluded. There is no warranty or liability for normal wear and tear, force majeure, faulty or negligent handling, excessive demands or failure to comply with statutory provisions or operating instructions.

12 The exhibitor shall be liable and bear the risk for all damages incurred during transportation to and from the exhibition venue including all damages incurred during transportation within the exhibition building.

VIII. Period of Limitation

Any claims of the exhibitor, which may be asserted against the organizer and which may arise from the contractual relationship, as well as all other claims relating thereto, shall become time-barred after one year, unless a shorter statutory limitation period applies or the liability of the organizer results from an intentional action. The longer statutory limitation period for tortious claims, fraudulent intent and culpable impossibility of performance shall remain unaffected. The limitation period shall commence at the close of the month, in which the closing date of the event falls.

IX. Reservations / Final Provisions

1 The exhibitor is solely responsible for compliance with all the laws, guidelines, and other regulations being applicable at the place of venue of the event, even if the contents of the organizer's conditions for participation deviate from such regulations. The exhibitor must inquire about the relevant

regulations prevailing at the venue of the event promptly and comprehensively, and thereby obtain the required information. The organizer will not assume any liability for damages and other losses, which might result from any non-compliance with this obligation.

2 The organizer shall have the right to postpone, shorten, extend or cancel the event, as well as to terminate the event temporarily or definitely, as well as individually or collectively, if such an action is required due to unforeseen events such as force majeure, natural disasters, wars, disturbances, strikes, breakdown or obstruction of traffic and communication. In the event of any postponement, shortening, extension or termination, the exhibitor shall not be entitled to the payment of any resulting damages, which the exhibitor may suffer. The exhibitor shall have the right to rescind the contract, if he loses interest in participating because of such an action and if the exhibitor consequently waives the reservation for the stand space allotted to him. Upon full knowledge of the change, the rescission of the contract must be declared in writing and without undue delay.

3 In case of the cancellation of an event, the organizer shall not be liable for damages and/or other losses, which might be incurred for the exhibitor. Upon request of the organizer, the exhibitor will be obligated to defray a reasonable share of the expenses resulting from the preparation of the event. The amount of the share to be paid by each exhibitor shall be stipulated by the organizer after consultation with the business organizations concerned, whereas the maximum shall be 5% of the total costs. By signing the application form the exhibitor acknowledges the organizer's Conditions of Participation (the General and Special Sections) together with all other regulations relating to the contractual relationship, as legally binding.

4 Should these provisions be or become partially legally invalid or void, this shall not effect the validity of the remaining provisions or the contract. In this event, the parties bind each other to replace the invalid provision with a valid provision that comes to the commercial purpose of the invalid provision as close as possible. The same applies to loopholes.

5 All agreements, approvals and alterations to the contract must be made in writing. The same shall also apply to any amendment or waiver of this written-form clause itself.

X. Place of Fulfilment / Place of Jurisdiction

1 Place of fulfilment for monetary obligations of the exhibitor – no matter on which legal basis – shall be the principal place of business of the organizer as far as there is no other place of fulfilment stipulated in the Special Terms of Participation.

2 The place of jurisdiction, also in cases involving documents, bills of exchange and cheques is Cologne, provided the exhibitor is a businessman, a corporation, a legal entity of public law or a separate asset under public law. The organizer shall also be entitled, at his option, to lodge claims at the court of the place where the exhibitor has his place of business or his branch.

3 The entire legal contractual relationship between the exhibitor and the organizer is subject to German Law. The contract is governed by German Law.