Past issues
IUMI Political Forum

Rotterdam Rules

Brief description

The United Nations' Convention on contracts for the International Carriage of Goods Wholly or Partly by Sea – the "Rotterdam Rules", establishes a uniform legal regime governing the rights and obligations of shippers, carriers and consignees under a contract for door-to-door carriage that includes an international sea leg. The Convention builds upon, and provides a modern alternative to, earlier conventions relating to the international carriage of goods by sea, in particular, the International Convention for the Unification of Certain Rules of Law relating to Bills of Lading (Brussels, 25 August 1924) ("the Hague Rules"), and its Protocols ("the Hague-Visby Rules"), and the United Nations Convention on the Carriage of Goods by Sea (Hamburg, 31 March 1978) ("the Hamburg Rules").

The Rotterdam Rules provide a legal framework that takes into account the many technological and commercial developments that have occurred in maritime transport since the adoption of those earlier conventions, including the growth of containerization, the desire for door-to-door carriage under a single contract, and the development of electronic transport documents. The Convention provides shippers and carriers with a binding and balanced universal regime to support the operation of maritime contracts of carriage that may involve other modes of transport.

Relevant authority / organisations and documents

- ***UN Commission for International Trade Law (UNCITRAL)***

About IUMI The International Union of Marine Insurance e.V. (IUMI) is a non-profit association established for the purpose of protecting, safeguarding and advancing insurers' interests in marine and all types of transport insurance. It also provides an essential forum to discuss and exchange ideas, information and statistics of common interest for marine underwriters and in exchange with other marine professionals. IUMI currently represents 46 national and marine market insurance and reinsurance associations.

The roles of IUMI are to
– act as a focal point and representative voice on behalf of the marine and transport insurance industries in dialogue with all interested parties,
– share information and research that are non-commercially sensitive with regard to marine and transport insurance,
– bring together marine insurance practitioners to facilitate the exchange of technical information and best practice, and
– provide information on positions taken by IUMI.

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