

PACIFIC COAST  
LONGSHORE  
CONTRACT DOCUMENT

1996 - 1999

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ILWU-PMA

**17.421** If such an appeal is taken within the time limits allowed, the Joint Coast Labor Relations Committee shall either confirm or reverse or modify the decision of the Joint Port Labor Relations Committee without any further hearing, or order a further hearing and thereupon issue its decision on the basis of the entire record including that at both hearings.

**17.43** An appeal from the decision of the Joint Coast Labor Relations Committee can be presented to the Coast Arbitrator (or by agreement of the Joint Coast Labor Relations Committee to an Area Arbitrator) by the individual involved, the Employers or the Union. An appeal to the Coast Arbitrator filed by an applicant for registration or a casual longshoreman involving the subject of registration shall be permitted only for those grievances which the Joint Coast Labor Relations Committee, in its sole discretion, certifies to the Coast Arbitrator that the facts introduced in support of the grievance into the record of the prior proceedings, if unrebutted, may support a finding of a violation of the grievant's Section 13 rights under this Agreement. Appeal shall be by a written request for an arbitrator's hearing mailed or delivered to the Union and the Employer representatives of the Joint Coast Labor Relations Committee if by an individual, or to the individual and the other party's representative on the Joint Coast Labor Relations Committee if by either the Union or the Employers. Such an appeal shall be timely only if such request for an arbitrator's hearing is so filed in writing with the Joint Coast Labor Relations Committee no later than 7 days after issuance of the decision of the Joint Coast Labor Relations Committee from which an appeal to an arbitrator is taken.

**17.431** The arbitration procedure shall be carried on in accordance with the procedures generally applicable under this Agreement for arbitration before the Coast Arbitrator.

**17.5 Arbitrators and Awards.**

**17.51** The parties shall have an arbitrator for each of the said 4 port areas and a Coast Arbitrator.

**17.511** The Area Arbitrator shall be appointed by the Joint Coast Labor Relations Committee and shall serve at its discretion. If any Area Arbitrator shall at any time be unable or refuse or fail to act, the Joint Coast Labor Relations Committee shall select a successor or substitute.

**17.512** The Coast Arbitrator shall be selected by the Joint Coast Labor Relations Committee. If the Committee fails to agree on the selection of the Coast Arbitrator, the individual shall be selected by a 6-person panel of prominent industry representatives: 3 selected by the Union and 3 selected by the Employers.

**17.52** Powers of arbitrators shall be limited strictly to the application and interpretation of the Agreement as written. The arbitrators shall have jurisdiction to decide any and all disputes arising under the Agreement including cases dealing with the resumption or continuation of work.

**17.53** Arbitrators' decisions must be based upon the showing of facts and their application under the specific provisions of the written Agreement and be expressly confined to, and extend only to, the particular issue in dispute. The arbitrators shall have power to pass upon any and all objections to their jurisdiction. If an arbitrator holds that a particular dispute does not arise under the Agreement, then such dispute shall be subject to arbitration only by mutual consent.

**17.54** In the event the parties agree that an arbitrator has exceeded his authority and jurisdiction or that he is involved in the industry in any other position of interest which is in conflict with his authority and jurisdiction, he shall be disqualified for any further service.

**17.55** All decisions of the arbitrators, except as provided in Sections 17.261 and 17.6, shall be final and binding upon all parties. Decisions shall be in writing signed by the arbitrator and delivered to the respective parties.

**17.56** All expenses and salaries of the arbitrators shall be borne equally by the parties, except where specifically provided herein to the contrary.

**17.57** All decisions of arbitrators shall be observed and/or implemented. No decision of an Area Arbitrator, interim or formal, can be appealed unless it is observed and/or implemented.

**17.6** Informal hearings and interim rulings.

**17.61** When a grievance or dispute arises on the job and is not resolved through the steps of Sections 17.21 and 17.22, and it is claimed that work is not being continued as required by Section 11, a request by either party shall refer the matter to the Area Arbitrator (or by agreement of the Joint Coast Labor Relations Committee to the Coast Arbitrator) for his consideration in an informal hearing; such referral may be prior to formal disagreement in any Joint Labor Relations Committee or upon failure to agree on the question in the Joint Area Labor Relations Committee. Such hearing may be ex parte if either party fails or refuses to participate, provided that the arbitrator may temporarily delay an ex parte hearing to permit immediate bona fide efforts to settle an issue without a hearing.

**17.62** The arbitrator shall act with his powers limited strictly to the application and interpretation of the Agreement as written. The parties shall have the right to present such views as they wish to the arbitrator, but it shall not be necessary to have a shorthand or stenotype reporter present to report the proceedings nor shall employment of counsel be necessary. The arbitrator, on this basis, shall promptly issue an oral interim ruling with respect to the grievance or dispute and thereafter

confirm it in writing. An interim ruling shall be binding on the parties regarding the particular issue on the particular ship on the particular occasion but shall not be a precedent for other cases. Any interim ruling shall be binding unless reversed by a contrary decision after a formal hearing.

**17.63** If either party is dissatisfied with the interim ruling, the question shall be immediately referred at the request of such party to the arbitrator for hearing and decision in accordance with the normal procedure under Section 17.5 of this Agreement; the arbitrator shall then proceed as if there had been a failure to agree on the question by the Joint Port Labor Relations Committee, provided that the arbitrator may temporarily delay a hearing to permit prompt bona fide efforts to settle the question in the Port or Area Joint Labor Relations Committee.

**17.64** The use of the informal procedure leading to an interim ruling can be waived by consent of both parties with respect to any particular dispute or grievance. If at the beginning of the informal procedure either party establishes a good faith claim that an issue, other than a dispute with respect to Section 11, is of general significance or that the formal procedure will be necessary to settle such issue, the arbitrator shall rule that the informal procedure be bypassed regarding such issue. In the absence of such waiver or decision to bypass, the arbitrator shall hold an informal hearing and issue an interim ruling regarding the dispute in accordance with the procedure set forth above.

**17.7** Discipline by return to the dispatching hall.

**17.71** The employer shall have the right to return to the dispatching hall any man (or to send home any nonregistered man) for incompetence, insubordination or failure to perform