

(a) Joint Coast Labor Relations Committee meeting within twenty-four (24) hours; and

(b) Coast Arbitrator within twenty-four (24) hours.

Such hearing shall include all information regarding the dispute. At the request of either party, the Coast Arbitration shall be held at the site of the dispute. If such request is made, the timeline shall be extended by twenty-four (24) hours.

**17.262** The Joint Coast Labor Relations Committee and the Coast Arbitrator shall have power to review decisions relative to the operation of dispatching halls, or the interpretation of port working and dispatching rules, or discharges, or pay (including travel pay and penalty rates), but shall exercise it in any case only if the Committee decides to review the specific case.

**17.263** When either the Union or the Association claims that there has been a violation of Section 13 by anyone bound by this Agreement, the grievance shall be submitted to the Joint Coast Labor Relations Committee and shall be resolved there or referred to the Coast Arbitrator for hearing and decision in accordance with the applicable contract provisions.

**17.27** In the event that the Employer and Union members of the Joint Coast Labor Relations Committee fail to agree on any question before it, including a question as to whether the issue was properly before the Coast Labor Relations Committee, such question shall be immediately referred at the request of either party to the Coast Arbitrator for hearing and decision, and the decision of the Coast Arbitrator shall be final and conclusive.

**17.271** Referrals to the Coast Arbitrator must be submitted and heard by the Coast Arbitrator within 6 months following the date of disagreement at the Coast Labor Relations

Committee level. Referrals not submitted within 6 months shall be considered "dropped."

**17.28** Miscellaneous provisions.

**17.281** Should either party fail to participate in any of the steps of the grievance machinery, the matter shall automatically move to the next higher level.

**17.282** If the local grievance machinery becomes stalled or fails to work, the matter in dispute can be referred at once by either the Union or the Association to the Joint Coast Labor Relations Committee for disposition.

**17.283** The hearing and investigation of grievances relating to discipline by return to the dispatching hall (Section 17.7), penalties (Section 17.8) and dispatching hall personnel (Section 8.23) shall be given precedence over all other business before the Joint Port and Joint Area Labor Relations Committees and before the Area Arbitrator. Either party may request that:

- (a) grievances arising under Section 17.7 or involving dispatch hall disputes (except those covered by Section 17.151) be processed initially and from step to step within 24 hours; and
- (b) failures to observe Area Arbitrators' awards be processed to the next step within 24 hours.

**17.284** Nothing in this Section 17 shall prevent the parties from mutually agreeing upon other means of deciding matters upon which there has been disagreement.

**17.3** Business Agents.

**17.31** To aid in prompt settlement of grievances and to observe Agreement performance, it is agreed that Business Agents as Union representatives shall have access to ships and wharves of the employer to facilitate the work of the Business