

Federal Maritime Commission

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rules, procedure, or practice of the Commission, or any situation in which the Commission for good cause finds (and incorporates such findings in such rule) that notice and public procedure are impracticable, unnecessary, or contrary to the public interest. [Rule 52.]

§ 502.53 Participation in rulemaking.

(a) Interested persons will be afforded an opportunity to participate in rulemaking through submission of written data, views, or arguments, with or without opportunity to present the same orally in any manner. No replies to the written submissions will be allowed unless, because of the nature of the proceeding, the Commission indicates that replies would be necessary or desirable for the formulation of a just and reasonable rule, except that, where the proposed rules are such as are required by statute to be made on the record after opportunity for a hearing, such hearing shall be conducted pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 556 and 557, and the procedure shall be the same as stated in subpart J of this part. In the event that replies or succeeding rounds of comments are permitted, copies shall be served on all prior participants in the proceeding. A list of participants may be obtained from the Secretary of the Commission.

(b) In those proceedings in which respondents are named, interested persons who wish to participate shall file a petition to intervene in accordance with the provisions of § 502.72 [Rule 53.]

[49 FR 44369, Nov. 6, 1984, as amended at 55 FR 28399, July 11, 1990]

§ 502.54 Contents of rules.

The Commission will incorporate in any rules adopted a concise general statement of their basis and purpose. [Rule 54.]

§ 502.55 Effective date of rules.

The publication or service of any substantive rule shall be made not less than thirty (30) days prior to its effective date except (a) as otherwise provided by the Commission for good cause found and published in the FEDERAL REGISTER or (b) in the case of rules granting or recognizing exemption or relieving restriction; interpre-

tative rules; or statements of policy. [Rule 55.]

§ 502.56 Negotiated rulemaking.

The Commission, either upon petition of interested persons or upon its own motion, may establish a negotiated rulemaking committee to negotiate and develop consensus on a proposed rule, if, upon consideration of the criteria of 5 U.S.C. 563, use of such a committee is determined by the Commission to be in the public interest. [Rule 56.]

[58 FR 38649, July 19, 1993, as amended at 64 FR 7808, Feb. 17, 1999]

Subpart E—Proceedings; Pleadings; Motions; Replies

§ 502.61 Proceedings.

(a) Proceedings are commenced by the filing of a complaint, or by order of the Commission upon petition or upon its own motion, or by reference by the Commission to the formal docket of a petition for a declaratory order.

(b) In proceedings referred to the Office of Administrative Law Judges, the Commission shall specify a date on or before which hearing shall commence, which date shall be no more than six months from the date of publication in the FEDERAL REGISTER of the Commission's order instituting the proceedings or notice of complaint filed. Hearing dates may be deferred by the presiding judge only to prevent substantial delay, expense, detriment to the public interest or undue prejudice to a party.

(c) In the order instituting a proceeding or in the notice of filing of complaint and assignment, the Commission shall establish dates by which the initial decision and the final Commission decision will be issued. These dates may be extended by order of the Commission for good cause shown.

(d) All orders instituting a proceeding or noticing the filing of a complaint will contain language requiring that at an early stage of the proceeding and when practicable the parties shall consider the use of alternative dispute resolution in such manner as the presiding officer shall direct and further requiring that hearings shall include oral testimony and cross-examination

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in the discretion of the presiding officer only upon proper showing that there are genuine issues of material fact that cannot be resolved on the basis of sworn statements, affidavits, depositions, or other documents, or that the nature of the matter in issue is such that an oral hearing and cross-examination are necessary for the development of an adequate record. [Rule 61.]

[49 FR 44369, Nov. 6, 1984, as amended at 58 FR 38649, July 19, 1993; 64 FR 7808, Feb. 17, 1999; 64 FR 23551, May 3, 1999; 66 FR 43512, Aug. 20, 2001]

§ 502.62 Complaints and fee.

(a) The complaint must be verified and shall contain the name and address of each complainant, the name and address of each complainant's attorney or agent, the name and address of each person against whom complaint is made, a concise statement of the cause of action, and a request for the relief or other affirmative action sought.

(b) Where reparation is sought and the nature of the proceeding so requires, the complaint shall set forth: the ports of origin and destination of the shipments; consignees, or real parties in interest, where shipments are on "order" bill of lading; consignors; date of receipt by carrier or tender of delivery to carrier; names of vessels; bill of lading number (and other identifying reference); description of commodities; weights; measurement; rates; charges made or collected; when, where, by whom and to whom rates and charges were paid; by whom the rates and charges were borne; the amount of damage; and the relief sought. Except under unusual circumstances and for good cause shown, reparation will not be awarded upon a complaint in which it is not specifically asked for, nor upon a new complaint by or for the same complainant which is based upon a finding in the original proceeding. Wherever a rate, fare, charge, rule, regulation, classification, or practice is involved, appropriate reference to the tariff should be made, if possible.

(c) If the complaint fails to indicate the sections of the acts alleged to have been violated or clearly to state facts which support the allegations, the Commission may, on its own initiative,

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require the complaint to be amended to supply such further particulars as it deems necessary.

(d) The complaint should designate the place at which hearing is desired.

(e) Complainant(s) must state whether informal dispute resolution procedures were used prior to filing the complaint and whether complainant(s) consulted with the Commission Dispute Resolution Specialist about utilizing alternative dispute resolution (ADR) under the Commission's ADR program.

(f) A form of complaint is set forth in Exhibit No. 1 to this subpart.

(g) The complaint shall be accompanied by remittance of a \$221 filing fee.

(h) Complainants desiring to use the discovery provisions of subpart L must commence discovery at the time the complaint is filed, pursuant to § 502.201(b).

(i) For special types of cases, see § 502.271 in subpart Q (Refund or waiver of freight charges); subpart K (Shortened Procedure); and subpart S (Small Claims). [Rule 62.]

[49 FR 44369, Nov. 6, 1984, as amended at 55 FR 28399, July 11, 1990; 63 FR 50535, Sept. 22, 1998; 64 FR 7808, Feb. 17, 1999; 66 FR 43513, Aug. 20, 2001; 67 FR 39859, June 11, 2002; 70 FR 10329, Mar. 3, 2005]

§ 502.63 Statute of limitations for reparations.

(a) Complaints seeking reparation pursuant to section 11 of the Shipping Act of 1984 (46 U.S.C. 41301-41302, 41305-41307(a)) shall be filed within three years after the cause of action accrues.

(b) The Commission will consider as in substantial compliance with a statute of limitations a complaint in which complainant alleges that the matters complained of, if continued in the future, will constitute violations of the shipping acts in the particulars and to the extent indicated and in which complainant prays for reparation accordingly for injuries which may be sustained as a result of such violations. (See §§ 502.251-502.253 and Exhibit No. 1 to subpart O.)

(c) Notification to the Commission that a complaint may or will be filed for the recovery of reparation will not constitute a filing within the applicable statutory period.