General Terms of Business
for Trade Fairs and Exhibitions organised by Messe Berlin GmbH

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1 Applications

1.1 Stand Applications
Applications to participate in a trade fair or exhibition (event) must be made using the form marked “Application Form”. This form should be completed carefully and should include a legally binding signature. The application is an irrevocable offer to enter into a contractual agreement with Messe Berlin GmbH (hereinafter “Messe Berlin”), to which the exhibitor is committed until the commencement of the event.

1.2 Details of the Contract
The main sections of the contract are:
- The Application Form,
- the Special Conditions of Participation,
- the Regulations as contained in the Exhibitor Service Documents,
- the General Terms of Business.

Where there is conflict between these various regulations they shall apply in the order listed above.

1.3 Conclusion of the Contractual Regulations
By signing the stand application the exhibitor recognises as binding the Terms of Business and Conditions of Participation, as well as the Regulations contained in the Exhibitor Service Documents. He is responsible for ensuring that those persons employed by him during the event also comply with the terms of the contract in every respect.

2 Joint Exhibitors
If a number of exhibitors intend to hire a stand jointly, they must name one of their number in their application who will be authorised to negotiate with Messe Berlin on their behalf.

The authorised party bears the same liability for any faults or cases of negligence on the part of those whom he is authorised to represent as he does for his own faults and negligence. The participating exhibitors are liable jointly and severally to Messe Berlin.

3 Conclusion of Contract

3.1 Confirmation of Order
Messe Berlin will confirm its decision to accept an offer with a written confirmation of order (acceptance of the exhibitor and the exhibits for which application has been made).

3.2 Restrictions on the Exhibitor and Exhibits
If relevant grounds exist, and in particular if there is insufficient space, Messe Berlin may exclude individual exhibitors from participating, and may also limit the event to specific groups of exhibitors, if this becomes necessary in order to attain the objectives of the event. This also applies to exhibits.

3.3 Deviations from the Application
If Messe Berlin accepts the application for display space or for exhibits, subject to extensions, restrictions or other alterations, it is obliged to abide by this offer for a period of two weeks.

4 Allocation of Stands

4.1 Principle
In allocating the stand Messe Berlin will take into account the subject and the way in which a particular event is subdivided, as well as the space that is available. Messe Berlin will endeavour to meet specific requirements for stand locations wherever possible.

4.2 Changes to Adjoining Stands
The exhibitor should accept that changes may take place in the situation on other stands at the beginning of the event, compared with the time at which initial acceptance was granted. No claims for damages by either party can be entertained.

4.3 Exchanging Stands or Transferring them to Third Persons
The allocated stand may not be exchanged for that of another exhibitor, nor may it be transferred either partially or completely to a third person unless agreement has been reached with Messe Berlin.

5 Exhibits

5.1 Removal, Exchange
Only the agreed exhibits may be displayed. Furthermore they may only be removed subject to the approval of Messe Berlin. Exhibits may only be replaced by other items if written agreement has been obtained from Messe Berlin, and replacement must take place at least one hour before the official daily opening time, or one hour after the official closing time.

5.2 Exclusions
Messe Berlin is entitled to demand that exhibits should be removed if these were not included in the stand hire contract, or if they subsequently prove to cause annoyance or danger, or are incompatible with the objectives of the event. In the event of non-compliance, Messe Berlin is entitled to have recourse to law in removing the exhibits at the exhibitor’s expense.

5.3 Direct Sales
Unless expressly permitted, no items may be sold directly. If such approval is given the exhibits must be marked with clearly legible price tickets. It is the exhibitor’s responsibility to obtain the necessary approval from the trading and health authorities, and to observe these regulations. The Exhibitor Service Documents contain further details.

5.4 Protection of Copyrights and Patents
It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to ensure that copyrights and other industrial patents exist for his exhibits. A six month period of protection from the beginning of an exhibition for the protection of the inventions, samples and trademarks will only become effective if the Federal Minister of Justice has published the relevant announcement in the Bundesgesetzblatt (Federal Law Gazette).
6  Payment Conditions

6.1  Date when Payment becomes Due
The stand rental, as per Confirmation of Order, is to be paid onto one of the accounts listed on the invoice. These payments must be made within the time period stated in the specific trade fair conditions of participation and be annotated with the invoice number and customer number. The amounts are due for payment at the time the invoice is issued. A final invoice will be sent after the event.

6.2  Transfer of Claims, Offsetting Claims
Claims against Messe Berlin are not transferable. Claims may only be offset in the case of uncontested counter-claims or counter-claims which have been ruled valid.

6.3  Objections
Objections to invoices will only be considered if submitted to Messe Berlin in writing within 14 days following issue of the invoice.

6.4  Hirer’s Rights of Lien
In order to secure any claims it may have, Messe Berlin shall be entitled to exercise its rights of lien as hirer, and to sell the items thus withheld as it wishes, following notification in writing. Messe Berlin is only liable for any damage to the items held in lien if such damage was caused maliciously or by gross negligence.

7  Liability, Insurance

7.1  Messe Berlin assumes full liability for all damages resulting from intention or gross negligence on the part of Messe Berlin, its legal representatives or managing staff.

7.2  Messe Berlin is fundamentally liable for damages caused due to gross negligence on the part of assistants employed by Messe Berlin. This liability is limited to damages that are generally associated with this type of contract.

7.3  Messe Berlin is fundamentally liable for every breach of contract with regard to major contractual obligations. Major contractual obligations are defined as those that are vital to achieving the objectives of the contract (cardinal obligations). For breaches of cardinal obligations, provided they do not fall under Section 7.1, liability is limited to damages that are generally associated with this type of contract.

7.4  The limits of liability according to Paragraphs 1 through 3 do not apply to liability for insufficient warranted quality, liability according to German product liability laws, and liability for loss of life, limb, or health.

7.5  Messe Berlin is not liable for pre-existing deficiencies associated with rented space and equipment (guarantee liability), regardless of fault.

7.6  The exhibitor is liable in accordance with legal regulations. It is recommended that exhibitors carry sufficient insurance.

For further details, see the Exhibitor Service Documents.

8  Cancellation, Non-participation on the Part of the Exhibitor; Withdrawal from the Contract by Messe Berlin

8.1  Cancellation, Non-participation on the Part of the Exhibitor
The full stand rental charge shall still be payable if the exhibitor cancels or fails to take part in the event without notification of cancellation. If the exhibitor cancels and another lessee can be found for the stand, Messe Berlin retains the right to demand 25% of the invoiced stand rental charge from the original lessee to cover costs. The full stand rental must be paid when Messe Berlin rents the agreed upon stand space, although the overall area is reduced as a result of the cancellation/non-participation.

The lessee retains the right to submit evidence to prove that no such costs were incurred by Messe Berlin, or that they were lower than stated. The right to assert additional claims remains unaffected.

8.2  Withdrawal by Messe Berlin
Messe Berlin is entitled to withdraw under the following circumstances:

a) if the rental charge is not received in full at the latest by the date stated in the invoice for participation costs and if the exhibitor does not pay before the expiry of any extension period that may be granted;

b) if the stand is not occupied in time, i.e. if it is not obviously occupied within 24 hours before the official opening;

c) if the exhibitor infringes domiciliary rights, and does not refrain from such actions even after being advised to do so;

d) if the registered exhibitor, as a private or corporate entity, no longer conforms to the requirements for granting acceptance, or if Messe Berlin subsequently becomes aware of any reasons which, they had been known before, would have excluded that person from participation. This applies in particular when bankruptcies or insolvency proceedings have been instituted, or if the exhibitor becomes insolvent. In such circumstances exhibitors are required to inform Messe Berlin immediately.

In that cases, referred to above, Messe Berlin is entitled to claim damages. No. 8.1 may be applied accordingly.

9  Force Majeure

9.1  Cancellation of the Event
If Messe Berlin is prevented from holding the event for reasons outside its own control or that of the exhibitor, all claims to the stand rental become void. However, Messe Berlin may still invoice the exhibitor for work carried out in the latter’s instructions, to cover any expenses already incurred, if the exhibitor is unable to furnish evidence that the results of this work are of no interest to him.

9.2  Rescheduling of the Event
If Messe Berlin is in a position to hold the event at a later date it must notify exhibitors immediately. Exhibitors are entitled to cancel their participation in the event if it is rescheduled, provided such cancellation is given within one week following receipt of this notification. In such cases claims for payment of stand rental no longer apply.

9.3  For Events that have Already Commenced
If Messe Berlin is obliged to shorten or cancel an event that has already begun, as a result of force majeure, exhibitors are not entitled to assert claims for repayment or for exemption from the stand rental charge.

10  Workers and Exhibitors’ Passes

10.1  Workers’ Passes
Exhibitors will be supplied free of charge with passes for themselves and for any auxiliary staff employed during construction and dismantling. These will only be valid during construction and dismantling periods, and do not entitle the holders to enter the Exhibition Grounds during the event itself.

10.2  Exhibitors’ Passes
Exhibitors will receive a limited number of special passes valid for the duration of the exhibition or fair, for use by themselves and their employees, and entitling them to admission free of charge. Additional details can be found in the conditions of participation.
10.3 Regulations Applying to Both Types of Passes
Passes are issued in the holder's name, or must be filled in correctly by the holder. They are not transferable and are only valid in conjunction with an official ID document. In cases of misuse the passes will be withdrawn without compensation. In the case of joint participation by a number of exhibitors, only the authorised exhibitor will receive the required passes. Additional passes are available, for which a charge will be made.

11 Photographs and Film, Video and Sound Recordings
Exhibitors are responsible for ensuring the "Technical Guidelines" as specified in the Exhibitor Service Documents, in particular with regard to the regulations contained therein relating to stand construction and design, and the extensive safety regulations also specified in this folder.

12 Advertising
12.1 Scope
Advertising of all kinds is permitted but only within the stand hired by the exhibitor, on behalf of the exhibitor's own company, and only for exhibits manufactured or distributed by the exhibiting firm.

12.2 Approval
Advertising by means of loudspeakers, the display of slides or films, or the inclusion of performances or shows require the written approval of Messe Berlin. Written approval must also be obtained for the use of other equipment and installations intended to enhance the impact of advertising either optically or acoustically. Advertising of a political nature is strictly prohibited.

13 Official Approval, Legal Regulations, Technical Guidelines
In all cases it is the responsibility of the exhibitor to obtain official approval. Exhibitors are responsible for ensuring the compliance with GEMA (performing rights) regulations, as well as with regulations pertaining to trading and industrial law, police regulations, health regulations and other legal requirements. This also applies in particular to the “Law on technical equipment” (Gerätesicherheitsgesetz). Moreover, exhibitors must observe the “Technical Guidelines” as specified in the Exhibitor Service Documents, in particular with regard to their exhibits.
16.3 Stand Equipment and Fittings during the Hours that the Event is Open
The stand must be correctly equipped and furnished, and staffed by competent personnel throughout the duration of the fair or exhibition, between the stipulated opening times.

16.4 Penalty Clause
If the exhibitor fails to comply with the regulations as stated above (No. 16, Item 2, 3), Messe Berlin is entitled to impose a penalty of Euro 500.00 per day if its instructions and warnings are not heeded.

17 Exhibitor Service Documents
The Exhibitor Service Documents contain information about the following:
Technical guidelines, technical equipment standards in the halls, installations, stand constructions, design and furnishing, as well as about other services at trade fairs provided by MB Capital Services GmbH, insurance, PR work, the catalogue, room reservations and other services. The Exhibitor Service Documents also contain the necessary forms.

18 General inspection of the halls, surveillance, cleaning
a) Messe Berlin carries out regular inspection of the halls, in particular for the purposes of fire prevention (e.g. keeping emergency exits clear). This does not include surveillance of individual stands. Exhibitors themselves are in charge of and responsible for the surveillance of individual stands. Messe Berlin draws attention to the fact that access may also be granted to the halls outside the hours of the event, due to other events that may be taking place (such as exhibitor evenings), or cleaning work. Moveable objects should be locked up overnight. Exhibitors may order security services from Messe Berlin. The deployment of such security services requires the prior written approval of Messe Berlin. Exhibitors are advised to take out suitable insurance cover.

b) Messe Berlin will provide general cleaning on the grounds and in the aisles. Exhibitors are responsible for cleaning their own stands. Such cleaning work must be completed each day prior to the opening of the event.

c) If the exhibitors do not employ their own personnel, stand cleaning and security must be arranged through the relevant company appointed by Messe Berlin.

d) The exhibitor or his appointed stand constructor is responsible for disposing of any waste materials resulting from its work. In this respect the rules laid down in the environmental guidelines in the Exhibitor Service Documents must be observed.

19 Technical Installations
Regular supplies of electricity, water, gas and telephone services, along with other services in the halls, will be provided by companies authorised by Messe Berlin. Further details are contained in the conditions of participation.

20 Photography
The taking of photographs, films or videos on behalf of exhibitors during the daily opening hours of the event may only be carried out by photographers, film or video production companies thus authorised by Messe Berlin and in possession of the appropriate pass. Such authorisation also applies prior to and after the daily opening hours of the event. No other photographers or production companies will be permitted access to the Exhibition Grounds. Information on this matter can be obtained from the MB Capital Services GmbH.

21 Catering Services
Catering services are provided exclusively by Capital Catering GmbH, Messe-damm 22, 14055 Berlin, Germany Telephone +49(0) 30 / 3038-3914.

22 Data Protection
We collect, use and process your personal data for the purposes of substantiating, fulfilling and processing your contract with Messe Berlin GmbH as well as for market research. In order to fulfil our contractual obligations, it is necessary to forward some of your information to Messe Berlin subsidiaries and partner companies that process this data on our behalf.

If you have authorised us to do so, we share your information with our affiliated enterprises and official partner companies to enable them to offer you their own supplementary services or other similar services. This information is also made available to official Messe Berlin GmbH foreign representatives and partner companies located outside of Germany.

Your information is used in accordance with legal stipulations and only for the defined purposes.

Any declaration of consent you have provided to Messe Berlin GmbH can be withdrawn at any time.

23 Concluding Regulations

23.1 Changes and Amendments in Writing
Any changes to the contents of this agreement (No. 1 Item 2), and ancillary agreements, are only legally binding if they have been confirmed in writing by Messe Berlin.

23.2 German Law
The mutual rights and obligations deriving from this contractual arrangement and resulting from this contract are subject to the law of the Federal Republic of Germany.

23.3 Place of Performance and Venue
Place of fulfillment is Berlin-Charlottenburg. If the defendant is a businessman or a legal entity in the public domain, or if the defendant has no general place of jurisdiction within Germany, the place of jurisdiction is Berlin-Charlottenburg or the defendant's own place of jurisdiction.

23.4 Statute of Limitations
Claims by exhibitors against Messe Berlin expire after 6 months if not precluded by cogent legal regulations.

23.5 Redemptory Clause
If any individual provisions in these general terms of business become void, this shall not affect the validity of the other regulations. The void provision should be altered in such a way as to fulfil the intended purpose.