

Ho Chi Minh City, July 16, 2018

CODE OF ETHICS FOR ARBITRATORS

VIETNAM TRADERS ARBITRATION CENTRE (VTA)

FOREWORD

VTA's mission is to provide a prestigious and effective commercial dispute resolution mechanism with full respect, legal norms, and high responsibility to traders and society. VTA upholds the values of “**RAPID**” consisting of five core principles: **Respect – Alternative – Integrity – Intelligence – Dedication**, in all activities, particularly in arbitration proceedings. VTA is committed to ensuring that arbitration awards optimize party autonomy, transparency, and efficiency.

To fulfill this commitment, VTA emphasizes professionalism, attitude, and particularly the ethical standards of arbitrators. The **Code of Ethics for VTA Arbitrators** sets forth the ethical and professional conduct standards that all VTA arbitrators must adhere to. By complying with this Code, each arbitrator affirms their responsibility to the profession, VTA, and society.

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RULE 1. INDEPENDENCE

1. Arbitrators must resolve disputes independently, free from any improper influence.
2. Arbitrators shall assess the nature of the dispute and express their opinions transparently within the Arbitral Tribunal to ensure a fair resolution.
3. Arbitrators shall carefully examine and evaluate the facts and evidence to fully comprehend the case. If necessary, they may consult experts, but decisions must be based on legal provisions and objective truth.
4. Arbitrators shall not distort case records or factual information due to material gain, personal benefits, or external pressure.
5. Arbitrators must immediately disclose to VTA and the parties any relationship, direct or indirect, that may affect their independence and impartiality.

RULE 2. IMPARTIALITY

1. Arbitrators may decline appointment if they believe they cannot adjudicate the case impartially and fairly, including but not limited to:
 - Having a bias against a party or a witness;
 - Having previously expressed opinions on the substance of the dispute;
 - Having financial, business, professional, familial, or social relationships with a party that may affect their impartiality.

2. Arbitrators shall not exploit their personal reputation or employ inappropriate means to solicit party appointments.
3. Arbitrators shall not directly or indirectly accept any monetary or material benefits from the disputing parties.
4. During arbitration proceedings, arbitrators shall not privately meet or communicate with any party regarding the dispute.

RULE 3. FAIRNESS

1. Arbitrators must ensure that all parties are given a fair and equal opportunity to present their arguments.
2. Arbitrators shall only reach a conclusion after verifying the accuracy of information, thoroughly assessing evidence, and carefully reviewing case files.

RULE 4. CONFIDENTIALITY

1. Arbitrators must maintain the confidentiality of disputes and must not use case-related information for any purpose unless agreed upon by the parties or as required by law.
2. Before and during hearings, arbitrators must keep their opinions, as well as those of other arbitrators and the Tribunal, confidential.
3. Upon conclusion of the arbitration, arbitrators must return all case-related documents to VTA for record-keeping.
4. Except when required by law or necessary to protect their legal rights, arbitrators shall not disclose any case-related information.

RULE 5. DILIGENCE AND COMMITMENT

1. Arbitrators shall only accept cases when they have the capacity and availability to resolve them within the stipulated timeframe.
2. In multi-arbitrator tribunals, arbitrators must collaborate in good faith and share relevant information with fellow Tribunal members.
3. Arbitrators should encourage amicable settlement while ensuring that arbitration proceedings are not unduly delayed.
4. When cooperating with state authorities such as courts or enforcement agencies, arbitrators shall conduct themselves with respect, professionalism, and confidence.
5. Arbitrators must always maintain respect, friendliness, and professionalism when interacting with parties.
6. Arbitrators must continuously enhance their professional expertise through training and updates on legal regulations and international arbitration practices.

7. Beyond resolving disputes fairly and effectively, arbitrators have a responsibility to promote awareness of arbitration and alternative dispute resolution (ADR) within the business community.

This Code of Ethics serves as the foundation for ensuring the independence, impartiality, fairness, confidentiality, and diligence of VTA arbitrators. Arbitrators are required to strictly adhere to these principles to uphold the reputation of VTA and ensure the transparency and efficiency of commercial dispute resolution.

Vietnam Traders Arbitration Centre (VTA)