



The practical voice of shipping

MASTERCLASS

VOYAGE CHARTERING

Houston

14-15 May 2024

 **TRAINING**

Day 1

THE FRAMEWORK

In this section, we will explore key aspects of voyage chartering. We will begin with an overview of recent developments, including updates to GENCON 2022 and the ETS emission scheme clauses. We will then explore the application of US and Canadian law in voyage chartering, examining differences in legal frameworks, contract interpretation, and arbitration procedures.

09:00-09:30 Overview and developments in voyage chartering:

- Introduction to GENCON 2022 and how the new forms differ from previous versions

09:30-10:00 Setting the scene: The application of US and Canadian law in voyage chartering:

- Differences in the legal framework and the effect on BIMCO contracts based on English Law
- Understanding the nuances in the interpretation of contractual terms under the different legal systems in relation to arbitration procedures and enforceability of awards.

10:00-10:15 Break

THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES

In voyage chartering, the carrier (shipowner) ensures vessel seaworthiness and readiness to accept cargo. The charterer must provide full, clean, and sound cargo, ensuring safe loading, transportation, and discharge. Effective collaboration between parties is vital for seamless vessel operations and cargo delivery. Still, it may also lead to a wide range of disputes, which will also be addressed in the case study.

10:15-11:15 Disputes and obligations: The shipowner's duties:

- The shipowner's obligation to provide a seaworthy vessel fit for the intended voyage, including considerations of structural integrity, equipment functionality, and crew competency
- The shipowner's responsibility to safely handling and storing cargo throughout the voyage, ensuring proper care to prevent damage or loss
- The requirement for the shipowner to proceed with reasonable dispatch and balancing efficiency with safety and contractual obligations
- Cancellation Clauses and how the contractual provision allows for the shipowner to cancel the contract under specific circumstances, and the implications for both parties
- The concept of deviation from the agreed route or schedule and the legal and commercial consequences for the shipowner
- Slow Steaming Clauses: contractual clauses permitting shipowners to operate vessels at reduced speeds and their impact on voyage duration, fuel consumption, and contractual performance. (This topic will be expanded further in the session on EU ETS clauses on day 2).

11:15-11:30 Break

11:30-12:30 Disputes and obligations: The charterer's duties:

- Full and complete clean and sound cargoes: Ensuring the cargo is entirely free from contaminants, properly packaged, and in optimal condition for transportation
- Payments of freight/deadfreight: Meeting financial obligations by promptly paying freight charges or compensating for any deadfreight incurred
- Port nominations: Selecting and communicating designated loading and discharging ports in accordance with contractual terms and operational feasibility
- Providing port restrictions information: Furnishing comprehensive details regarding port limitations, such as draft and air draft restrictions at both loading and discharging ports, before fixing.

12:30-13:15 Lunch

13:15-14:00 Case study on the duties of the owner and the charterer

Day 1 *(continued)*

BILLS OF LADING

In this session, we will explore the intricacies of bills of lading (B/L's). We will cover their various forms, incorporation of charter clauses, and their role as receipts and documents of title, including transfer of rights and obligations.

14:00-14:45 **The nature of B/L's (I):**

- Differentiating between long- and short-form bills of lading and understanding their respective formats and functions in cargo documentation
- Methods of integrating charter party terms into bills of lading and their impact on contractual obligations
- The characteristics and usage of multimodal bills and sea waybills in modern shipping practices
- The purpose and process of issuing delivery orders and their role in facilitating cargo release at destination
- The bill of lading as a receipt for cargo, including considerations of apparent order and condition and issues related to quantity, weight and date.

14:45-15:30 **The nature of B/L's (II):**

- The transfer of rights and obligations between holders of the bill of lading
- The bill of lading as a document of title – the advantages AND disadvantages and how this applies when using eBLs
- Obligation of the carrier to deliver cargo against surrender of the bill of lading.

15:30-15:45 *Break*

15:45-17:00 **Case study on bills of lading disputes**

Day 2

FINANCIAL ASPECTS

As the shipping industry embraces decarbonisation efforts, understanding the implications for voyage chartering is paramount. This session explores the practical application and impact of various Emission Trading Scheme (ETS) Clauses for Voyage Charter Parties in 2023. These changes can impact laytime and demurrage by influencing vessel speeds and operational efficiency, potentially altering the calculation and management of laytime-related costs.

09:00-10:30 **Laytime and demurrage:**

- The significance of Notice of Readiness and its validity in commencing laytime calculations
- Exploring different forms of laytime, including reversible and fixed laytime, and their implications
- The point at which laytime begins, examining contractual and practical considerations
- Events or actions that pause laytime calculations, such as bad weather or port congestion
- Conditions or events that conclude laytime, including completion of cargo operations or demurrage trigger points
- The concept of demurrage, the calculation methods, and contractual obligations
- The consequences and remedies for exceeding laytime, including potential damages for detention
- Time Bar Clauses and contractual provisions specifying time limits for submitting laytime and demurrage claims and their legal implications.

Day 2 *(continued)*

10:45-12:45 **The impact of decarbonisation on voyage chartering:**

- ETS – Emission Scheme Freight Clause for Voyage Charter Parties 2023
- ETS – Emission Scheme Surcharge Clause for Voyage Charter Parties 2023
- ETS – Emission Scheme Transfer of Allowances Clause for Voyage Charter Parties 2023
- How do the clauses work, and which is the one best suited to your specific circumstances?

12:45-13:30 *Lunch*

PROBLEM SOLVING AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION

13:30-14:30 **Problems in the performance of voyage charters:**

- The causes and consequences of delays and potential contract terminations, including legal implications and financial repercussions
- Breach of contract by owners and charterers and the corresponding remedies or liabilities
- Third parties interfering with contract performance: The challenges arise from external factors affecting contract execution, such as port strikes or new national/international regulations
- Damages and recoverability of damages: Methods of calculating damages resulting from contract breaches or disruptions and mechanisms for recovering losses
- Understanding legal doctrines like frustration and force majeure, the clauses, and their application in cases of unforeseen events preventing performing the contract
- Implications of vessel accidents or emergencies, including obligations under general average principles and insurance coverage.

14:30-14:45 *Break*

14:45-15:45 **Letters of Indemnity (LOI):**

- Delivery of cargo without bills: The circumstances under which a letter of indemnity may be issued to allow cargo delivery without presentation of original bills of lading
- Deviation for clean bills: Exploring scenarios where deviation from the agreed route is permitted to obtain clean bills of lading, and the associated risks and legal considerations
- Unavailable bills: Addressing challenges when bills of lading are not available and the use of LOIs as a workaround
- Practical checklist: Providing a comprehensive checklist for drafting and executing letters of indemnity, including key considerations and risk mitigation strategies
- Switch bills of lading: Examining the practice of issuing switch bills of lading and the implications for cargo ownership, contract terms, and legal obligations.

15:45-16:00 *Break*

16:00-17:00 **Case study on problems in the performance of voyage charters**

Speakers



Chris Hart

Chris has broad experience with maritime liens, ship arrests, maritime attachment and garnishment remedies, transport and sale of goods contracts, cargo claims, shipping casualties, and marine pollution. For energy companies, Chris has experience with upstream and midstream commercial disputes and casualties, offshore and onshore, and with eminent domain condemnation cases for pipelines, including disputes arising from joint operating agreements, gas processing and gas measurement, mineral leases, and various conveyances of royalties and oil and gas interests.

Chris has been a speaker for BIMCO and author for presentations and articles on topics including offshore drilling, coastwise trade laws, OSV charter parties, and many maritime law issues.

Chris is admitted to practice in Texas, in the US District Courts for the Southern, Eastern, and Western Districts of Texas, in the US Courts of Appeal for the Fifth and Tenth Circuits, and in the US Supreme Court. Before practicing law, Chris sailed as a professional mariner.



Utsav Mathur

Utsav Mathur is a Partner, commodity trading, shipping, and offshore energy lawyer based in Norton Rose Fulbright's Houston office. Utsav's practice spans disputes (litigation and arbitration), regulatory, and certain transactional work.

Utsav represents energy companies and commodity traders on disputes arising from physical commodity trading activity and any related marine, pipeline or rail transportation activity. He also advises on pre-disputes issues and assists traders in resolving contentious matters prior to initiation of litigation or arbitration. Utsav also acts on charter party disputes, pollution incidents, Rule B and C proceedings, cargo claims, collisions, allisions, and other marine casualties. Utsav routinely assists commodity trading and energy clients avoid disputes and mitigate risks by advising on and negotiating the slate of contracts typically implicated in commodity trading, storage, and transportation activity.

Utsav also assists financial institutions and lenders enforce security interests against vessels through mortgage foreclosure litigation under the Commercial Instruments and Maritime Liens Act.

Utsav has represented energy companies with upstream, midstream, or downstream commercial litigation matters.

In addition, Utsav advises clients on significant offshore energy projects. He has represented developers, contractors, and vessel owners on US offshore wind projects, with particular emphasis on unique Jones Act, Cargo Preference Act, Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, and US general maritime law issues related to such projects. Moreover, he has assisted clients on a variety of other energy infrastructure projects, including the construction of crude oil pipelines, deepwater ports, FPSO charter/O&M agreements, and LNG-fuelled offshore power generation facilities. He has advised companies on litigation risks related to subsea pipeline construction, relocation, and ruptures. Utsav routinely advocates for clients on matters involving the US Coast Guard, US Customs and Border Protection, and US Maritime Administration.

Public companies and private investors also consult Utsav on structuring investments in the US Jones Act shipping market.

Utsav's exposure to the maritime industry began early in life as he descends from a family of mariners and has spent time at sea.

Venue

BIMCO Houston Office

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Organisers



Peter Grube

Peter is Head of Training, responsible for developing and delivering BIMCO courses and seminars world-wide. He joined BIMCO's Support & Advice in 1990 and was later appointed Marketing & Sales Director. Prior to joining BIMCO he worked at a shipowning office in Copenhagen, as well as a sale & purchase broker in Greece.

Peter Grube is a graduate from the Danish School for International Marketing & Export and is a Chartered Shipbroker (FICS). He holds a Master's in Education and Learning from Roskilde University (RUC).



Thomas Damsgaard

Thomas is Regional Manager for BIMCO in the Americas, where his responsibilities encompass member interest, industry engagement including new memberships for the Americas and taking care of the office.

Thomas started an exciting shipping career in 1990 and has earned his stripes in a succession of increasingly challenging roles within senior management and leadership for maritime market leaders. He has led several maritime start-ups and turnarounds and acted as an external advisor on leadership, strategy and optimization to global maritime, logistics and PE organizations. He has served on professional boards within shipping and logistics.

An active member of the Houston community, he fills leading roles including for the Houston Maritime Arbitrators Association, Advisory Board at University of Houston; he co-founded the Danish American Chamber of Commerce and a non-profit maritime scholarship fundraiser.

Thomas holds an MBA in Shipping & Logistics (Blue MBA) from Copenhagen Business School.



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