

BRIEF PROCEDURE FOR CONDUCT OF CONCILIATION PROCEEDINGS

1. The proceedings of Conciliation shall broadly be governed by Part-III of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act 1996 or any statutory modification thereof and as provided herein:
2. The party desirous of resorting to Conciliation shall send an invitation/notice in writing to the other party to conciliate specifying all points of Disputes with details of the amount claimed. The party concerned shall not raise any new issue thereafter. Parties shall also not claim any interest on claims/counter-claims from the date of notice invoking Conciliation till the conclusion of the Conciliation proceedings.
3. The party receiving the invitation/notice for Conciliation shall within 30 days of receipt of the notice of Conciliation intimate its consent for Conciliation along with its counter-claims, if any.
4. The Conciliation in a matter involving claim or counter-claim (whichever is higher) up to Rs 5 crores shall be carried out by sole Conciliator nominated by BHEL while in a matter involving claim or counter-claim (whichever is higher) of more than Rs 5 crores
Conciliation shall be carried out by 3 Conciliators nominated by BHEL.
5. The Parties shall be represented by only their duly authorized in-house executives/officers and neither Party shall be represented by a Lawyer.
6. The first meeting of the IEC shall be convened by the IEC by sending appropriate communication/notice to both the parties as soon as possible but not later than 30 days from the date of his/their appointment. The hearings in the Conciliation proceeding shall ordinarily be concluded within two (2) months and, in exceptional cases where parties have expressed willingness to settle the matter or there exists possibility of settlement in the matter, the proceedings may be extended by the IEC by a maximum of further 2 months with the consent of the Parties subject to cogent reasons being recorded in writing.

7. The IEC shall thereafter formulate recommendations for settlement of the Disputes supported by reasons at the earliest but in any case within 15 days from the date of conclusion of the last hearing. The recommendations so formulated along with the reasons shall be furnished by the IEC to both the Parties at the earliest but in any case within 1 month from the date of conclusion of the last hearing.
8. Response/modifications/suggestions of the Parties on the recommendations of the IEC are to be submitted to the IEC within time limit stipulated by the IEC but not more than 15 days from the date of receipt of the recommendations from the IEC.
9. In the event, upon consideration, further review of the recommendations is considered necessary, whether by BHEL or by the other Party, then, the matter can be remitted back to the IEC with request to reconsider the same in light of the issues projected by either/both the Parties and to submit its recommendations thereon within the following 15 days from the date of remitting of the case by either of the Parties.
10. Upon the recommendations by the Parties, with or without modifications, as considered necessary, the IEC shall be called upon to draw up the Draft Settlement Agreement in terms of the recommendations.
11. When a consensus can be arrived at between the parties only in regard to any one or some of the issues referred for Conciliation the draft Settlement Agreement shall be accordingly formulated in regard to the said Issue(s), and the said Settlement Agreement, if signed, by the parties, shall be valid only for the said issues. As regards the balance issues not settled, the parties may seek to resolve them further as per terms and conditions provided in the contract.
12. In case no settlement can be reached between the parties, the IEC shall by a written declaration, pronounce that the Conciliation between the parties has failed and is accordingly terminated.
13. Unless the Conciliation proceedings are terminated in terms of para 22 (b), (c) & (d) herein below, the IEC shall forward his/its

recommendations as to possible terms of settlement within one (1) month from the date of last hearing. The date of first hearing of Conciliation shall be the starting date for calculating the period of 2 months.

14. In case of 3 members IEC, 2 members of IEC present will constitute a valid quorum for IEC and meeting can take place to proceed in the matter after seeking consent from the member who is not available. If necessary, videoconferencing may be arranged for facilitating participation of the members. However, the IEC recommendations will be signed by all members. Where there is more than one (1) Conciliator, as a general rule they shall act jointly. In the event of differences between the Members of IEC, the decision/recommendations of the majority of the Members of IEC shall prevail and be construed as the recommendation of the IEC.
15. The Draft Settlement Agreement prepared by the IEC in terms of the consensus arrived at during the Conciliation proceedings between the Parties shall be given by the IEC to both the parties for putting up for approval of their respective Competent Authority.
16. Before submitting the draft settlement agreement to BHEL's Competent Authority viz. the Board Level Committee on Alternative Dispute Resolution (BLCADR) for approval, concurrence of the other party's Competent Authority to the draft settlement agreement shall be obtained by the other party and informed to BHEL within 15 days of receipt of the final draft settlement agreement by it. Upon approval by the Competent Authority, the Settlement Agreement would thereafter be signed by the authorized representatives of both the Parties and authenticated by the members of the IEC.
17. In case the Draft Settlement Agreement is rejected by the Competent Authority of BHEL or the other Party, the Conciliation proceedings would stand terminated.
18. A Settlement Agreement shall contain a statement to the effect that each of the person(s) signing thereto (i) is fully authorized by the respective Party(ies) he/she represents, (ii) has fully understood the contents of the same and (iii) is signing on the

same out of complete freewill and consent, without any pressure, undue influence.

19. The Settlement Agreement shall thereafter have the same legal status and effect as an arbitration award on agreed terms on the substance of the dispute rendered by an arbitral tribunal passed under section 30 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996.
20. Acceptance of the Draft Settlement Agreement/recommendations of the Conciliator and/or signing of the Settlement Agreement by BHEL shall however, be subject to withdrawal/closure of any arbitral and/or judicial proceedings initiated by the concerned Party in regard to such settled issues.
21. Unless otherwise provided for in the agreement, contract or the Memorandum of Understanding, as the case may be, in the event of likelihood of prolonged absence of the Conciliator or any member of IEC, for any reason/incapacity, the Competent Authority/Head of Unit/Division/Region/Business Group of BHEL may substitute the Conciliator or such member at any stage of the proceedings. Upon appointment of the substitute Conciliator(s), such reconstituted IEC may, with the consent of the Parties, proceed with further Conciliation into the matter either de-novo or from the stage already reached by the previous IEC before the substitution.
22. The proceedings of Conciliation under this Scheme may be terminated as follows:
 - a. On the date of signing of the Settlement agreement by the Parties; or,
 - b. By a written declaration of the IEC, after consultation with the parties, to the effect that further efforts at conciliation are no longer justified, on the date of the declaration; or,
 - c. By a written declaration of the Parties addressed to the IEC to the effect that the Conciliation proceedings are terminated, on the date of the declaration; or,
 - d. By a written declaration of a Party to the other Party and the IEC, if appointed, to the effect that the Conciliation proceedings are terminated, on the date of the declaration.
 - e. On rejection of the Draft Settlement Agreement by the Competent Authority of BHEL or the other Party.

23. The Conciliator(s) shall be entitled to following fees and facilities:

S1 No	Particulars	Amount
1	Sitting fees	Each Member shall be paid a Lump Sum fee of Rs 75,000/- for the whole case payable in terms of paragraph No. 27 herein below.
2	Towards drafting of settlement agreement	In cases involving claim and/or counter-claim of up to Rs 5crores. Rs 50,000/- (Sole Conciliator)

S1 No	Particulars	Amount
		<p>In cases involving claim and/or counter-claim of exceeding Rs 5 crores but less than Rs 10 crores. Rs 75,000 (per Conciliator) In cases involving claim and/or counter-claim of more than Rs 10 crores. Rs 1,00,000/- (per Conciliator)</p> <p>Note: The aforesaid fees for the drafting of the Settlement Agreement shall be paid on Signing of the Settlement Agreement after approval of the Competent Authority or Rejection of the proposed Settlement Agreement by the Competent Authority of BHEL.</p>
3	Secretarial expenses	<p>Rs 10,000/- (one time) for the whole case for Conciliation by a Sole Member IEC.</p> <p>Where Conciliation is by multi member Conciliators –Rs 30,000/- (one time)- to be paid to the IEC</p>

4	Travel and transportation and stay at outstation i) Retired Senior Officials of other Public Sector Undertakings (pay scale wise equivalent to or more than E-8 level of BHEL)	As per entitlement of the equivalent officer (pay scale wise) in BHEL.
	Others	As per the extant entitlement of whole time Functional Directors in BHEL.
Sl No	Particulars	Amount
		Ordinarily, the IEC Member(s) would be entitled to travel by air Economy Class.
5	Venue for meeting	Unless otherwise agreed in the agreement, contract or the Memorandum of Understanding, as the case may be, the venue/seat of proceedings shall be the location of the concerned Unit / Division / Region / Business Group of BHEL. Without prejudice to the seat/venue of the Conciliation being at the location of concerned BHEL Unit / Division / Region / Business Group, the IEC after consulting the Parties may decide to hold the proceedings at any other place/venue to facilitate the proceedings. Unless, Parties agree to conduct Conciliation at BHEL premises, the venue is to be arranged by either Party alternately.

24. The parties will bear their own costs including cost of presenting their cases/evidence/witness(es)/expert(s) on their behalf. The parties agree to rely upon documentary evidence in support of their claims and not to bring any oral evidence in IEC proceedings.
25. If any witness(es) or expert(s) is/are, with the consent of the parties, called upon to appear at the instance of the IEC in connection with the matter, then, the costs towards such witness(es)/expert(s) shall be determined by the IEC with the consent of the Parties and the cost so determined shall be borne equally by the Parties.
26. The other expenditures/costs in connection with the Conciliation proceedings as well as the IEC's fees and expenses shall be shared by the Parties equally.
27. Out of the lump sum fees of Rs 75,000/- for Sitting Fees, 50% shall be payable after the first meeting of the IEC and the remaining 50% of the Sitting Fees shall be payable only after termination of the conciliation proceedings in terms of para 22 hereinabove.
28. The travelling, transportation and stay at outstation shall be arranged by concerned Unit as per entitlements as per Serial No. 3 of the Table at para 23 above, and in case such arrangements are not made by the BHEL Unit, the same shall be reimbursed to the IEC on actuals limited to their entitlement as per Serial No. 4 of the Table at Para 23 above against supporting documents. The IEC Member(s) shall submit necessary invoice for claiming the fees/reimbursements.
29. The Parties shall keep confidential all matters relating to the conciliation proceedings. Confidentiality shall extend also to the settlement agreement, except where its disclosure is necessary for purposes of its implementation and enforcement or as required by or under a law or as per directions of a Court/Governmental authority/ regulatory body, as the case may be.
30. The Parties shall not rely upon or introduce as evidence in any further arbitral or judicial proceedings, whether or not such proceedings relate to the Disputes that is the subject of the Conciliation proceedings:

- a. Views expressed or suggestions made by the other party in respect of a possible settlement of the Disputes;
 - b. admissions made by the other party in the course of the Conciliator proceedings;
 - c. proposals made by the Conciliator;
 - d. The fact that the other Party had indicated his willingness to accept a proposal for settlement made by the Conciliator.
31. The Parties shall not present the Conciliator(s) as witness in any Alternative Dispute Resolution or Judicial proceedings in respect of a Disputes that is/was the subject of that particular Conciliation proceeding.
32. None of the Conciliators shall act as an arbitrator or as a representative or counsel of a Party in any arbitral or judicial proceeding in respect of a Disputes that is/was the subject of that particular Conciliation proceeding.
33. The Parties shall not initiate, during the Conciliation proceedings, any arbitral or judicial proceedings in respect of a Disputes that is the subject matter of the Conciliation proceedings except that a Party may initiate arbitral or judicial proceedings where, in his opinion, such proceedings are necessary for preserving his rights including for preventing expiry of period of limitation. Unless terminated as per the provisions of this Scheme, the Conciliation proceedings shall continue notwithstanding the commencement of the arbitral or judicial proceedings and the arbitral or judicial proceedings shall be primarily for the purpose of preserving rights including preventing expiry of period of limitation.
34. The official language of Conciliation proceedings under this Scheme shall be English unless the Parties agree to some other language.

**FORMAT FOR SEEKING CONSENT FOR REFERRING THE DISPUTES
TO CONCILIATION THROUGH IEC**

To,

M/s. (Stakeholder's name)

Sub: Resolution of the Disputes through conciliation by Independent Expert Committee (IEC).

Ref: Contract No/MoU/Agreement/LOI/LOA& date _____.

Sir,

With reference to above referred Contract/MoU/Agreement/LOI/LOA, you have raised certain Disputes/claims. Vide your letter dated____ you have requested BHEL to refer the Disputes/claims to IEC for Conciliation.

We are enclosing herewith Format (3) for giving consent and the terms and conditions of BHEL Conciliation Scheme, 2018 governing conciliation through IEC. You are requested to give your unconditional consent to the said terms and conditions of the Scheme by returning the same duly sealed and signed on each page. On receipt of your consent, matter will be put to the Competent Authority for consideration and decision.

Please note that BHEL has also certain claims against you (if applicable). BHEL reserves its right to agree or not to agree conciliation of the said disputes through BHEL and this letter is being issued without prejudice to BHEL's rights and contentions available under the contract and law.

Yours faithfully,

Representative of BHEL

Appendix II

FORMAT FOR GIVING CONSENT BY CONTRACTOR/VENDOR/CUSTOMER/COLLABORATOR/CONSORTIUM PARTNERS FOR REFERRING THE DISPUTES TO CONCILIATION THROUGH IEC

To,

BHEL

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Sub: Resolution of Disputes through Conciliation by Independent Expert Committee (IEC).

Ref: Contract/MoU/Agreement/LOI/LOA No & date____

With reference to above referred contract, our following bills/invoices/claims submitted to BHEL are still unpaid giving rise to Disputes:

SL. no.	Claim Description	Bill submitted to BHEL (no. and date)	Amount of the bill/claim	Amount received from BHEL	Outstanding Amount

Accordingly we request you to kindly refer the Disputes in respect of above claims to IEC for Conciliation.

We hereby agree and give our unconditional consent to the terms and conditions of BHEL Conciliation Scheme, 2018 governing conciliation through IEC. We have signed the same on each page and enclosed it for your consideration.

Yours faithfully,

(Signature with stamp)

**Authorized Representative of Contractor
Name, with designation
Date**

**STATEMENT OF CLAIMS/COUNTER CLAIMS TO BE SUBMITTED TO
THE IEC BY BOTH THE PARTIES**

1. Chronology of the Disputes
2. Brief of the Contract/MoU/Agreement/LOI/LOA
3. Brief history of the Disputes:
4. Issues:
5. Details of Clam(s)/Counter Claim(s):

SI. No.	Description of claim(s)/Counter Claim	Amount (in INR)Or currency applicable in the contract	Relevant contract clause

6. Basis/Ground of claim(s)/counter claim(s) (along with relevant clause of contract)

Note– *The Statement of Claims/Counter Claims may ideally be restricted to maximum limit of 20 pages. Relevant documents may be compiled and submitted along with the statement of Claims/Counter Claims. The statement of Claims/Counter Claims is to be submitted to all IEC members and to the other party by post as well as by email.*