

SCHUTZVEREIN DEUTSCHER RHEDER^{V.a.G.}
GERMAN SHIPOWNERS' DEFENCE ASSOCIATION

Your Independent
Freight, Demurrage & Defence Club



History & Background

Established in 1901 in Hamburg, Schutzverein Deutscher Rheder V.a.G. (German Shipowners' Defence Association – GSDA) assists its Members in Freight, Demurrage & Defence (FD&D) cases and provides insurance cover on a mutual basis.

The overwhelming majority of GSDA Members are Shipowners, but Charterers can also enter the Club.

Our Expertise

Members are supported by a legally qualified and highly experienced team in Hamburg plus a worldwide network of correspondent agents and external lawyers handling several hundreds of cases and inquiries per year.

GSDA is actively involved in the development of standard contracts and clauses, especially for charterparties, and is a long-time BIMCO member.





Cover

Members are covered for legal expenses, i.e. court and arbitration costs as well as lawyers' fees in disputes relating to

- Charterparties
- Insurance contracts
- Marine fuel and lubricating oil purchase contracts
- Sale and purchase contracts
- Building contracts
- Repair contracts
- General Average adjustments
- Similar matters

The positive outcome of an FD&D dispute directly affects Members' financial position – Members will obtain funds or be in the position to avoid a payment.

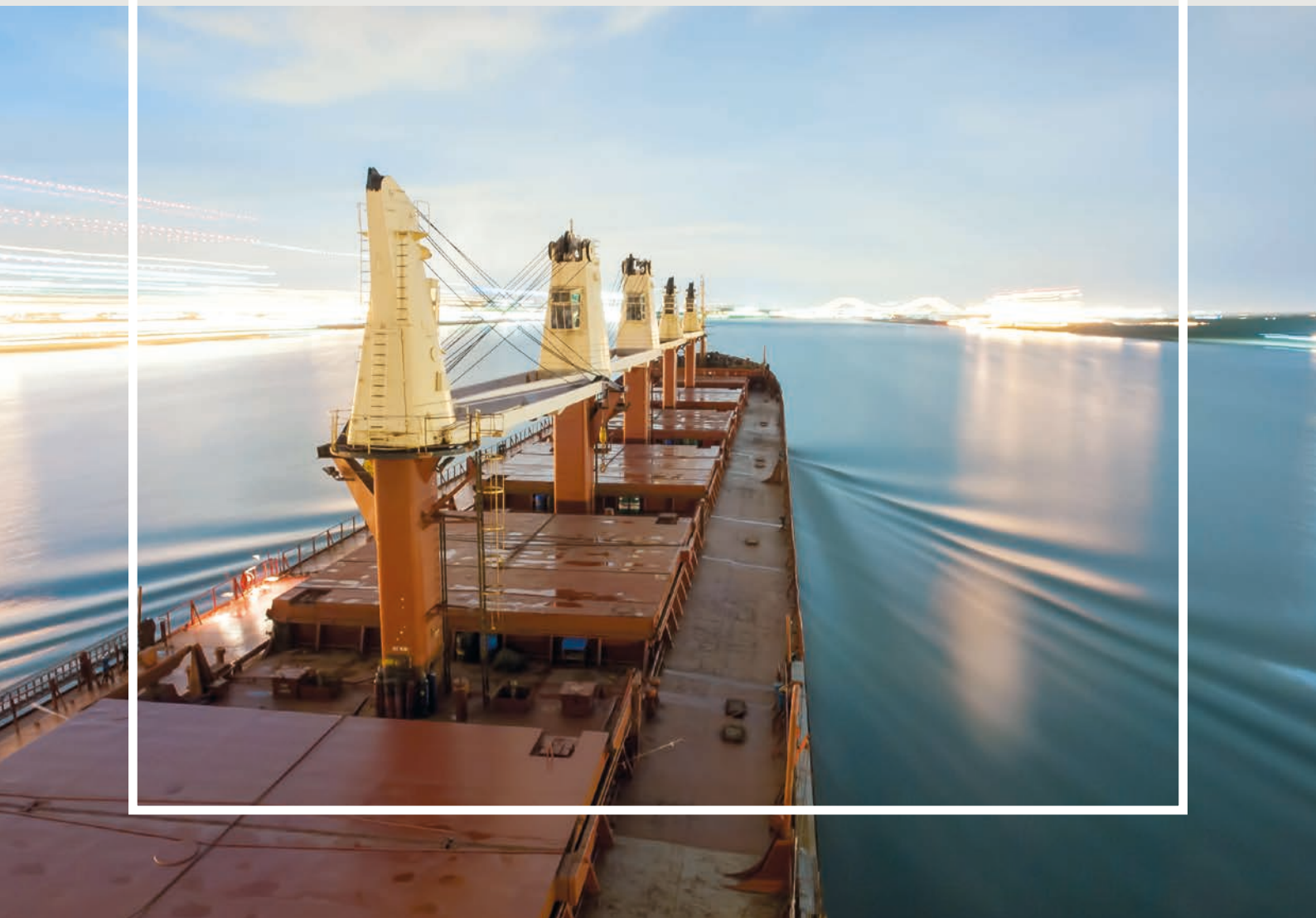
Further Membership Benefits

Members are offered the following additional services:

- Access to legal information through our Circulars with reports about new regulations, recent arbitration awards, court decisions and clauses addressing typical problems under charterparties and other contracts
- Platform for sharing commercial information in the Members' Area on our website

Example Cases

- **Time charterparties** – e.g. cases concerning non-payment of hire/deductions from hire, responsibility for time losses (off-hire), damage to the vessel, bunkers, etc.
- **Voyage charterparties** – e.g. disputes about freight payment, the exercise of a lien, demurrage with the Club being involved on Owners' side in cases like The "Ladytramp" (judgement of the English Court of Appeal on laytime counting under a Sugar Charter Party 1999 form) and The "Amalie Essberger" (High Court proceedings on time bar issues concerning a demurrage claim under an Asbatankvoy form)
- **Bunker supply contracts** – bunker quantity and quality as well as practical issues (e.g. on the sampling procedure)
- **Insurance contracts** – mainly cases concerning cover under Hull & Machinery, Protection & Indemnity or Loss of Hire policies



Why GSDA?

Experience – Established more than 120 years ago

Dedication to Members' needs – Cover for disputes plus loss prevention through access to legal and commercial information

Independence – Focused solely on the Members' interests when claims are pursued or defended

Solid financial basis – Free reserves corresponding to about 400% of the annual premium income plus reinsurance arrangements with a first class reinsurer

Competitiveness – Attractive premiums with long-term premium stability

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GSDA has always found very reasonable solutions, they do not fear legal battle but support compromise where feasible.

Nikolaus H. Schües, CEO, F. Laeisz GmbH

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GSDA is a traditional FD&D Club in the best sense – reliable, competent and cost competitive

Nikolaus Oldendorff Managing Partner of Reederei NORD GmbH





Where to find us

We are based in the Hafencity district of Hamburg, near Magellan-Terrassen and Sandtorhafen with its historical vessels

[Schutzverein Deutscher Rheder V.a.G](#)

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