

Terms of Engagement of High Street Textile Testing Services Ltd As A Consultant/Advisor In A Dispute Prior To, During Or Subsequent To Court Proceedings

1. **Recital of Appointment** — The Appointor has appointed the Expert to provide services in accordance with these Terms of Engagement for such period as to allow the expert to complete his instructions, unless determined by either party in writing and is undertaken in accordance with our Terms and Conditions for Testing.
2. **Definitions** — Unless the context otherwise requires:
 - (1) “Appointor” means the lawyer, insurer, Government department, local authority, firm, or other body or persons instructing the Expert.
 - (2) “Expert” means the named person within High Street Textile Testing Services Ltd appointed to give or prepare expert advice in the matter of or pertinent to the Client’s case.
 - (3) “Client” means the person(s) which non-exclusively includes Government department, local authority, firm or company for whom the Expert has been instructed to provide such services.
 - (4) “Instructions” means the Appointor’s requirements for the expert’s opinion on a matter within his field of expertise concerning the Client’s case, whether prior to, during or subsequent to Court proceedings.
 - (5) “Court” means any Court of Law, Tribunal or Arbitral body.
 - (6) “Fees” means the Expert’s professional charges, disbursements and Value Added Tax (VAT), or equivalent tax where applicable, for services provided for carrying out the Appointor’s instructions.
 - (7) “Disbursements” means all reasonable expenses incurred in carrying out the instructions or obligations arising therefrom. (By way of nonexclusive example, they include the costs of relevant photography, video recordings, computer software, reproduction of drawings and diagrams, printing and duplicating, the cost of obtaining published documents including those withdrawn, as well as all appropriate out of pocket expenses including car mileage, first class rail travel, business class air fares, reasonable refreshments and four star hotel accommodation where an overnight stay is necessary.) VAT or the equivalent tax will be charged where applicable.
 - (8) “Legal Aid” means those cases which are funded by an authority established by government power to fund a party in legal proceedings.
 - (9) References to the masculine gender shall be deemed to include the feminine.
3. **The Appointor** — The Appointor will:
 - (1) Promptly deliver to the Expert full instructions in writing. The instructions should be supported by legible copies of all relevant documents together with a timetable for the provision of the Expert’s services.
 - (2) Deal promptly with every reasonable request by the Expert for authority, information and documents and further instructions that the Expert may from time to time require.
 - (3) In Legal Aid cases:
 - (a) inform the Expert at the outset if the case is or is expected to be legally aided;
 - (b) inform the Expert of the scope and any limitation on the Certificate or Order and any Amendments and use his best endeavours to secure and expedite remittance of the Expert’s fees save that the subsistence of a Legal Aid Certificate or Order shall not affect the Appointor’s personal responsibility for the Expert’s fees.
 - (c) not require the Expert to provide any services before the grant of authority by the Legal Aid Board (or its generic successor)
 - (d) for his fees and disbursements;
 - (e) apply to the Legal Aid Board for prior approval of the Expert’s anticipated fees and promptly inform the Expert of the outcome
 - (f) of the application;
 - (g) apply as above for additional fees required by any further work not originally authorised;
 - (h) make timely application to the Legal Aid Board or to the Court for interim and final payments for the Expert’s fees and disbursements as invoiced and promptly remit to the Expert all such payments upon receipt;
 - (i) use his best endeavours to ensure that the Expert’s fees and disbursements are recovered in full by way of the Legal Aid
 - (j) Fund and in the case of the Crown Court from the Lord Chancellor’s Department;
 - (k) advise the Expert if he is a Legal Aid Franchisee with devolved powers in the relevant category of work and ensure prompt remittance of interim and final payments as invoiced;
 - (l) use his best endeavours to ensure that the Expert’s fees and disbursements are promptly remitted in full in the event of termination or suspension of a Franchise Agreement or of a Legal Aid Certificate. Where assessment of costs is necessary he will apply for, pursue or defend (as applicable) the Expert’s fees in a timely manner.
 - (4) In privately funded cases ensure that he is at all times in funds promptly to discharge the fees of the Expert.
 - (5) Unless otherwise expressly agreed, pay in full the Expert’s fees irrespective of the outcome of any assessment of costs.

4. The Expert — The Expert will:

- (1) Undertake only those parts of a case in respect of which the Expert considers that he has adequate qualifications and experience.
- (2) Use reasonable skill and care in the performance of the instructions received.
- (3) Comply with the appropriate Codes of Practice and Guidelines.
- (4) Act with objectivity and independence with regard to his instructions.
- (5) Promptly notify the Appointor of any matter including a conflict of interest or lack of suitable qualifications and experience which could disqualify the Expert or render it undesirable for him to have continued involvement in the case.
- (6) Endeavour to make himself available for all meetings and other appointments of which he has received adequate written notice.
- (7) Not without good cause discharge himself from the appointment as Expert.
- (8) Preserve confidentiality save as expressly or by necessary implication authorised to the contrary.
- (9) Provide all relevant information to allow the Expert's fees or disbursements to be assessed for costs.
- (10) Attend such meetings of Experts as ordered by the Court or as required by the Appointor. At any such meeting adhere strictly to the terms of reference set down in writing.
- (11) Provide all relevant information to allow the Expert's fees or disbursements to be assessed for costs.
- (12) Promptly respond to any complaint of the Appointor and within a reasonable time provide a statement of explanation or a means of rectification.

5. Intellectual Property Rights

- (1) The intellectual property rights of all original work created by the Expert shall remain vested in the Expert unless otherwise agreed in writing. The Expert asserts all his Moral Rights.
- (2) Upon settlement of all outstanding invoices presented by the Expert (subject only to such indulgence as the Expert may grant), the Expert shall be deemed to grant to the Appointor a Licence to use all the Expert's work covered by such fees, such Licence to extend to the purpose of carrying out the Client's instructions in the matter in which this Appointment has been made but for no other purpose nor for any other matter.

6. Fees and Disbursements

- (1) The amount of the fees shall be that more particularly defined in the Expert's letter confirming the Appointment which shall form part of these terms.
- (2) The daily rate shall be applied to any day or part of any day of a hearing, including waiting time.
- (3) The Expert may present invoices at such intervals as he considers fit. Payment of each invoice is due on presentation, subject to any written waiver or indulgence granted by the Expert, save that such indulgence shall apply only to the invoice in question.
- (4) For the avoidance of doubt and except where stated to the contrary the charge rate is the same for all activities and includes but is not limited to the following:
 - (a) Inspection, consultation, preparation, advice, completion and engrossment of reports, attendance at meetings or hearings.
 - (b) Travel and waiting.
 - (c) Time reserved by instruction for a meeting or other engagement.
 - (d) Where specific instructions have been given to the Expert for an inspection examination or report and where, due to settlement of the dispute or any other reason not being the default of the Expert, the reservation of time has been cancelled or the Appointment has been terminated.
- (5) The Appointor and the Client shall be jointly and severally liable for payment of the Expert's fees and disbursements.
- (6) Unless stated to the contrary on any invoice, all invoices shall be settled within 30 days of the date of issue of the invoice
- (7) The Expert shall at his discretion be entitled to recover compensation and interest on unpaid debts at the rate of 8 % above the base rate of the Bank of England as determined in accordance with the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998 and as supplemented by Late Payment of Commercial Debts Regulations 2002

7. Disputes

- (1) Unless otherwise stated this Appointment shall be subject to the laws of England and Wales.
- (2) If the Appointor fails to pay an Invoice within 30 days of the time stated for payment the Expert shall be entitled to issue proceedings immediately and or cease work.
- (3) In the event of a dispute over the amount of the Expert's fees such sum as is not disputed shall be paid when due irrespective of any set off or counterclaim which may be alleged.