



JAPAN P&I NEWS

To the Members

BIMCO Chinese Special Port Fee Clause for Time Charter Parties 2025

We are pleased to inform you that the recently published BIMCO Chinese Special Port Fee Clause for Time Charter Parties 2025 along with its accompanying Guidance notes.

The BIMCO clause allocates risks and costs relating to the introduction of a Special Port Fee on vessels with a nexus to the United States calling at Chinese Ports. Developed by a BIMCO subcommittee of legal and shipping experts, the clause aims to provide clarity and minimise disputes related to these new fees. It provides that the above fees are generally the responsibility of Charterers except in certain limited situations which are clearly set out in the clause.

The above measures came into effect on 14 October 2025 but have since been suspended for 12 months. The BIMCO Clause is intended to help parties manage risks should they be reinstated and can be used in both new and existing charterparties.

The clause and accompanying guidance are available for your reference on the BIMCO website at the link below.

<https://www.bimco.org/contractual-affairs/bimco-clauses/current-clauses/chinese-special-port-fee-clause-for-time-charter-parties-2025/>

Yours faithfully,

The Japan Ship Owners' Mutual Protection & Indemnity Association