

**International Arbitration Act  
(CHAPTER 143A)**

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**FIRST SCHEDULE Uncitral Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration**

**SECOND SCHEDULE Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards Concluded At New York on 10TH June 1958**

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# **INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION ACT (CHAPTER 143A)**

(Original Enactment: Act 23 of 1994)

REVISED EDITION 2002

(31st December 2002)

An Act to make provision for the conduct of international commercial arbitrations based on the Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration adopted by the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law and conciliation proceedings and to give effect to the New York Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards and for matters connected therewith.

[27th January 1995]

## PART I

### PRELIMINARY

#### Short title

1. This Act may be cited as the International Arbitration Act.

## PART II

### INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION

#### Interpretation of Part II

- 2.—(1) In this Part, unless the context otherwise requires —

“arbitral tribunal” means a sole arbitrator or a panel of arbitrators or a permanent arbitral institution;

“appointing authority” means the authority designated under section 8(2) or (3);

“arbitration agreement” means an agreement in writing referred to in Article 7 of the Model Law and includes an agreement deemed or constituted under subsection (3) or (4);

“award” means a decision of the arbitral tribunal on the substance of the dispute and includes any interim, interlocutory or partial award but excludes any orders or directions made under section 12;

“Model Law” means the UNCITRAL Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration adopted by the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on 21st June 1985, the text in English of which is set out in the

First Schedule;

“party” means a party to an arbitration agreement or, in any case where an arbitration does not involve all of the parties to the arbitration agreement, means a party to the arbitration.

[38/2001]

(2) Except so far as the contrary intention appears, a word or expression that is used both in this Part and in the Model Law (whether or not a particular meaning is given to it by the Model Law) has, in the Model Law, the same meaning as it has in this Part.

(3) Where in any arbitral or legal proceedings, a party asserts the existence of an arbitration agreement in a pleading, statement of case or any other document in circumstances in which the assertion calls for a reply and the assertion is not denied, there shall be deemed to be an effective arbitration agreement as between the parties to the proceedings.

[38/2001]

(4) A reference in a bill of lading to a charterparty or some other document containing an arbitration clause shall constitute an arbitration agreement if the reference is such as to make that clause part of the bill of lading.

[38/2001]

### **Model Law to have force of law**

3.—(1) Subject to this Act, the Model Law, with the exception of Chapter VIII thereof, shall have the force of law in Singapore.

(2) In the Model Law —

“State” means Singapore and any country other than Singapore;

“this State” means Singapore.

### **Interpretation of Model Law by use of extrinsic material**

4.—(1) For the purposes of interpreting the Model Law, reference may be made to the documents of —

(a) the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law; and

(b) its working group for the preparation of the Model Law,

relating to the Model Law.

(2) Subsection (1) shall not affect the application of section 9A of the Interpretation Act (Cap. 1) for the purposes of interpreting this Act.