



Assembly

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Draft decision of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority relating to amendments to regulation 21 of the Regulations on Prospecting and Exploration for Polymetallic Sulphides in the Area

The Assembly of the International Seabed Authority,

Having considered the amendments to regulation 21 of the Regulations on Prospecting and Exploration for Polymetallic Sulphides in the Area, as provisionally adopted by the Council at its 198th meeting on 18 July 2014,¹

Approves the amendments to regulation 21 as contained in the annex to the present decision.

¹ ISBA/20/C/22.



Annex

Regulation 21 Fee for applications

1. The fee for processing an application for approval of a plan of work for exploration of polymetallic sulphides shall be a fixed amount of 500,000 United States dollars or its equivalent in a freely convertible currency, to be paid in full at the time of the submission of an application.
 2. If the administrative costs incurred by the Authority in processing an application are less than the fixed amount indicated in paragraph 1 above, the Authority shall refund the difference to the applicant. If the administrative costs incurred by the Authority in processing an application are more than the fixed amount indicated in paragraph 1 above, the applicant shall pay the difference to the Authority, provided that any additional amount to be paid by the applicant shall not exceed 10 per cent of the fixed fee referred to in paragraph 1.
 3. Taking into account any criteria established for this purpose by the Finance Committee, the Secretary-General shall determine the amount of such differences as indicated in paragraph 2 above and notify the applicant of the amount. The notification shall include a statement of the expenditure incurred by the Authority. The amount due shall be paid by the applicant or reimbursed by the Authority within three months of the signing of the contract referred to in regulation 25 below.
 4. The fixed amount referred to in paragraph 1 above shall be reviewed on a regular basis by the Council in order to ensure that it covers the expected administrative costs of processing applications and to avoid the need for applicants to pay additional amounts in accordance with paragraph 2 above.
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