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**Sheet Metal Workers'  
National Pension Fund  
Trust Document**

AMENDED AND RESTATED AS OF APRIL 23, 2019

**Sheet Metal Workers' National Pension Fund**  
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**SHEET METAL WORKERS' NATIONAL PENSION FUND  
TRUST DOCUMENT**

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## SHEET METAL WORKERS' NATIONAL PENSION FUND TRUST DOCUMENT

THIS TRUST DOCUMENT, which formerly had been known as the AMENDED AND RESTATED AGREEMENT AND DECLARATION OF TRUST and was originally made and entered into as of May 16, 1966, is hereby amended and restated as of April 23, 2019.

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, the Trustees desired to amend and restate the Amended and Restated Agreement and Declaration of Trust ("Trust Agreement") in a manner that would not alter the basic principles of the original Trust Agreement;

WHEREAS, the Trust Agreement provided that the Trustees had the power to amend the Trust Agreement in any respect that does not alter the basic principles of the original Trust Agreement;

WHEREAS, the Trustees determined that the amendment, restatement and renaming of the Trust Agreement would not alter the basic principles of the original Trust Agreement;

WHEREAS, the Trustees amended and restated the Trust Agreement and renamed it the "Sheet Metal Workers' National Pension Fund Trust Document" (the "Trust Document");

WHEREAS, the Trust Document provides that the Trustees have the power to amend it at any time, and in any manner; provided, that such amendment does not alter the basic principles of the Trust Document;

WHEREAS, the Trustees amended and restated the Trust Document, effective as of December 15, 2016, and have since further amended the Trust Document; and

WHEREAS, the Trustees desire to amend and restate the Trust Document in order to, among other things, reflect all amendments adopted through April 23, 2019.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the premises, and the mutual covenants herein contained, it is mutually understood and agreed to by the Trustees to amend and restate the Trust Document to read as below, as of April 23, 2019:<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>This amended and restated Trust Document reflects provisions that were adopted with an earlier effective date than April 23, 2019.

## **Article I. Definitions**

Unless the context or subject matter otherwise requires, the following definitions apply for purposes of this Trust Document:

### **Section 1. Trust Document**

“Trust Document” refers to this document, as well as any amendments or modifications to this document (including any amendment and restatement of this document), which the Trustees duly adopt from time-to-time. Any such amendments or modifications may be appended to this document, or may be incorporated into a restated version of this document without further Trustee action. This document originally constituted an amendment and restatement of the Trust Agreement, and it reflects the amendments adopted since that date.

### **Section 2. Benefits**

“Benefits” refer to any pension and ancillary benefits that are provided, or may be provided in the future, to participants and their beneficiaries, pursuant to the Plan Document.

### **Section 3. Code**

“Code” means the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and the regulations promulgated thereunder.

### **Section 4. Collective Bargaining Agreement**

“Collective Bargaining Agreement” means a collective bargaining agreement between the Union and one or more Employers (together with any amendments or addenda thereto), which requires Contributions to the Fund. As the context requires, the term “Collective Bargaining Agreement” also refers to any participation or adoption agreement or similar document, which requires Contributions to the Fund.

### **Section 5. Contributions**

“Contributions” refer to the monies required to be paid to the Fund by Employers pursuant to a Collective Bargaining Agreement or any other agreement or document (including but not limited to the Plan Document, this Trust Document, any participation or adoption agreement, and any rehabilitation plan or funding improvement plan), which creates, establishes, modifies or governs an Employer’s obligation to contribute monies to the Fund.

### **Section 6. Covered Employment**

“Covered Employment” has the same meaning as in the Plan Document.

**Section 7. Employee**

“Employee” has the same meaning given to the term “Covered Employee” or “Employee” in the Plan Document. As the context so requires, the term “Employee” shall include a former “Employee.”

**Section 8. Employer**

“Employer” has the same meaning given to the term “Contributing Employer” or “Employer” in the Plan Document. As the context so requires, the term “Employer” shall include a former “Employer.”

**Section 9. ERISA**

“ERISA” means the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended from time to time, and includes the regulations promulgated thereunder, as well as, any other applicable law that governs the Fund or its fiduciaries.

**Section 10. Fund**

“Fund” refers to the trust fund that was first created in 1966 pursuant to the Trust Agreement, and means generally the money or other things of value, which comprise the corpus and additions to the trust fund and which are held for purposes of providing Benefits and defraying the reasonable costs of administering the Plan. When the context so requires, the term “Fund” also refers to the assets of any entity which is owned by the Fund and which are treated as “plan assets” under ERISA.

**Section 11. International Union or SMWIA**

“International Union” or “SMWIA” refers to the Sheet Metal Workers’ International Association, AFL-CIO, or the International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers (“SMART”), excepting the Transportation Division of SMART (or any affiliate of the Transportation Division of SMART).

**Section 12. Investment Manager**

“Investment Manager” has the same meaning given the term in Section 3(38) of ERISA.

**Section 13. Local**

“Local” refers to a local union chartered by the International Union, which is a party to one or more Collective Bargaining Agreements.

**Section 14. Plan**

“Plan” refers to the Sheet Metal Workers’ National Pension Fund, a multiemployer employee pension benefit plan within the meaning of ERISA and includes the Fund, which forms a part of the Plan.

**Section 15. Plan Document**

“Plan Document” refers to the written plan of Benefits established, maintained, and amended from time to time by the Trustees, as the Plan Sponsor. The term “Plan Document” includes any other written document forming a part of, or incorporated by reference in, the written plan of Benefits. The Plan Document forms a part of this Trust Document. The Plan Document also includes any rehabilitation plan and funding improvement plan under ERISA.

**Section 16. Plan Sponsor**

“Plan Sponsor” refers to the Board of Trustees when it acts in its plan sponsor capacity rather than in its fiduciary capacity.

**Section 17. SMACNA**

“SMACNA” refers to the Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors’ National Association, a New York, non-profit corporation, and its successors or assigns.

**Section 18. Trustees or Board of Trustees**

- a. “Employer Trustee” refers to a Trustee appointed to the Board of Trustees by SMACNA.
- b. “Union Trustee” refers to a Trustee appointed to the Board of Trustees by the SMWIA.
- c. “Trustee” refers to an Employer Trustee or a Union Trustee.
- d. “Board of Trustees” or “Trustees” refers collectively to the Employer Trustees and the Union Trustees.

**Section 19. Union**

“Union” refers to the SMWIA and/or any Local.

**ARTICLE II. GENERAL**

**Section 1. Establishment of Fund**

The Sheet Metal Workers’ National Pension Fund, as created by the original Trust Agreement, shall comprise the Plan’s entire assets derived from Employer Contributions made to or for the

account of this Fund under Collective Bargaining Agreements, together with any and all investments made and held by the Trustees, or monies received by the Trustees as Contributions or as income from investments made and held by the Trustees or otherwise, and any other money or property, received and/or held by the Trustees for the uses, purposes and trust set forth in this Trust Document.

## **Section 2. Purposes**

The Fund is a trust fund that holds Plan assets for the exclusive purposes of paying Benefits to participants and their beneficiaries and defraying the reasonable expenses of administering the Plan. The Fund is intended to be a tax-qualified, multiemployer defined benefit pension plan, and it is intended to be operated in accordance with the funding rules that apply to multiemployer pension plans under ERISA and the Code. The payment of Benefits includes the payment of any costs or expenses associated with, or necessary for, the payment of Benefits in accordance with the terms of this Trust Document, the Plan Document and the law, including but not limited to, expenses incurred in Plan design, Plan amendment or to determine the legality, actuarial or financial impact of any changes or possible changes to the plan of Benefits or to develop or maintain any rehabilitation plan or funding improvement plan. To the extent permitted under ERISA, the Fund, or any organization established, owned, or capitalized by the Fund, may provide to, receive from, or share with, administrative services with any other multiemployer plans and related tax-exempt entities in the sheet metal industry, including but not limited to the Union.

## **ARTICLE III. TRUSTEES**

### **Section 1. Union and Employer Trustees**

#### **a. Functions of the Board of Trustees.**

The Board of Trustees jointly administers and operates the Plan and Fund, and it also is the “Plan Sponsor” as defined in ERISA. An equal number of Employer Trustees and Union Trustees comprise the Board of Trustees. While the number of Trustees appointed to the Board of Trustees may change from time-to-time, in no event will there be more than four (4) Employer Trustees and four (4) Union Trustees serving on the Board of Trustees.

(i) Named Fiduciaries: The Trustees are the named fiduciaries of the Plan and they jointly have authority to control and manage the operation and administration of the Plan, except that the SMWIA and SMACNA are the named fiduciaries for purposes of appointing, retaining, removing and replacing individual Trustees.

(ii) Plan Sponsor: In its Plan Sponsor capacity, the Board of Trustees has the sole authority to make all plan-design decisions, including, but not limited to, establishing, modifying, or amending the Plan Document and determining the eligibility conditions for Benefits and the amount, duration, availability, and types



of Benefits provided by the Plan. The Board of Trustees also acts in its capacity as the Plan Sponsor when it carries out the additional funding rules that are imposed upon plan sponsors under ERISA. The Trustees do not act in a fiduciary capacity when carrying out any of their functions as the Plan Sponsor, but rather act in a capacity analogous to a settlor of a trust.

b. Appointment of Trustees.

(i) The SMWIA has the sole discretionary authority and responsibility to appoint, retain, remove and replace Union Trustees and is a named fiduciary for those purposes.

(ii) SMACNA has the sole discretionary authority and responsibility to appoint, retain, remove and replace Employer Trustees (provided that SMACNA confers with the then current Employer Trustees before appointing or removing any new Employer Trustee). SMACNA is a named fiduciary for those purposes.

**Section 2. Acceptance of Trusteeship**

A person who has been appointed as a Trustee accepts his appointment by providing written acknowledgment of his acceptance in a form acceptable to the Board of Trustees or by communicating his acceptance at a duly constituted meeting of the Board of Trustees.

**Section 3. Duration of Trusteeship**

Upon acceptance as a Trustee, a person will continue to serve as a Trustee until his death, incapacity, resignation or removal, as provided in this Trust Document.

**Section 4. Form of Notification**

If any Union Trustee is appointed, removed or replaced by the SMWIA, a written notification by the SMWIA will be sufficient evidence of its action. If any Employer Trustee is appointed, removed or replaced by SMACNA, a written notification from SMACNA will be sufficient evidence of SMACNA's action with respect to the appointment, removal or replacement of any Employer Trustee. Written notice by an appointing authority and any resignation by a Trustee will be delivered in writing to the Fund's office at 8403 Arlington Boulevard, Suite 300, Fairfax VA 22031 (Attn: Executive Director<sup>2</sup>), and will be effective upon the later of the date specified in the resignation or the Fund's receipt of the resignation.

**Section 5. Trustee Powers upon Appointment or Resignation**

When a new Trustee accepts an appointment as provided herein, or when the Fund has actual

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<sup>2</sup> Any reference herein to the term "Executive Director" shall be deemed to include a reference to the term "Fund Administrator," as the context so requires.

receipt of a Trustee's resignation, the Fund office will notify all of the other Trustees, as well as, any other necessary persons. Upon a new Trustee's acceptance of his appointment, he will be vested with all the property, rights, powers and duties of a Trustee under this Trust Document and ERISA. A Trustee who resigns will be divested of such property, rights, powers and duties upon the effective date of his resignation. Except as ERISA may otherwise provide, no newly appointed Trustee, and no former Trustee, will be responsible for any act or omission before the date he became a Trustee or after the date he ceased to be a Trustee.

#### **Article IV. Powers, Duties and Obligations of Trustees**

##### **Section 1. Property and Assistance – ERISA Compliance**

The Trustees have the discretionary authority and power to use the Fund's assets to purchase, acquire, share or otherwise obtain any services, assistance and personnel, and any premises, office space, materials, supplies, equipment, or other property, which they deem necessary or appropriate for purposes of (i) providing Benefits (including both existing and proposed Benefits); and (ii) defraying the reasonable expense of administering the Plan. The Trustees may delegate to any agents or employees such duties as they consider appropriate. The Trustees will discharge all powers listed in this Article IV in accordance with, and subject to, the requirements of ERISA.

##### **Section 2. Construction of Trust and Plan Documents**

The Board of Trustees, or any duly appointed committee of the Trustees (such as the Appeals Committee), has the sole and absolute power, authority and discretion to construe and decide all final questions relating to the provisions of the Trust Document, the Plan Document, or any other document pursuant to which the Plan is maintained, including, but not limited to: any amendments to the Trust or Plan Document; any participation or adoption agreement (or similar document governing an Employer's Contributions); any rehabilitation or funding improvement plan; and any merger agreement or other similar agreement). Any such construction or decision by the Trustees or any duly appointed committee of the Trustees (such as the Appeals Committee) is final and binding upon all persons, including, but not limited to, the SMWIA, the Locals, SMACNA, the Employers, the Employees and their families, participants, dependents, beneficiaries and/or legal representative or any person or entity claiming through or on behalf of these persons or entities.

##### **Section 3. Management and Control of Assets**

The Trustees have exclusive authority and discretion to manage and control Fund assets in accordance with this Trust Document and applicable law, except to the extent that such authority to manage, acquire, invest or dispose of the assets is delegated to one or more investment managers as follows:

The Trustees may appoint one or more investment managers (within the meaning of Section 3 (38) of ERISA) to invest, reinvest or otherwise manage some or all of the Plan's assets, including, but not limited to, the allocation of assets, the handling and voting of proxies, and the disposition of

any chose in action. Subject to the terms of the Plan's agreement with the investment manager and all other applicable documents, any such investment manager shall have the same powers as the Trustees have with respect to the Plan assets managed by the investment manager, including, but not limited to, the appointment of sub-managers, advisors, consultants, and counsel (except that the investment manager remains liable for the acts or omissions of any sub-manager, advisor, etc.). Such an investment manager may or may not be designated a "Corporate Trustee" or "Corporate Agent." The fees of any such investment manager (and its expenses to the extent permitted by law) will be paid out of the Fund.

#### **Section 4. Additional Discretionary Powers**

In addition to all other powers as set forth herein or conferred by law, the Trustees, in their fiduciary capacities, have the discretionary authority and power to do any and all of the following:

- a. Establish, maintain and administer the Plan for the benefit of eligible participants and their beneficiaries;
- b. Enter into any and all contracts and agreements for administering the Plan, carrying out the terms of the Plan or Trust Documents, and doing all such things as the Trustees deem necessary or advisable for purposes of defraying the reasonable cost of administering the Plan or providing Benefits to participants and their beneficiaries, including, but not limited to, any actions pertaining to the legality and/or actuarial impact of proposed Benefit changes or modifications being considered by the Plan Sponsor, the maintenance of the tax-qualified status of the Plan; and any reporting and disclosure requirements imposed by law;
- c. Compromise, settle, arbitrate, and release claims or demands in favor of or against the Plan, any Trustee, or any Employee, on such terms and conditions as the Trustees may deem necessary or advisable;
- d. Establish and accumulate a reserve or reserves, adequate, in the opinion of the Trustees, to carry out the purposes of the Plan;
- e. Pay out of the Fund all real and personal property taxes, income taxes and other taxes of any and all kinds levied or assessed under existing or future laws upon or in respect to the Plan or any money, property, or securities forming a part thereof;
- f. Make appropriate allocations of common administrative expenses and disbursements shared or to be shared by the Plan in accordance with ERISA;
- g. Receive contributions or payments from any source whatsoever to the extent permitted by law;

- h. Invest and reinvest the Fund's assets in any type of investments permitted by ERISA and to take any and all action with respect to holding, buying, selling, investing or maintaining such investments as the Trustees (or any duly appointed Committee of the Trustees) may deem necessary or appropriate, in their sole discretion;
- i. Invest and reinvest, or authorize any duly appointed Investment Manager(s) to invest, reinvest and manage, any of the Plan's assets in any common or collective trust fund of a bank or any group trust which is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (pursuant to the principles of Rev. Rul. 81-100, 1981-1 C.B. 326, as amended, modified or succeeded by any other applicable ruling or regulation), and the trust instrument creating and governing any such common or collective trust or group trust, is deemed adopted by the Trustees and a part of the Fund, to the extent of the Plan's equitable share thereof;
- j. Appoint, to the extent they deem it appropriate or necessary, a bank or banks or trust company or trust companies whose capital and surplus is not less than \$50,000,000 to be designated as (1) "Corporate Trustee," and enter into and execute a trust agreement or agreements with such bank or banks or trust company or trust companies, to provide for the investment and reinvestment of assets, with such other provisions incorporated therein as may be deemed desirable in the Trustees' sole discretion for the proper management of the Fund and, to the extent permitted by law, with respect to the powers which the Trustees may grant to such Corporate Trustee in such agreement; or (2) "Corporate Agent";
- k. Purchase annuities from any insurance company approved by the Trustees;
- l. Agree to allocate among themselves (i.e., to any other Trustee or any committee of Trustees) any of the specific duties, responsibilities, obligations and powers that they have under this Trust Document, the Plan Document or under applicable law; provided that the allocation is specified in writing by appropriate resolution of the Trustees, which resolution will constitute conclusive evidence of the Trustees' agreement to allocate their specific duties, responsibilities, obligations or powers among themselves in accordance with Section 405(b)(1)(B) of ERISA;
- m. Delegate fiduciary responsibilities to persons other than Trustees; provided that the detailed basis of such delegation is specified in writing. The power to designate persons other than Trustees to carry out fiduciary responsibilities shall include, but not be limited to, the power to designate an Executive Director to carry out some or all of the fiduciary responsibilities for administering the Plan. However, the Board of Trustees is the "administrator" and the "plan sponsor" within the meaning of Section 3(16) of ERISA and the "plan administrator" within the meaning of Section 441(g) of the Code. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, the power to designate persons other than Trustees to carry out fiduciary responsibilities shall

not apply to any responsibility provided under this Trust Document to manage or control Plan assets, other than the power provided hereunder to appoint one or more investment managers in accordance with Section 402(c)(3) of ERISA;

- n. To the extent not delegated to an investment manager, empower one or more Trustees or any other person to act as a proxy reviewer or monitor and to authorize that proxy reviewer to make recommendations regarding proxy statements received and how best to vote such proxies consistent with the applicable law or, appoint one or more investment managers in accordance with Section 402(c)(3) to vote such proxies or take other appropriate actions relating to the proxies;
- o. Create, establish or capitalize any subsidiary business corporations, limited liability companies, limited partnerships or other similar business organizations as the Trustees deem necessary or appropriate in connection with, or for purposes of administering the Plan (including the sharing of administrative services), limiting the liability of the Plan; or investing assets. The assets of any such business organization will be deemed assets of the Fund to the extent provided under ERISA, including any applicable U.S. Department of Labor regulations “defining plan assets,” but only for purposes of ERISA; and
- p. Do all such things and take any such actions, whether or not expressly authorized in this Trust Document, which the Trustees deem necessary or appropriate to, among other things: (i) protect the property held in the Fund; (ii) accomplish the general objective of enabling participants and their beneficiaries to obtain Benefits in an efficient and economical manner; or (iii) comply with any of ERISA’s requirements or other applicable law, including but not limited to the additional funding requirements that apply to multiemployer plans; (iv) maintain the Plan’s tax-qualified status; (v) determine and evaluate the actuarial cost and effect of any proposed Benefit changes or Plan Document amendments, as well as, the impact such proposed Benefit changes or Plan Document amendments may have on the Plan’s tax-qualified status; its funded status; its withdrawal liability; and its ability to comply with the requirements of law; (vi) implement any Benefit changes or Plan Document amendments adopted by the Plan Sponsor; and (vii) provide information requested by the Plan Sponsor pertaining to the Plan’s current or projected funded status under ERISA and its current or future tax-qualified status.

## **Section 5. Representation**

When and if a legal proceeding, government investigation, or suit of any kind or nature is instituted against any Trustee or common law employee of the Plan, in any capacity, as a result of his position with the Plan or his service to the Plan, the Trustees may, in their sole discretion and to the extent permitted by ERISA, authorize the Trustee or employee to hire legal counsel approved by the Plan to represent him; provided that the Trustees have concluded that the Trustee or employee did not violate any fiduciary duty or engage in any malfeasance. If the hiring of legal counsel is approved

by the Trustees in accordance with the preceding sentence, the counsel's fees and expenses, to the extent reasonable, will be paid directly from the Fund, unless and until, the government agency, court, or other applicable adjudicator has found that the Trustee or employee has violated his or her fiduciary duty or engaged in malfeasance, or the Trustees conclude, in their sole discretion, that the continued payment of the counsel's fees and expenses is no longer consistent with the requirements of ERISA. In that event, the Trustee or employee will be liable to reimburse the Fund for its expenditures. The Trustees may approve any similar provisions for any service provider which provides services, but the provision must be set forth in a written agreement between the Plan and the service provider, and the provisions will not be binding on the Plan to the extent the Trustees conclude that it is inconsistent with ERISA.

An individual who is an officer, director, or employee of any business organization owned, established or capitalized by the Fund ("affiliated business organization") will be treated as a Trustee or Fund employee for purposes of this section but only if the individual also is a Trustee and serves as an officer, director or employee of the affiliated business organization in his fiduciary capacity, or the individual performs services on behalf of the Plan, which he otherwise would have been performing as an employee of the Plan.

#### **Section 6. Compensation**

The Plan does not pay compensation to any Trustee who receives full-time pay from an Employer or Union, except that the Fund will reimburse a Trustee for any direct expenses properly and actually incurred (and not otherwise reimbursed) but only to the extent the reimbursement is consistent with any expense reimbursement policy adopted by the Trustees and with ERISA Sections 408(b)(2) and (c)(2). The Trustees may authorize the Fund to pay an expense advance to a Trustee (or Plan employee) to cover direct expenses to be properly and actually incurred by such person in the performance of such person's duties with the Plan if (i) the amount of such advance is reasonable with respect to the amount of the direct expense which is likely to be properly and actually incurred in the immediate future (such as during the next month); and (ii) the Trustee (or employee) accounts to the Plan for the expenses properly and actually incurred and covered by the advance; provided, the expense would be reimbursable under any expense reimbursement policy adopted by the Trustees, and the advance is consistent with ERISA Sections 408(b)(2) and 408(c)(2).

#### **Section 7. Authority to Enter into Merger or Similar Agreements**

The Trustees are authorized to enter into any agreement on behalf of the Plan providing for the merger or consolidation with, or transfer of assets or liabilities to, any other plan; provided, that each participant of the Plan shall (as if such other plan then terminated) receive a benefit immediately after the merger, consolidation or transfer which is equal to or greater than the benefit he would have been entitled to receive immediately before the merger, consolidation, or transfer (as if the Plan had then terminated).

The Trustees also are authorized to enter into any agreement on behalf of the Plan providing for

the transfer of assets or liabilities to the Plan from any other plan; provided, that such transfer will not adversely affect the Plan's tax qualified status.

### **Section 8. Superseding Power and Limitation of Liability**

The Trustees have the power to do all acts, whether or not expressly authorized herein, which they may deem necessary or appropriate to accomplish the general objectives of: (a) providing Benefits to participants and beneficiaries; or (b) defraying the reasonable expenses of administering the Fund and Plan. When performing the functions of a fiduciary under ERISA, the Trustees will use the standard of care required by ERISA.

If an investment manager or managers has or have been appointed in accordance with the terms of this Trust Document, no Trustee shall be liable for the acts or omissions of such investment manager or managers or under an obligation to invest or otherwise manage any Plan asset that is subject to the management of such investment manager.

### **Section 9. Personal Liability**

The Trustees, to the extent permitted by law, shall be fully protected in acting upon any instrument, certificate, or paper believed by them to be genuine and to be signed or presented by the proper person or persons, and shall be under no duty to make any investigation or inquiry as to any statement contained in any such writing, but may accept the same as conclusive evidence of the truth and accuracy of the statements therein contained. Consistent with the powers described in this Article, the Trustees may appoint one or more qualified consultants to serve as technical advisor to the Trustees and attorneys to serve as legal counsel and also such actuaries and accountants as they may from time-to-time find necessary to carry out the requirements of ERISA or provide Benefits. The Trustees shall be protected to the fullest extent permitted under ERISA with respect to any action taken or suffered by them in good-faith reliance upon the advice of any such consultant, attorney, accountant, or actuary, and all action so taken or suffered shall be conclusive upon each of them and upon all participants, the Union and Employers.

### **Section 10. Books of Account**

The Trustees shall keep true and accurate books of account and records of all their transactions, which shall be audited annually or more often by an independent certified public accountant selected by the Trustees. The Trustees, or such persons as they may properly designate, shall be responsible for maintaining records sufficient to comply with any ERISA requirement and for the filing of all reports with the Labor Department, Treasury Department, and Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, which may be required by applicable law.

### **Section 11. Execution of Documents**

The Trustees may authorize any one Trustee or group of Trustees to execute any notice, agreement, or other written instrument on behalf or for the benefit of, the Plan. The Trustees also may authorize the Executive Director or the Plan's counsel to execute any notice, agreement, or other

written instrument on behalf, or for the benefit of, the Plan. All persons, partnerships, corporations, or associations may rely upon such authorized signature(s) as conclusive evidence that the notice, agreement, or other written instrument has been duly executed on behalf or for the benefit of, the Plan.

### **Section 12. Deposit and Withdrawal of Funds**

All monies the Fund receives shall be deposited in such bank or banks as the Trustees may designate for that purpose, and all withdrawals of monies from such account or accounts shall be made in accordance with the written authorization of the Trustees or a duly constituted committee of Trustees comprised of at least one Union Trustee and one Employer Trustee. In addition, the Trustees may, in their sole discretion, designate and authorize an employee of the Fund, such as the Executive Director, to sign checks or execute transfers of money from such separate and specific bank account or bank accounts as the Trustees may designate and establish for that purpose.

### **Section 13. Bonding**

The Trustees may take all such actions and do all such things as they deem necessary or appropriate to ensure that every fiduciary of the Plan and every person who handles funds or other property of the Plan are bonded in accordance with the requirements of Section 412 of ERISA. The amount of bond shall not be less than the amount required under ERISA Section 412, but may be greater than that amount if the Trustees determine that is advisable. The Fund shall pay the cost of bonding.

### **Section 14. Fiduciary/Professional Liability Insurance**

The Trustees may authorize the Fund's purchase of insurance for itself or for any of its current or former Trustees, as well as, for any of its current or former fiduciaries or employees, to cover liability or losses occurring by reason of any act or omission of any such person; provided, however, that any such insurance the Fund purchases must permit recourse by the insurer against a fiduciary who has breached his fiduciary obligations to the Plan. A fiduciary may obtain an endorsement or other insurance to cover liability for the right of recourse if the additional premium for such coverage is not paid from the Fund. Nothing herein shall in any way limit or affect the ability of any Trustee or other fiduciary to otherwise obtain additional fiduciary liability insurance coverage, to the extent permitted by ERISA.

An individual who is an officer, director, or employee of any business organization owned, established or capitalized by the Fund ("affiliated business organization") will be treated as a fiduciary or employee of the Fund for purposes of the preceding paragraph, if the individual also is a Trustee and serves as an officer, director or employee of the affiliated business organization in his fiduciary capacity, or the individual performs services that he otherwise would be performing as an employee of the Plan.



## **Article V. Contributions to the Fund**

### **Section 1. Contributions Due**

Subject to such conditions as the Trustees may impose, Contributions must be remitted monthly or in such other intervals as the Trustees prescribe in their sole and absolute discretion. Contributions shall be paid in such amounts as are set forth in the Collective Bargaining Agreement, participation or adoption agreement, or rehabilitation plan or funding improvement plan, as applicable. In accordance with the Plan Document and Section 401(h) of the Code, Contributions shall be allocated, between the Plan's Code Section 401(h) account for retiree health benefits and the portion of the Fund to be used for all other Benefits. The Trustees may discontinue retiree health benefits and the allocation to the Plan's Code Section 401(h) account at any time, except that Contributions allocated to the Plan's Code Section 401(h) account may not be used to pay Benefits other than retiree health benefits unless permitted under the Code. Except as provided herein or as otherwise approved by the Trustees in their sole and absolute discretion, Contributions must be made on the basis of a uniform hourly rate for all Employees within a particular classification of employees for whom Contributions are required to be made and generally must be made for each hour or part of an hour each Employee works. In addition, Contributions should be made pursuant to the following rules, unless otherwise approved by the Trustees in their sole and absolute discretion:

- a. A Collective Bargaining Agreement (or other agreement) that was in effect before March 1, 2008 may provide, in a form and substance satisfactory to the Plan, that for any person who is employed by an Employer to perform work other than as a building trades journeyman or building trades apprentice, no Contributions will be made for such person during a specified period of employment that does not exceed the first 90 calendar days of his or her employment as a "New Employee" with this Employer, whether or not such days of employment are consecutive. Such New Employee will not be considered to be a Covered Employee, or consequently, to be working in Covered Employment during such specified period of time. In addition, such an agreement may provide for contributions at a lesser rate for New Employees than for other Employees during the period beginning immediately after the end of the specified period of time described in the first sentence of this subsection (a) and ending with the 364<sup>th</sup> calendar day after the New Employee's initial employment date with the Employer; provided that the New Employee was not a participant at any time before his or her current period of employment and provided further that such lesser rate of contributions is at least \$0.05 per hour worked.
- b. Contributions shall be paid on apprentices at a uniform rate which shall be no less than the contribution rate for journeymen, unless the Collective Bargaining Agreement or other agreement provides for graduated contribution rates for apprentices and these graduated contribution rates bear the same relationship to the contribution rates for journeymen as the wage rates for apprentices bear to the wage

rates for journeymen specified in the agreement.

- c. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the minimum participation standards of the Code and ERISA will control over any conflicting provision in any Collective Bargaining Agreement, participation or adoption agreement, or any similar agreement or document governing Contributions to the Fund.

## **Section 2. Reporting and Delinquencies**

Except as otherwise provided by the Trustees in their sole and absolute discretion, the following rules shall apply:

- a. Employers shall submit a remittance report in a form acceptable to the Plan, and shall remit the required Contributions no later than the twentieth (20th) of the month following the month in which Covered Employment was performed (except as otherwise approved in writing by the Trustees in their sole and absolute discretion).<sup>3</sup> The Trustees and Plan are empowered to take whatever steps they deem necessary, including legal action, to collect such delinquent Contributions, notwithstanding any provisions of the Collective Bargaining Agreement or other agreement or document.
- b. The nonpayment by an Employer of any Contributions when due shall not relieve any other Employer of its Contribution obligations.
- c. Employers who fail to meet their Contribution obligations on a timely basis cause the Fund to incur administrative costs. These costs include, but are not limited to, expenses related to employees and service providers who provide delinquency collection services, and expenses for additional accounting and reporting activities. In the event that an Employer is referred to counsel to collect delinquent Contributions, the Fund incurs additional administrative costs. Because the exact amount of the administrative costs is difficult, if not impossible, to ascertain with respect to each delinquent Employer, the Fund shall assess liquidated damages against delinquent Employers as follows. If an Employer fails to pay the required Contributions and submit accurate supporting remittance reports within 30 days after the due date, that Employer will be liable for liquidated damages equal to the greater of 10% of the delinquent Contributions or \$50.00. Those liquidated damages are estimated, to the best of the Trustees' ability, to approximate the cost of the additional administrative expenses and losses caused by an Employer's failure to make timely remittance of Contributions. Delinquent Contributions shall bear interest from the original due date until they are paid at the rate of 0.0233% per day, compounded daily. In the event that suit is filed against a delinquent

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<sup>3</sup>This exception to the 20<sup>th</sup> day of the month applies only if it was approved on or after October 13, 2015, or such other date was prescribed by the Plan before October 13, 2015.

Employer, liquidated damages shall be the greater of 20% of the delinquent Contributions or interest on the delinquent Contributions at the above stated rate of interest. Those liquidated damages are estimated, to the best of the Trustees' ability, to approximate the cost of the additional administrative expenses and losses incurred when the Fund takes legal action to collect delinquent Contributions, and are consistent with the provisions of ERISA.

- d. If legal counsel is engaged to assist in collection, the delinquent Employer shall also be liable for reasonable attorneys' fees and for all reasonable costs incurred in collection, including, but not limited to, court fees, audit fees, judgment execution, levies, garnishments, etc.
- e. In addition to the remedies provided herein, the Trustees may seek such other legal and equitable relief as they may deem appropriate.
- f. An Employer's liability for payment of a delinquency and the other amounts required to be paid by a delinquent Employer shall not be subject to the grievance and arbitration procedures contained in any agreement (unless the Trustees elect to utilize those procedures).
- g. If, within a particular month, the Employer had no employees performing Covered Employment, a remittance report shall be filed on the twentieth (20th) day of the following month explaining why no Contributions were paid by the Employer (unless otherwise approved by the Trustees in their sole and absolute discretion). The failure to do so may subject the Employer to liability for all fees and costs resulting therefrom.

### **Section 3. Access to Records, Audit of Employers**

The Trustees have the authority to conduct an audit of the entire personnel, payroll wage records encompassing all employees and any job or project information of any Employer for the purposes of assuring the accuracy of reports and Contributions, compliance with any applicable law, and compliance with the terms of the Trust Document, the Plan Document, rehabilitation plan or funding improvement plan or any other document governing the Plan. If an audit or other information reveals that inaccurate reports or insufficient Contributions have been made, the Employer may be required to pay all fees, including audit fees and expenses and also all attorneys' fees and costs incurred in collecting said fees or expenses if legal counsel is engaged or if legal action is necessary to enforce this provision.

### **Section 4. Refund of Contributions**

- a. General. Except to the extent permitted by ERISA and the Code, Contributions made by Employers are irrevocable, and it shall be impossible under any conditions for any amounts contributed, or any part of the corpus or income of the Fund to revert to, or be used or enjoyed by, any Employer, the SMWIA or the SMACNA

or be used for or diverted to purposes other than for the exclusive purposes of providing Benefits and defraying reasonable expenses of administering the Plan.

- b. Other Circumstances Permitting Return of Contributions. A Contribution by an Employer that was made by a mistake of fact or law shall be returned to the Employer, to the extent provided in policies and procedures adopted by the
- c. Trustees and consistent with the applicable provisions of ERISA and the qualification requirements of the Code.

## **Section 5. Policies and Procedures**

The Trustees may adopt policies and procedures to carry out the provisions of this Article V. Such policies and procedures form a part of this Trust Document and shall be binding on the Employers as provided therein the same as if they were contained within the body of this Trust Document.

## **Section 6. Exit Contribution**

- a. Imposition of Exit Contribution in General. The Trustees impose an “Exit Contribution” (as determined below) on any Employer who: (i) ceased to have an obligation to contribute to the Fund, and (ii) had an event of withdrawal under Title IV of ERISA as a result of the cessation of its obligation to contribute, but was not required to pay withdrawal liability under Title IV of ERISA. While the actual cost of the Employer’s cessation of its obligation to contribute to the Fund cannot be precisely quantified, the Exit Contribution is designed to cover a portion of the costs associated with the loss of contribution income to the Fund, which it uses to fund its accrued liabilities.
- b. Employer’s Agreement to Pay Exit Contribution. By agreeing to contribute, continuing to contribute, or continuing to be obligated to contribute, to the Fund, each Employer agrees to pay an Exit Contribution in accordance with this Section 6. The Employer’s obligation to pay an Exit Contribution under this Section 6 is independent of the Employer’s collective bargaining agreement and continues to apply after the termination of the collective bargaining agreement (notwithstanding any language to the contrary in the collective bargaining agreement).
- c. Imposition of Exit Contribution During Term of Collective Bargaining Agreement. An Employer described in subsection (a) above shall pay an Exit Contribution during the term of its collective bargaining agreement if it ceases to have an obligation to contribute to the Fund for any reason whatsoever, including, but not limited to: (i) the termination of the Employer’s status as a Contributing Employer; (ii) the rejection of the collective bargaining agreement by the Trustees; or (iii) the action of the bargaining parties.

- d. Imposition of Exit Contribution After Expiration of Collective Bargaining Agreement. An Employer described in subsection (a) above shall pay an Exit Contribution after the expiration of its collective bargaining agreement if it ceased to have an obligation to contribute to the Fund as a result of such expiration, and it did not enter into a successor collective bargaining agreement requiring contributions to the Fund.
- e. Exit Contribution Amount. The amount of an Employer's Exit Contribution is equal to the amount of the Employer's Contributions due for the 36-month period preceding the month in which the Employer ceased to have an obligation to contribute to the Fund. The Exit Contribution shall be paid no later than the 20<sup>th</sup> day of the month following the month in which the Fund assessed the Exit Contribution by sending written demand for the payment of the Employer's Exit Contribution.
- f. Application of this Section 6 to Assessments Made On or After October 15, 2015. The terms of this Article V, Section 6 shall apply only to assessments of Exit Contribution made on or after October 15, 2015. For any assessment of an Exit Contribution made before October 15, 2015, the terms of Article V, Section 6 of the Trust Document in effect on such date of assessment shall apply.
- g. Nature of Exit Contributions. The Exit Contribution is a type of Contribution that an Employer is obligated to make under the Trust Document (which is incorporated by reference in the Plan Document). As such, an Employer's failure to make an Exit Contribution constitutes a delinquency and will be treated in the same manner as any other delinquent Contribution.
- h. Waiver. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, the Trustees may waive an Exit Contribution imposed under this Article V, Section 6 if the Trustees decide, in their sole and absolute discretion, that such waiver is appropriate based on the facts and circumstances. Any such decision by the Trustees to waive an Exit Contribution shall have no precedential effect, and should not be construed as an indication that the Trustees will decide to waive an Exit Contribution in the future under similar facts and circumstances.

## **Section 7. Surcharges**

Nature of Surcharges. Under ERISA, surcharges may be imposed upon Employers in certain circumstances. Should those circumstances occur, an Employer's failure to pay surcharges shall constitute a delinquency and will be treated in the same manner as other delinquent Contributions.

## **Article VI. Plan of Benefits**

### **Section 1. Benefits**

The Trustees have the sole and absolute power, authority and discretion to determine the Benefits that the Plan provides now, or in the future, and to decide all questions relating to such Benefits, including but not limited to the nature, eligibility, amount, conditions and duration of such Benefits; provided, however, that no Benefits may be provided unless it is a pension, annuity, death benefits or any other type of benefit which would be treated as an ancillary benefit under the applicable provisions of the Code or ERISA (including benefits permitted under Section 401(h) of the Code). No new Benefits may be provided pursuant to an amendment or modification of the Plan Document if it would adversely affect the tax-qualified status of the Fund and Plan under Section 401(a) or would be inconsistent with the multiemployer funding rules under ERISA and the Code. All determinations and decisions of the Trustees and/or Committee of the Trustees regarding Benefits, whether made in their fiduciary or plan sponsor capacities, are final and binding upon all persons, including but not limited to any participant or beneficiary, the Union, and any Employer and any and all persons or entities claiming through these persons or entities.

### **Section 2. Recipients of Benefits and Eligibility Requirements**

The Trustees have the sole and absolute power, authority, and discretion to determine, define, specify, or otherwise decide the persons to whom Benefits may be paid and the eligibility conditions and requirements that must be satisfied in order to participate in the Plan and receive Benefits.

### **Section 3. Written Plan of Benefits**

The detailed basis for payment of Benefits, including but not limited to, the identification and description of the Benefits, the persons to whom Benefits will be paid, and the eligibility requirements and conditions, must be specified in writing by appropriate action of the Trustees, and must be incorporated into the Plan Document or a duly adopted written amendment or modification of the Plan Document.

### **Section 4. Tax-Qualification and Special Funding Requirements**

The Fund is intended to qualify under Code Section 401(a) and is intended to be exempt from federal income taxation under Code Section 501(a). The Plan is expected to comply with the tax-qualification requirements of Code Section 401(a), so as to provide, among other things, that the Employers' Contributions are deductible for federal income tax purposes to the extent permitted by law. Additionally, as a multiemployer pension plan, the Plan is subject to special funding rules under ERISA and the Code, as amended. The Plan Sponsor is expected to comply with these funding rules, and it is expected that the Trustees will take appropriate steps to ensure that the Plan operates in compliance with those funding rules. If a new Benefit or a modification to an existing Benefit is under consideration, the Plan's legal counsel and/or its actuarial consultant will advise

the Trustees whether the adoption of the new or modified Benefit would be consistent with the qualification requirements of Code Section 401(a) and the funding rules that apply to multiemployer plans under the Code and ERISA. The Trustees may take whatever actions and do all things they deem necessary or appropriate to maintain the Plan's tax-qualified status and comply with the funding requirements of ERISA and the Code.

#### **Section 5. Payment of Compliance- Related Costs and Expenses**

Any expenditure for purposes of ensuring that the Fund maintains its tax-qualified status under Code Section 401(a), or for purposes ensuring compliance with any of the funding requirements imposed upon the Plan or the Plan Sponsor under ERISA and the Code constitutes a cost for purposes of providing Benefits and may be paid directly by the Fund. The costs of providing Benefits include the payment of any costs or expenses associated with maintaining the Fund's tax-qualified status, complying with the minimum and additional funding requirements of ERISA, and other applicable law. Examples of such necessary costs or expenses include, but are not limited to, costs or expenses incurred as a result of: (i) non-discrimination testing; (ii) evaluation and drafting by the Plan's counsel or actuarial consultant of any proposed Benefits, amendments, or modifications; (iii) actuarial, legal and other expenses incurred in development and modification of any rehabilitation plan or funding improvement plan; (iv) actuarial evaluations or projections; (v) determination letter and private letter ruling applications; and (vi) legal and regulatory filings.

#### **Section 6. Limit of Employer's Liability**

The financial liability of any Employer shall in no event exceed the obligation to make Contributions either as set forth in its applicable Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Union or as provided in this Trust Document, whichever is greater, or to comply with the provisions of ERISA and the Code, as amended.

### **Article VII. Meetings and Decisions of Trustees**

#### **Section 1. Officers of Trustees**

The Trustees may elect from amongst themselves a Chairman, and such other officers as they deem appropriate, including a Co-Chairman. The terms of officers shall commence on the date of their election and continue to the date that such Trustee ceases to be a Trustee, resigns his office, or is removed from such office by majority vote of the other Trustees. At no time shall the office of Chairman and Co-Chairman be held by Trustees designated by the same parties.

#### **Section 2. Trustee Meetings**

Trustee Meetings may be held in person at such place or places as may be agreed upon by the Chairman and Co-Chairman and may be called by them upon five (5) days' notice to the other Trustees and may be held at any time without such notice if the Trustees consent. Absent objection made at a meeting, all Trustees participating in a meeting will be deemed to have consented to the

meeting call. Meetings of the Trustees also may be held by telephone, video via internet (or similar medium) at the discretion of the Chairman and Co-Chairman, provided that all Trustees are given appropriate notice of the meeting.

### **Section 3. Action without Meeting**

The Trustees may also act without a meeting; provided, however, that in such cases there shall be unanimous written consent by all of the Trustees eligible to vote to the action to be taken. Any such action shall have the same force and effect as any action taken at a duly constituted meeting of the Trustees.

### **Section 4. Quorum**

In all Trustee meetings, two (2) Trustees shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business providing that there is at least one (1) Employer Trustee and one (1) Union Trustee participating in the meeting. At all meetings the Employer Trustees and the Union Trustees shall have equal voting strength. The vote of any non-participating Trustee shall be cast by a participating Trustee appointed by the same party as the non-participating Trustee, and his/her vote will have the same force and effect as if the non-participating Trustee were present.

### **Section 5. Majority Vote of Trustees**

Except as provided in Section 3 (actions by unanimous written consent), all actions taken by the Trustees will be by majority vote of the Trustees participating in a duly constituted meeting of the Trustees. Such majority vote shall govern not only this Article but also any portion of this Trust Document, which refers to action by the Trustees. In the event any matter presented for decision cannot be decided because of a tie vote, or because of the lack of a quorum at two (2) consecutive meetings, the matter may then be submitted to arbitration as herein provided.

### **Section 6. Minutes of Meetings**

The Trustees will keep minutes summarizing the actions taken by them at each meeting. The minutes need not be verbatim. Copies of the minutes will be sent to all Trustees (excluding any Trustee who was recused from consideration of the action).

## **Article VIII. Arbitration**

### **Section 1. Application of this Article**

Either the Employer Trustees or the Union Trustees or both may apply to the American Arbitration Association in the area in which the Fund maintains its principal office for the designation of an arbitrator who will decide any disputes among the Trustees or any other matter submitted to arbitration in accordance with this Trust Document. The arbitrator's decisions will be final and binding; to the extent such decision is in accordance with the requirements of ERISA. Any



arbitrator selected under this Article will be required to enter his decision within a reasonable time. The scope of any arbitration shall be limited to the provisions of this Trust Document and the provisions of the Plan Document. The arbitrator shall have no jurisdiction or authority to change or modify the provisions of this Trust Document or the Plan Document, and shall have no jurisdiction to decide any issue arising out of, or the interpretation of, any Collective Bargaining Agreement. Nor does an arbitrator have any power or authority to modify or change any provisions of a Collective Bargaining Agreement.

## **Section 2. Expenses of Arbitration**

The cost and expenses incidental to any arbitration proceedings, including the fee, if any, of the arbitrator, shall be properly charged against the Fund and the Trustees are authorized to pay such charges.

## **Article IX. Adoption of Trust Document**

An Employer adopts and is bound by this Trust Document when it is a party to an instrument (such as a Collective Bargaining Agreement, adoption agreement, participation agreement, rehabilitation plan schedule or funding improvement plan schedule), which obligates the Employer to make Fund Contributions.

## **Article X. Amendment to Trust Document**

### **Section 1. Amendment by Trustees**

The Trustees may amend this Trust Document, by written instrument, at any time and in any respect. The Trustees have the sole discretion to fix the effective date of any amendment.

### **Section 2. Limitation of Right to Amend**

No amendment may be adopted which will alter the basic principles of this Trust Document; provided, however, that nothing in this section limits the Trustees authority under Article XII.

## **Article XI. Termination**

### **Section 1. General**

The termination of the Plan and the Fund (which constitutes part of the Plan) will be governed by the provisions of Title IV of ERISA and other applicable law. To the extent consistent therewith, the Plan and the Fund (which constitutes part of the Plan), may be terminated, in whole or part, by a written instrument executed by all the Trustees.

## **Section 2. Procedure on Termination**

In the event of termination, the Trustees will take all actions required by ERISA. Following the payment of any and all obligations of the Fund, any remaining surplus will be distributed in accordance with ERISA and the provisions of the Plan Document; provided, however, that no part of the corpus or income shall be used for, or diverted to, purposes other than for the exclusive benefit of the Employees, their families, beneficiaries, or dependents, or the payment of reasonable administrative expenses or for other payments in accordance with the provisions of the Plan Document and/or ERISA. Under no circumstances shall any portion of the corpus or income, directly or indirectly, revert or accrue to the benefit of any Contributing Employer, SMACNA, the SMWIA or any Local Union.

## **Section 3. Notification of Termination**

Upon termination in accordance with this Article, the Trustees shall forthwith notify each Local of the SMWIA and each Employer and also all other necessary parties; and the Trustees shall continue as Trustees for the purpose of winding up the affairs of the Fund.

## **Article XII. Miscellaneous Provisions**

### **Section 1. Termination of Employer**

The Plan Document describes the circumstances under which the Trustees may terminate an Employer. If the Trustees terminate an Employer in accordance with the Plan Document, the Employer shall cease to be an "Employer" within the meaning of this Trust Document, except to the extent that any provision applies to a former Employer (e.g., delinquent Contributions, withdrawal liability, Exit Contributions or surcharges).

### **Section 2. Vested Rights**

No Employee or any person claiming by or through such Employee, including his family, dependents, beneficiary and/or legal representative, shall have any right, title or interest in or to the Fund or any Fund property or any part thereof except as may be required by ERISA, be specifically determined by the Trustees or specifically provided in the Plan Document.

### **Section 3. Encumbrance of Benefits**

The Trustees intend to make it impossible for participants covered by the Plan to imperil the provisions made for their retirement hereunder. No participants or beneficiaries have the right to assign, alienate, transfer, sell, hypothecate, mortgage, encumber, pledge or anticipate any payments or portions thereof and any such assignment, alienation, transfer, sale, hypothecation, mortgage, encumbrance, pledge or anticipation shall be void and of no effect whatsoever unless such action shall be in compliance with ERISA and the Code and the regulations promulgated thereunder. To the extent consistent with ERISA, the Trustees may take all such actions they deem

necessary or appropriate to carry out the provisions of this section, including but not limited to, the right to terminate or postpone any Benefit payments. Nothing in this provision shall be construed to limit the right or ability of the Fund to recover any overpayment of benefits, including the recoupment of overpayments from future or prospective benefit payments, in accordance with the Plan Document.

#### **Section 4. Situs and Governing Law**

The Commonwealth of Virginia is the situs of the Fund created hereunder. All questions pertaining to validity, construction and administration of this Trust Document shall be determined in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia, except as required by ERISA or other applicable federal law.

#### **Section 5. Construction of Terms**

Wherever any words are used in this Trust Document in the masculine gender, they shall be construed as though they were also in the feminine or gender-neutral in all situations where they would so apply, and wherever any words are used in this Trust Document in the singular form, they shall be construed as though they were also used in the plural form in all situations where they would so apply, and wherever any words are used in this Trust Document in the plural form they shall be construed as though they were also used in the singular form in all situations where they would so apply.

#### **Section 6. Certification of Trustees' Actions**

Any one Trustee, committee of Trustees, or the Executive Director, if duly authorized by the Trustees, may execute any certificate, written instrument or document on behalf of all the Trustees and/or the Fund, and any such execution shall be deemed to be executed by all of the Trustees. All persons having dealings with the Fund or with the Trustees may reasonably rely upon such duly executed document.

#### **Section 7. Severability**

Should any provision in this Trust Document, the Plan Document, rehabilitation plan, funding improvement plan or in any Collective Bargaining Agreement (or other agreement requiring Contributions) be deemed or held to be unlawful or invalid for any reason, such fact shall not adversely affect the other provisions herein or therein contained unless such illegality or invalidity renders impossible or impractical the functioning of the Fund. In such a case the appropriate parties shall immediately adopt a new provision to take the place of the illegal or invalid provision.

#### **Section 8. Titles**

The title headings of Sections and Articles are for the purpose of convenience only and shall not have any legal significance apart from the text.

**APPENDIX A TO THE TRUST DOCUMENT  
OF THE SHEET METAL WORKERS' NATIONAL PENSION FUND  
Rules and Regulations for Employer Withdrawal Liability**

**Section 1. Preamble**

These Rules and Regulations for Employer Withdrawal Liability of the Sheet Metal Workers' National Pension Fund ("Fund" or "Plan") govern the determination and payment of withdrawal liability ("Withdrawal Liability") pursuant to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended ("ERISA"). The Rules and Regulations are part of the Trust Document. To the extent this Appendix A does not address any matter affecting an Employer's Withdrawal Liability, the relevant ERISA provisions shall apply as if fully set forth in this Appendix A. The Trustees reserve the right to amend the provisions of this Appendix A from time to time, both with respect to Withdrawals occurring after, and to the extent permitted by law, to Withdrawals occurring on or before the date such amendment is adopted. Except as otherwise provided below, these Rules and Regulations apply to Employer Withdrawals from the Fund occurring on or after January 1, 2015 in which an arbitrator has not yet been selected as of April 23, 2019. Withdrawals before this date are governed by the prior applicable Appendix A.

Under regulations of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation ("PBGC"), the Trustees have elected to:

- a. restart initial liabilities after a merger pursuant to 29 C.F.R. §4211.36(b);
- b. change the Allocation Fraction pursuant to 29 C.F.R. §4211.36(d)(2);
- c. exclude only the contributions of significant withdrawn Employers from the denominators of the Allocation Fraction used in the calculation pursuant to 29 C.F.R. §4211.12(b)(1); and
- d. calculate the credit provided by 29 C.F.R. §§4206.3 and 4206.9 by utilizing the restarted initial liabilities after a merger pursuant to 29 C.F.R. §§4211.36(b) and 4211.36(d)(2) instead of utilizing the calculation method specified in 29 C.F.R. §4206.4.

**Section 2. Definitions-For purposes of this Appendix A:**

- a. "Affected Benefits" means: (1) any "adjustable benefit" that has been reduced under ERISA §305(e)(8) and Internal Revenue Code ("Code") §432(e)(8), and (2) any benefit that has been reduced under ERISA §305(f) and Code §432(f) are disregarded under ERISA §305(g)(1) and Code §432(g)(1) in determining the Plan's Unfunded Vested Benefits for purposes of determining an Employer's Withdrawal Liability. These reductions are recognized as of the end of the Plan Year in which the reductions took effect.

- b. “Allocation Fraction” means a fraction, in which the numerator is the Required Contributions of the withdrawing Employer and the denominator is the Employer Contributions payable with respect to a Plan Year. For the purposes of allocating the Unamortized Initial Unfunded Vested Benefits for an Initial Plan Year or any Plan Year following such Initial Plan Year, the numerator and denominator of the Allocation Fraction shall be as follows:

The numerator shall be the sum of: (1) the Required Contributions of the withdrawing Employer for the Initial Plan Year, and (2) the Required Contributions, including contributions to any Prior Plan, for each of the four preceding full Plan Years.

The denominator shall be the sum of the (1) Employer Contributions payable to the Plan for the Initial Plan Year and (2) the Employer Contributions, including contributions to any Prior Plan for each of the four preceding full Plan Years, reduced by any Employer Contributions otherwise included in the total made by any Significant Withdrawn Employer that had withdrawn during or prior to the Initial Plan Year.

For the purposes of allocating the Unamortized Change in Unfunded Vested Benefits, Unamortized Balance of the Affected Benefits, and Unamortized Reallocated Unfunded Vested Benefits, the numerator and denominator of the Allocation Fraction shall be as follows:

The numerator shall be the sum of: (1) the Required Contributions for the Plan Year in which such change arose or in which amounts were reallocated, and (2) the Required Contributions, including those made to any Prior Plan for each of the four preceding full Plan Years.

The denominator shall be the sum of: (1) the Employer Contributions made to the Plan for the Plan Year in which such change arose or in which amounts were reallocated, and (2) the Employer Contributions to the Plan and Prior Plans for each of the four preceding full Plan Years, reduced by any Employer Contributions otherwise included in the total payable by any Significant Withdrawn Employer that had withdrawn by the end of the Plan Year in which the change arose or amounts were reallocated.

- c. “Change in Unfunded Vested Benefits” for a Plan Year means the excess of the Unfunded Vested Benefits as of the end of the Plan Year over the sum of: (1) the Unamortized Initial Unfunded Vested Benefits; and (2) the Unamortized Change in Unfunded Vested Benefit for each Plan Year ending before the commencement of the Plan Year for which the change is determined.

- d. “Effective Date” means April 23, 2019.
- e. The term “Employer” means an Employer as defined in ERISA §4001(b). Accordingly, all trades and businesses under common control shall constitute a single Employer as provided in ERISA §4001(b) and may include successors and assigns.
- f. "Employer Contributions" means contributions made by all Employers with respect to a Plan Year as reported in the audited financial statements of the Plan for the Plan Year, reduced by amounts that constitute an “automatic employer surcharge” under ERISA §305(e)(7) or Code §432(e)(7)). The amount determined under the preceding sentence shall include the amount of contributions by Employers actually received during the Plan Year, increased by the amount of contributions by Employers accrued during the Plan Year and received during the period ending 8 1/2 months after the end of that Plan Year. Employer Contributions shall exclude any amount attributable to an increase in the contribution rate (or other increase in contribution requirements) that is required or made in order to enable the Plan to meet the requirements of a funding improvement plan or rehabilitation plan, if such increase goes into effect on or after January 1, 2015. Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, Employer Contributions shall include any amount attributable to an increase in contribution requirements: (1) due to increased levels of work, employment, or periods for which compensation is provided, or (2) because of additional contributions used to provide an increase in benefits, including an increase in future benefit accruals permitted by Code §432(d)(1)(B) or (f)(1)(B). The exclusion rule in the third sentence shall cease to apply as of the expiration date of the collective bargaining agreement in effect when the Plan emerges from endangered status.
- g. “Initial Plan Year” means the Plan Year in which the merger of a Prior Plan is effective. For this purpose, a merger is treated as effective on January 1 of the Plan Year in which it occurs.
- h. “Initial Unfunded Vested Benefits” mean the Unfunded Vested Benefits as of the end of the most recent Initial Plan Year ending before the commencement of the Plan Year in which an Employer Withdraws. The asset value used to determine the Unfunded Vested Benefits includes the value as of the end of such Initial Plan Year of all outstanding claims for Withdrawal Liability that can reasonably be expected to be collected from Employers that had withdrawn as of the end of such Initial Plan Year.
- i. “Local” or “Local Union” means a local union chartered by the SMWIA (as defined in the Plan Document). Effective April 1, 2016, the term “Local” or “Local Union” shall also mean, as the context so requires, a District or Regional Council (described in Article 9 of the SMWIA’s constitution), the employees of which perform the

same duties and functions that previously were performed by employees of the Locals that compose, or are under the jurisdiction of, the District or Regional Council.

- j. “Nonforfeitable Benefit” means: (1) any benefit described in 29 C.F.R. §4001.2, (2) any “adjustable benefit” that has been reduced under ERISA §305(e)(8) and Code §432(e)(8), (3) any benefit that has been reduced under ERISA §305(f) and Code §432(f), in all cases only if the benefit would otherwise have been includable as a Nonforfeitable Benefit for purposes of determining an Employer’s allocable share of Unfunded Vested Benefits.
- k. “Plan Year” means the calendar year.
- l. “Prior Plan” means, with respect to periods before the Initial Plan Year, any plan that has been merged into the Plan.
- m. “Reallocated Unfunded Vested Benefits” for a Plan Year mean amounts: (1) that the Trustees determine to be uncollectible because of cases or proceedings under Title 11, United States Code, or similar proceedings, (2) that by reason of ERISA §§4209, 4219(c)(1)(B), or 4225 will not be assessed against an Employer to whom a letter demanding payment of Withdrawal Liability has been sent, and (3) that the Trustees determine to be otherwise uncollectible or unassessable.
- n. “Required Contributions” means the total of all contributions that a withdrawing Employer is, or was, required to make to the Plan, or to a Prior Plan, for the Plan Year pursuant to a Collective Bargaining Agreement, another contract, or operation of law, reduced by any amounts that constitute an “automatic employer surcharge” under ERISA §305(e)(7) or Code §432(e)(7). Required Contributions shall exclude any amount attributable to an increase in the contribution rate (or other increase in contribution requirements) that is required or made in order to enable the Plan to meet the requirements of a funding improvement plan or rehabilitation plan, if such increase goes into effect on or after January 1, 2015. Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, Required Contributions shall include any amount attributable to an increase in contribution requirements: (1) due to increased levels of work, employment, or periods for which compensation is provided, or (2) because of additional contributions used to provide an increase in benefits, including an increase in future benefit accruals permitted by Code §432(d)(1)(B) or (f)(1)(B). The exclusion rule in the second sentence shall cease to apply as of the expiration date of the collective bargaining agreement in effect when the Plan emerges from endangered or critical status.
- o. “Significant Withdrawn Employer” means: (1) an Employer to which the Plan sent a notice of Withdrawal Liability; or (2) a withdrawn Employer that in any Plan Year is used to determine the denominator of the fraction of an Employer’s Withdrawal Liability, contributed at least \$250,000 or, if less, 1% of the total Employer

Contributions to the Plan or any Prior Plan for the period.

- p. “Trust Document” refers to the document to which this Appendix A is attached and which constitutes the Sheet Metal Workers’ National Pension Fund Trust Document, as amended and/or amended and restated from time to time, and also refers to any amendments or modifications to this document that the Trustees duly adopt (any such amendments or modifications may be appended to this document or incorporated into a restated version of this document without further Trustee action).
- q. “Unamortized” when used with the terms Initial Unfunded Vested Benefits, Change in Unfunded Vested Benefits or Reallocated Unfunded Vested Benefits means the amount of the Initial Unfunded Vested Benefits, Change in Unfunded Vested Benefits or Reallocated Unfunded Vested Benefits, as the case may be, reduced by 5% for each Plan Year succeeding the Plan Year with respect to which the determination is initially made and ending prior to the commencement of the Plan Year in which the Employer Withdraws. The Unamortized Balance of the Affected Benefits for a Plan Year is the value of that amount as of the end of the Plan Year in which the reduction took effect (“base year”) reduced as if that amount were being fully amortized in level annual installments over 15 years, at the Plan’s valuation interest rate, beginning with the first Plan Year after the base year.
- r. The term “Unfunded Vested Benefits,” means an amount equal to the value of Nonforfeitable Benefits under the Plan, less the value of the assets of the Plan.
- s. The terms “Withdraws” and “Withdrawal” includes a complete Withdrawal as defined in ERISA §4203 and a partial Withdrawal as defined in ERISA §4205.

### **Section 3. Calculation of Withdrawal Liability before the End of an Initial Plan Year Following a Merger**

The amount of Unfunded Vested Benefits allocable to an Employer who Withdraws from the Plan before the end of the Initial Plan Year shall be determined as if the merger or mergers had not taken place. Such amount shall be determined using the actuarial assumptions and allocation method of the Prior Plan to which the Employer contributed. With respect to mergers on or after January 1, 1993, the amount of Unfunded Vested Benefits allocated to the Employer for periods before the end of the Initial Plan Year shall be determined as if the date before the effective date of the merger were the end of the last Plan Year prior to the Withdrawal. It is the Plan’s express policy to treat any merger occurring on or after January 1, 1993 as if it had become effective on January 1 of the Plan Year in which it occurs.



#### **Section 4. Calculation of Withdrawal Liability after Initial Plan Year Following a Merger**

Pursuant to 29 C.F.R. §§4211.36(b) and 4211.36(d)(2), the amount of Unfunded Vested Benefits allocable to an Employer who Withdraws after the Initial Plan Year shall be the sum of the amounts determined under (a), (b), (c) and (d) below. If such sum is negative, the Unfunded Vested Benefits allocable to the Employer shall be zero.

- a. The amount determined under this Section 4a shall be the product of:
  - (1) the Unamortized Initial Unfunded Vested Benefits as of the end of the Plan Year preceding the Plan Year in which the Employer Withdraws, multiplied by
  - (2) the Allocation Fraction applicable to the Initial Unfunded Vested Benefits.
- b. The amount determined under this Section 4b shall be the sum of the amounts, determined separately for each Plan Year after the Initial Plan Year that ends before the commencement of the Plan Year in which the Employer Withdraws, where the amount for any such Plan Year is the product of:
  - (1) the Unamortized Change in Unfunded Vested Benefits for such Plan Year, multiplied by
  - (2) the Allocation Fraction for the Plan Year in which such change arose.
- c. The amount determined under this Section 4c shall be the sum of the amounts determined separately for each Plan Year after the most recent Initial Plan Year that ends before the commencement of the Plan Year in which the Employer Withdraws, where the amount for any such Plan Year is the product of:
  - (1) the Unamortized Reallocated Unfunded Vested Benefits for such Plan Year, multiplied by
  - (2) the Allocation Fraction for the Plan Year in which such Unamortized Reallocated Unfunded Vested Benefits arose.
- d. The amount determined under this Section 4d. shall be the sum of the amounts determined separately for each Plan Year that ends before the commencement of the Plan Year in which the Employer Withdraws, where the amount for any such Plan Year is the product of:
  - (1) the Unamortized Balance of the Affected Benefits for such Plan Year, multiplied by

- (2) the Allocation Fraction for the Plan Year in which such change arose.

#### **Section 5. Reduction for De Minimis Amounts**

The amount determined under Sections 3 or 4 shall be reduced by the lesser of: (a) 3/4 of 1 percent of the Unfunded Vested Benefits as of the end of the Plan Year immediately preceding the Plan Year in which the Employer Withdraws, or (b) \$50,000 -- in either case reduced by the amount, if any, by which the Unfunded Vested Benefits allocable to the Employer under Sections 3 or 4 exceeds \$100,000.

#### **Section 6. Sale of Assets**

- a. A Withdrawal of an Employer (the "seller") shall not be deemed to occur solely because, as a result of a bona fide, arm's length sale of assets to an unrelated party (the "purchaser"), the seller ceases covered operations or ceases to have an obligation to contribute for such operations, if:
  - (1) the purchaser has an obligation to contribute with respect to the operations for substantially the same number of contribution base units for which the seller had an obligation to contribute;
  - (2) the purchaser provides to the Plan, for the first 5 years following the year of the sale, a bond issued by an acceptable corporate surety company, or an amount held in escrow by a bank or similar financial institution satisfactory to the Trustees, in an amount equal to the greater of:
    - (A) the average annual Employer Contribution that the seller was required to make with respect to the operations under the Plan for the last 3 years preceding the year of the sale, or
    - (B) the annual Employer Contribution that the seller was required to make with respect to the operations under the Plan for the year preceding the year of the sale, which bond or escrow shall be paid to the Plan if the purchaser Withdraws, or fails to make an Employer Contribution when due, at any time during the first 5 years following the year of the sale; and
    - (C) the contract for the sale provides that, if the purchaser Withdraws in a complete Withdrawal or a partial Withdrawal with respect to operations during such first 5 years, the seller is secondarily liable for any Withdrawal Liability it would have had with respect to the operations (but for this Section) if the liability of the purchaser is not paid.

- b. If the purchaser Withdraws before the end of the fifth year following the year of the sale, and fails to make any Withdrawal Liability payment when due, then the seller shall pay to the Plan an amount equal to the payment that would have been due from the seller but for this Section.
- c. With respect to a seller's distribution of assets:
  - (1) If all, or substantially all, of the seller's assets are distributed, or if the seller is liquidated before the end of the fifth year following the year of sale, then the seller shall provide a bond or amount in escrow equal to the present value of the Withdrawal Liability the seller would have had but for this Section.
  - (2) If only a portion of the seller's assets are distributed during the first 5 years following the year of the sale, then a bond or escrow shall be required, in an amount equal to the present value of the Withdrawal Liability the seller would have had but for this Section less the market value of any of the seller's assets readily available to satisfy that amount.
  - (3) The amount of seller's bond may be adjusted, at the sole discretion of the Trustees, based on the facts and circumstances of the transaction and the nature of the seller's assets, circumstances and operations after the sale.
- d. The liability of the party furnishing a bond or escrow shall be reduced, upon payment of the bond or escrow to the Plan, by the amount thereof. The Trustees shall have the authority to waive the bond requirement set out herein and in ERISA § 4204 if a request for variance is filed pursuant to 29 CFR § 4204.11 and they are satisfied that it is appropriate to waive such requirement.
- e. The liability of the purchaser under this Appendix A shall be determined as if the purchaser had been required to contribute in the year of the sale and the four preceding years the amount the seller was required to contribute for such operations for such five years.
- f. The term "unrelated party" means a purchaser or seller that does not bear a relationship to the seller or purchaser, as the case may be, that is described in Code § 267(b) or in regulations prescribed by the PBGC.

## **Section 7. Reorganization**

Effective as of April 1, 2016, notwithstanding any other provision in this Appendix A, an Employer's Withdrawal from the Fund shall not be considered to have occurred solely because of a "reorganization" within the meaning of ERISA §4218. A "reorganization" of a Local Union that

is an Employer shall be deemed to have occurred if the Local Union ceases making Employer Contributions to the Fund because a District or Regional Council has executed an adoption agreement (or similar agreement) furnished by the Fund that provides that the District or Regional Council is assuming some or all of the Employer Contribution obligations of the Local Union to the Fund, and also provides that the District or Regional Council will be secondarily liable for any Withdrawal Liability of the Local Union and includes any other terms and conditions as the Trustees may require. In the case of a reorganization satisfying the requirements of the preceding sentence, Employer Contributions by the District or Regional Council for Participants who were employed in the jurisdiction of the Local Union shall be treated as Employer Contributions by the Local Union for all purposes under this Appendix A.

## **Section 8. Payment of Withdrawal Liability**

- a. The amount of payment shall be calculated as follows:
  - (1) Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (4) below, and in subsections (c) and (d) below, the Employer shall pay its Withdrawal Liability, appropriately adjusted for partial Withdrawal and de minimis reductions as provided in ERISA §§4206 and 4209(a), over the period of years required to amortize the amount in level annual payments determined under paragraph (3) below, calculated as if the first payment were made on the first day of the Plan Year following the Plan Year in which the Withdrawal occurs and as if each subsequent payment were made on the first day of each subsequent Plan Year. Such amortization period shall be determined based on actuarial assumptions used in the most recent actuarial valuation of the Plan.
  - (2) If the amortization period described in paragraph (1) above exceeds 20 years, the liability of the Employer shall be limited to the first 20 annual payments determined under paragraph (3) below.
  - (3) Except as provided in paragraph (5) below, the amount of each annual payment shall be the product of:
    - (A) the average number of hours of Required Contributions for the three consecutive Plan Years during the 10 consecutive Plan Years, ending before the date of Withdrawal, in which the Employer had an obligation to contribute to the Plan for the greatest number of hours of Required Contributions; and
    - (B) the highest contribution rate at which the Employer had an obligation to contribute to the Plan during the 10 Plan Years ending with the Plan Year in which the Withdrawal occurs, except that the highest contribution rate shall exclude: (i) any “automatic employer

surcharge” under ERISA §305(e)(7) or Code §432(e)(7) if the obligation for the surcharge accrued on or after December 31, 2014; and (ii) any increase in the contribution rate (or other increase in contribution requirements) that is required or made in order to enable the Plan to meet the requirement of a funding improvement plan or rehabilitation plan, if such increase goes into effect on or after January 1, 2015. Notwithstanding (ii) in the preceding sentence, the highest contribution rate shall include an increase in contribution requirements: (a) due to increased levels of work, employment, or periods for which compensation is provided, or (b) because of additional contributions used to provide an increase in benefits, including an increase in future benefit accruals permitted by Code §436(d)(1)(B) or (f)(1)(B). The exclusion rule in (ii) shall cease to apply as of the expiration date of the collective bargaining agreement in effect when the Plan emerges from endangered status; however, once the Plan emerges from endangered status, increases in the contribution rate disregarded under (ii) shall continue to be disregarded in determining the highest contribution rate for Plan Years during which the Plan was in endangered status.

- (4) In the event of the Withdrawal of all or substantially all Employers that contribute to the Plan (within the meaning of ERISA §4219(c)(1)(D)), the de minimis reduction as provided in ERISA §4209(a) and paragraph (2) above shall not apply and total Unfunded Vested Benefits shall be allocated among all Employers in accordance with applicable PBGC regulations.
- (5) In the case of a partial Withdrawal, the amount of annual payment shall be adjusted as provided in ERISA §4219(c)(1)(E).
- b. Withdrawal Liability shall be payable quarterly, according to the schedule as Trustees direct. Payment of Withdrawal Liability shall commence no later than 60 days after demand is made, notwithstanding any request for review or appeal of the determination of the amount of Withdrawal Liability or of the payment schedule.
- c. An Employer may timely prepay its Withdrawal Liability and accrued interest without penalty.
- d. Non-payment by an Employer of any amount due with respect to Withdrawal Liability shall not relieve any other Employer of its obligation to make payment of its Withdrawal Liability. In addition to any other remedies to which the parties may be entitled, an Employer shall be obligated to pay interest on the amounts due to the Plan from the date when the payment was due to the date when the payment is received. The interest payable by an Employer, in accordance with the preceding sentence, shall be computed and charged to the Employer at a rate of 0.0205%

compounded daily. In the event of default or if the Trustees commence legal actions against an Employer to collect delinquent Withdrawal Liability payment(s), in addition to interest at the above rate, the Employer will be liable to the Fund for attorney's fees incurred by the Fund from the date of the delinquency forward, costs, and the greater of: (1) interest on the delinquent Withdrawal Liability or (2) liquidated damages in the amount of 20% of the delinquent Withdrawal Liability.

- e. In the event of a default, the outstanding amount of the Withdrawal Liability, plus interest on the total outstanding liability from the due date of the missed payment that gave rise to the default, shall immediately become due and payable. A default occurs if:
- (1) the Employer fails to make, when due, any payment of Withdrawal Liability, if such failure is not cured within 60 days after such Employer receives written notification from the Fund of such failure; or
  - (2) the Trustees deem the Plan insecure as a result of any of the following events (each of which the Trustees have determined indicates a substantial likelihood that an Employer will be unable to pay its Withdrawal Liability):
    - (A) the Employer's insolvency, or any assignment by the Employer for the benefit of creditors, or the Employer's calling of a meeting of creditors for the purpose of offering a composition or extension to such creditors or the Employer's appointment of a committee of creditors, or liquidating agent, or the Employer's offer of a composition or extension to creditors; or
    - (B) the Employer's failure or inability to pay debts as they become due; or
    - (C) the commencement of any proceedings by or against the Employer (with or without the Employer's consent) pursuant to any bankruptcy or insolvency laws or any laws relating to the relief of debtors, the readjustment, composition or extension of indebtedness of the Employer, or the liquidation, receivership, dissolution or reorganization of the Employer under such laws; or
    - (D) the withdrawal, revocation or suspension by any governmental or judicial entity or by any national securities exchange or association of any charter, license, authorization, or registration required by the Employer in the conduct of its business; or

- (E) any other event or circumstance that in the judgment of the Trustees materially impairs the Employer's creditworthiness or the Employer's ability to pay its Withdrawal Liability when due.

## **Section 9. Resolution of Disputes**

Any dispute concerning whether a complete or partial Withdrawal has occurred, concerning the amount or payment of any Withdrawal Liability, or any other matter pertaining to ERISA §§ 4201 through 4219 and §4225 will be resolved in the following manner:

- a. **REVIEW BY THE PLAN:** If, within 90 days after an Employer receives a notice and demand for payment of Withdrawal Liability, such Employer files a written statement with the Plan: (1) requesting a review of any specific matter relating to the determination of such liability or the schedule of payments, (2) identifying any inaccuracy in the determination of the amount of the Unfunded Vested Benefits allocable to the Employer, or (3) furnishing any additional relevant information to the Plan, a review will be conducted by the Fund Office . The full Board of Trustees, in its capacity as plan sponsor within meaning of ERISA § 4001(a)(10), has allocated to the Fund Office plenary responsibility for review of any matter pertaining to Withdrawal Liability including but not limited to initial and revised assessments, requests for review and any assertion or disposition of claims. The decision will be communicated in writing to the Employer, including the basis for the decision and the reason(s) for any change in the determination of an Employer's liability or schedule of liability payments.
- b. **ARBITRATION:** Any arbitration under ERISA shall proceed in accordance with the Multiemployer Pension Plan Arbitration Rules for Withdrawal Liability Disputes of the American Arbitration Association ("AAA Rules"). As required by ERISA §4221(a)(1), within 60 days following the earlier of: (1) receipt of a written decision in accordance with subparagraph (a) above, or (2) 120 days after an Employer has made a timely written request for a review of such Withdrawal Liability matters specified above, either the Employer or the Plan may initiate arbitration as provided herein.

### **(1) Manner of Initiation**

The party seeking to initiate arbitration must do so in accordance with the AAA Rules. Notice to the Plan shall be served as follows:

General Counsel  
Sheet Metal Workers' National Pension Fund  
8403 Arlington Blvd.  
Suite 300  
Fairfax, VA 22031

- (2) **Venue**  
All arbitrations, including all arbitration hearings under this Section, shall be conducted at the Plan's, Virginia office, unless the parties mutually agree to another location.
  - (3) **Recovery of Arbitration Costs**  
An arbitrator may award the Plan recovery for its reasonable attorneys' fees and arbitration costs if the Employer has initiated the arbitration in bad faith or engages in dilatory, harassing, or other improper conduct during the course of the arbitration.
  - (4) **Transition Rule**  
In the case of an arbitration that was initiated in accordance with Appendix A in effect prior to the Effective Date of this Appendix A, the initiating party shall have 30 days from the Effective Date to initiate arbitration in accordance with Section 9(b)(1).
- c. **LITIGATION:** Within 30 days after the arbitrator issues its final award in accordance with these procedures, any party to the arbitration proceeding may bring an action in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, Alexandria Division, to enforce, modify or vacate the arbitration award, in accordance with ERISA §§4221 and 4301.

**Section 10. Construction Industry Exemption**

ERISA §4203(b) shall apply to those Employers described in ERISA §4203(b)(1).

**Section 11. Adjustment of Liability for Withdrawal Subsequent to Partial Withdrawal**

The amount of credit an Employer receives for payment of a partial Withdrawal Liability arising in an earlier Plan Year shall be determined in accordance with applicable PBGC regulations. The credit provided by 29 C.F.R. §§4206.3 and 4206.9 shall utilize the restarted initial liabilities after a merger calculated pursuant to 29 C.F.R. §§4211.36(b) and 4211.36(d)(2), instead of utilizing the calculation method specified in 29 C.F.R. §4206.4.

**Section 12. Adjustment of Liability for certain Sales, Liquidations, or Dissolution of Employer**

The amount of Unfunded Vested Benefits allocable to an Employer who Withdraws from the Plan shall be adjusted in accordance with ERISA §4225.

**Section 13. Authorization to Calculate and Assess Withdrawn Employers**



Fund employees or designated providers, under the supervision of a supervisory employee designated by the Trustees (the “Supervisory Employee”) are authorized to calculate the Withdrawal Liability of a withdrawn Employer, notify the Employer of the amount and schedule of payments of its Withdrawal Liability, and collect the Withdrawal Liability assessed against the Employer. The designated providers or Fund employees, under the supervision of the Supervisory Employee, also are authorized to furnish, upon written request, to any Employer an estimate of its Withdrawal Liability, and information on how the estimate was determined, in accordance with ERISA § 101(l). The information provided under this Section 13 will be based on financial information about the Fund as of the last day of the Plan Year prior to the date of the request. The Fund may impose a reasonable charge to cover copying, mailing, and other costs of furnishing a Withdrawal Liability estimate or other information to an Employer.

#### **Section 14. Exemption from Withdrawal Liability for Certain Contributions under “Free Look” Exception**

Consistent with ERISA Section 4210, an Employer that would otherwise incur a complete Withdrawal or a partial Withdrawal will not be deemed to have withdrawn, despite the cessation of its obligation to contribute to the Plan, if the Supervisory Employees determines, in his sole and absolute discretion, that all of the following conditions are met:

- a. the Employer first had an obligation to contribute to the Plan on or after January 1, 2015;
- b. the Employer had an obligation to contribute for no more than 48 consecutive calendar months, starting with the first month for which an Employer is obligated to contribute to the Plan;
- c. the Employer was obligated to make Plan contributions for each calendar year through the date of Withdrawal in an amount that was less than 2% of the sum of all employer contributions made to the Plan for each of such years;
- d. the Employer has never before avoided full or partial withdrawal liability from the Plan under this “free look” provision;
- e. any past service credit otherwise grantable to participants (other than current pensioners) for employment with the Employer is cancelled consistent with Code Section 411(a)(3)(E) and the terms of the Plan Document; and
- f. that the ratio of the Fund’s assets (determined as of the last day of the calendar year preceding the first calendar year in which the Employer was obligated to contribute to the Plan) to benefit payments made during that calendar year was at least 8-to-1.

The Employer must complete and submit any forms, questionnaires, or other documents, and must provide any additional information, which the Supervisory Employee requests in connection with

the determination of whether all of the above conditions are met. If the Employer fails to do so, the Supervisory Employee may conclude, in its sole and absolute discretion, that not all of the above conditions are satisfied. If the Employer fails to respond completely to a request from Supervisory Employee within 90 days, it shall be deemed not to have satisfied the requirements of Section 14 (“Free Look provision”). The determination under the Free Look provision shall be based upon the facts and circumstances known to it at the time its determination is made, and shall be final and binding on all persons (subject to any further review undertaken pursuant to ERISA Section 4219 or to the extent additional facts or circumstances later become known). To qualify under Section 14, an Employer also must, as soon as practicable, use the Fund’s Internet Payment System to report Contributions. An Employer that is exempt from Withdrawal Liability under the Free Look provision also shall be exempt from the Exit Contribution that is provided for under Article V, Section 6 of the Trust Document. Conversely, an Employer that is not exempt from Withdrawal Liability under the Free Look provision shall be liable for an Exit Contribution, in accordance with Article V, Section 6 of the Trust Document, if it Withdraws from the Fund and its Withdrawal Liability is de-minimis.

This Free Look provision shall not affect the liability of any Employer or former Employer for reallocation liability in the event of a mass withdrawal as provided in ERISA Section 4219(c)(1)(D).