

Practice Update

New ICC Arbitration Rules in Effect

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If you practice international arbitration, today matters.

As Akerman has been reporting in previous alerts, the new ICC Rules are now in place and will affect all new filings before the ICC. All arbitration practitioners, especially those that regularly use the ICC, must take note of these changes as they will affect all new requests starting June 1, 2026.

The revised ICC Rules of Arbitration are now in force and apply to every new request filed from this point forward. Whether you're drafting arbitration clauses or preparing to file, here's what you need to know right now.

An in-depth review of the revisions reveals a clear mandate: speed, tighter procedural management, and stronger tribunal control from day one.

Here are the most critical changes:

Expedited Procedure Threshold Raised to \$4 Million. The automatic application of the Expedited Procedure Provisions now covers disputes up to \$4 million, up from \$3 million. Given that over 40% of ICC cases fall below this threshold, a significant share of the caseload will now be fast-tracked by default.

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New Highly Expedited Arbitration Provisions. A brand-new opt-in framework targeting a final award within three months of the initial Case Management Conference. Designed for lower-complexity disputes requiring swift resolution — think crypto, commodities, purchase price adjustments. No joinder. No consolidation. One arbitrator. Maximum speed.

Emergency Arbitration Expanded. Emergency relief now expressly extends to non-signatories on a prima facie basis and codifies preliminary orders, including ex parte relief.

Mandatory Terms of Reference Eliminated. After decades as a hallmark of ICC arbitration, the Terms of Reference are no longer required. The Case Management Conference now becomes the pivotal early-stage milestone, shifting the focus from formality to efficiency.

Early Determination of Claims. A new mechanism allows tribunals to dismiss manifestly unmeritorious claims or defenses without a full hearing, bringing ICC practice closer to common law summary judgment tools.

Front-Loaded Proceedings and Enhanced Disclosure. Expanded arbitrator disclosure obligations under a “when in doubt, disclose” standard, stronger emphasis on early case management, and digital-first communications as the default.

The bottom line? These revisions aren’t a dramatic rewrite — they’re the ICC refining its framework into a faster, leaner, more operationally streamlined model designed to keep pace with the demands of modern international business disputes.

For those who live in this space, the message is clear: efficiency is no longer optional — it’s the standard.

Are you ready for the new rules?

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