

PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENT

As adopted on **November 10, 2004** by the
Southwestern Illinois Building & Construction Trades Council Board of Business Agents

This Agreement is entered into this _____ day of _____, 20__ by and between _____ and the Southwestern Illinois Building Trades Council (SIBTC) for and behalf of its affiliates which sign a "Union Letter of Assent" (Signatory Union Affiliates) for this Project Labor Agreement, hereinafter referred to as "Union". This Agreement shall apply to work performed by the Employer and its Contractors and Subcontractors on Construction known as the _____

ARTICLE I - INTENT AND PURPOSES

1.1 This Project Agreement shall apply and is limited to the recognized and accepted historical definition of new construction work under the direction of and performed by the Contractor(s), of whatever tier, which may include the Project Contractor, who have contracts awarded for such work on the Project. Such work shall include site preparation work and dedicated off-site work.

The Project is defined as:

1.2 It is agreed that the Project Contractor shall require all Contractors of whatever tier who have been awarded contracts for work covered by this Agreement, to accept and be bound by the terms and conditions of this Project Agreement by executing the Letter of Assent (Attachment A) prior to commencing work. The Project Contractor shall assure compliance with this Agreement by the Contractors. It is further agreed that the terms and conditions of this Project Agreement shall supersede and override terms and conditions of any and all other national, area, or local collective bargaining agreements, (including all vertical agreements), except for all work performed under the NTL Articles of Agreement, the National Stack/Chimney Agreement, the National Cooling Tower Agreement, and the National Agreement of the International Union of Elevator Constructors.

1.3 The Contractor agrees to be bound by the terms of the Collective Bargaining Agreements and amendments thereto of the Signatory Union Affiliates and the applicable employers association, if any, with the Signatory Union Affiliates with which it has a present bargaining relationship. If there has previously been no such bargaining relationship, the contractor or subcontractor shall sign and be bound to all such agreements with Signatory Union Affiliates as outlined in the scope of work in the required pre-job conference. Such agreements are incorporated herein by reference. In order to comply with the requirements of the various fringe benefit funds to which the Contractor is to contribute, the Contractor shall sign such participation agreements as are necessary and will honor the fringe benefit collection procedures as required by the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Signatory Union Affiliate.

1.4 The Contractor and the Union agree that should the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CSA) of any Signatory Union Affiliate expire prior to the completion of this project, the expired contracts' terms will be maintained until a new CSA is ratified. The wages, and fringe benefits included in any new CSA will be effective on the effective date of the newly negotiated CSA unless wage and fringe benefit retroactivity is agreed upon by the bargaining parties.

1.5 Nothing contained herein shall be construed to prohibit, restrict or interfere with the performance of any other operation work, or function which may occur at the Project site or be associated with the development of the Project.

1.6 This Agreement shall only be binding on the signatory parties hereto and shall not apply to their parents, affiliates, subsidiaries, or Non-Signatory Union Affiliates.

1.7 The Owner and/or the Project Contractor have the absolute right to select any qualified bidder for the award of contracts on this Project without reference to the existence or nonexistence of any agreements between such bidder and any party to this Agreement; provided, however, only that such bidder is willing, ready and able to become a party to and comply with this Project Agreement, should it be designated the successful bidder.

1.8 Items specifically excluded from the scope of this Agreement include but are not limited to the following: [list all items to be excluded].

1.9 The provisions of this Project Agreement shall not apply to (Owner), and nothing contained herein shall be construed to prohibit or restrict (Owner) or its employees from performing work not covered by this Project Agreement on the Project site. As areas and systems of the Project are inspected and construction tested by the Project Contractor or Contractors and accepted by the Owner, the Project Agreement will not have further force or effect on such items or areas, except when the Project Contractor or Contractors are directed by the Owner to engage in repairs, modifications, check-out, and warranty functions required by its contract with the Owner during the term of this Agreement.

1.10 It is understood that the Owner, at its sole option, may terminate, delay and/or suspend any or all portions of the Project at any time.

1.11 It is understood that the liability of any employer and the liability of a Signatory Union Affiliate and the SIBTC under this Agreement shall be several and not joint. Provided that the SIBTC or a Signatory Union Affiliate comply with their own obligations under this Agreement, the SIBTC and non-breaching Signatory Union Affiliates will not be liable for a breach of this Agreement by a breaching Signatory Union Affiliate or any action taken by a Non-Signatory Union Affiliate. The Union agrees that this Agreement does not have the effect of creating any joint employer status between or among the Owner, Contractor(s) or any employer.

1.12 Each affiliate union of the SIBTC representing employees engaged in construction work covered by this Agreement shall be requested to sign the "Union Letter of Assent", in the form attached hereto; provided, that the failure of any affiliate union to sign such Union Letter of Assent prior to commencement of construction work shall not diminish the applicability of this Agreement to the SIBTC and the union affiliates which have signed a Union Letter of Assent. Affiliates unions that have signed the Union Letter of Assent will be referred to as "Signatory Union Affiliates" and affiliate unions that have not signed the Union Letter of Assent will be referred to as "Non-Signatory Union Affiliates".

ARTICLE 11- RECOGNITION

2.1 The Contractor recognizes the SIBTC and the Signatory Union Affiliates as the sole and exclusive bargaining representatives for its craft employees employed on the job site. Signatory Union Affiliates will have recognition on the project for their craft.

ARTICLE 111 - ADMINISTRATION OF AGREEMENT

3.1 In order to assure that all parties have a clear understanding of the Agreement, to promote harmony and address potential problems, a pre-job conference will be held with the Contractor, SIBTC Representatives and all signatory parties prior to the start of any work on the project.

3.2 Representatives of the Contractor and the Union shall meet as required but not less than once a month to review the operation of this Agreement. The representatives at this meeting shall be empowered to resolve any dispute over the intent and application of the Agreement.

3.3 The Contractor shall make available in writing to the Union no less than one week prior to these meetings a job status report, planned activities for the next 30 day period, actual numbers of craft employees on the project and estimated numbers of employees by craft required for the next 30 day period. The purpose of this report is to allow time to address any potential jurisdictional problems and to ensure that no party signatory to the Agreement is hindering the continuous progress of the project through a lack of planning or shortage of manpower.

ARTICLE IV - HOURS OF WORK OVERTIME SHIFTS & HOLIDAYS

4.1 The standard work day shall be an established consecutive eight (8) hour period between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. with one-half hour designated as unpaid period for lunch. The standard work week shall be five (5) consecutive days of work commencing on Monday. Starting time which is to be established at the pre-job conference will be applicable to all craft employees on the project. Should job conditions dictate a change in the established starting time and/or a staggered lunch period on certain work of the project or with individual crafts, the Contractor, Business Managers of the Signatory Union Affiliates involved and the SIBTC shall mutually agree to such changes. If work schedule change cannot be mutually agreed to between these parties, the hours fixed in the Agreement shall prevail.

4.2 All time before and after the established work day of eight (8) hours, Monday through Friday and all time on Saturday shall be paid in accordance with each crafts current collective bargaining agreement. All time on Sundays and Holidays shall be paid for at the rate of double time.

- (a) Fringe benefit payments for all overtime work shall be paid in accordance with each Signatory Union Affiliate's current Collective Bargaining Agreement.

4.3 Shift work, if used, shall be as provided in the collective bargaining agreement of each affected Signatory Union Affiliate.

4.4 Recognized Holidays shall be as follows: New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Veterans Day **(to be celebrated on November 11)**, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. No work will be performed on Labor Day under any consideration, except in an extreme emergency and then only after consent is given by the Business Manager of the Signatory Union Affiliates.

ARTICLE V - ABSENTEEISM

5.1 The Contractor and the Union agree that chronic and/or unexcused absenteeism is undesirable and must be controlled. Employees that develop a record of such absenteeism shall be identified by the Contractor to the appropriate referral facility and the Contractor shall support such action with the work record of the involved employee. Any employee terminated for such absenteeism shall not be eligible for rehire on the project for a period of no less than ninety (90) days.

ARTICLE VI-MANAGEMENT RIGHTS

6.1 The Contractor retains and shall exercise full and exclusive authority and responsibility for the management of its operations, except as expressly limited by the terms of this Agreement and the collective bargaining agreements of the Signatory Union Affiliates.

ARTICLE VII - GENERAL WORKING CONDITIONS

7.1 Employment begins and ends at the project site, to be determined at the Pre-Job Conference.

7.2 Employees shall be at their place of work at the starting time and shall remain at their place of work until quitting time. The parties reaffirm their policy of a fair day's work for a fair day's pay.

7.3 The Contractor may utilize brassing, or other systems to check employees in and out. Should such procedures be required, the techniques and rules regarding such procedures shall be established by mutual consent of the parties at the pre-job conference.

7.4 There shall be no limit on production by workmen nor restrictions on the full use of tools or equipment. Craftsmen using tools shall perform any work of their trade and shall work under the direction of the craft foreman. There shall be no restrictions on efficient use of manpower other than as may be required by safety regulations.

7.5 Crew Foreman shall be utilized as per the existing collective bargaining agreements. The Contractor agrees to allow crew foremen ample time to direct and supervise their crew. The Union agrees there will be no restrictions placed on crew foreman's ability to handle tools and materials.

7.6 The Contractor may utilize the most efficient methods or techniques of construction, tools or other labor saving devices to accomplish the work. Practices not a part of the terms and conditions of this Agreement will not be recognized.

7.7 Should overtime work be required, the Contractor will have the right to assign specific employees and/or crews to perform such overtime work as is necessary to accomplish the work.

7.8 The Contractor may establish such reasonable project rules as the Contractor deems appropriate. These rules will be reviewed and established at the pre-job conference and posted at the project site by the Contractor.

7.9 It is recognized that specialized or unusual equipment may be installed on the project and in such cases, the Union recognizes the right of the Contractor to involve the equipment supplier or vendor's personnel in supervising the setting of the equipment, making modifications and final alignment which may be necessary prior to and during the start-up procedure, in order to protect factory warranties.

7.10 In order to promote a harmonious relationship between the equipment or vendor's personnel and the Building Trades craftsmen, a meeting shall be held between the Contractor and the Unions prior to any involvement on the project by these personnel. The Contractor will inform the Union of the nature of involvement by these personnel and the numbers of personnel to be involved, allowing ample time for the Union representatives to inform their stewards prior to the start of any work.

ARTICLE VIII - SAFETY

8.1 The employees covered the terms of this Agreement shall at all times while in the employ of the Contractor be bound by the safety rules and regulations as established by the Contractor in accordance with the Construction Safety Act and OSHA.

a. These rules and regulations will be published and posted at conspicuous places throughout the project.

8.2 In accordance with the requirements of OSHA, it shall be the exclusive responsibility of each Contractor on a jobsite to which this Agreement applies, to assure safe working conditions for its employees and compliance by them with any safety rules contained herein or established by the Contractor. Nothing in this Agreement will make the SIBTC or any of its affiliates liable to any employees or to other persons in the event that injury or accident occurs.

ARTICLE IX - SUBCONTRACTING

9.1 The Project Contractor agrees that neither it nor any of its contractors or subcontractors will subcontract any work to be done on the Project except to a person, firm or corporation who is or agrees to become party to this Agreement. Any contractor or subcontractor working on the Project shall, as a condition to working on said Project, become signatory to and perform all work under the terms of this Agreement.

ARTICLE X - UNION REPRESENTATION

10.1 Authorized representatives of the SIBTC and its Signatory Union Affiliates shall have access to the project provided they do not interfere with the work of the employees and further provided that such representatives fully comply with the visitor and security rules established for the project.

10.2 Each Signatory Union Affiliate shall have the right to designate a working journeyman as a steward. Such designated steward shall be a qualified worker performing the work of that craft and shall not exercise any supervisory functions. Each steward shall be concerned with the employees of the steward's employer and not with the employees of any other employer.

10.3 The working steward will be paid at the applicable wage rate for the job classification in which he is employed.

10.4 The working steward shall not be discriminated against because of his activities in performing his duties as steward, and except as otherwise provided in local agreements, shall be the last employee in his craft to be laid off in any reduction in force. Stewards will be subject to discharge to the same extent that other employees are only after notification to the Union Representative. The Contractor will permit stewards sufficient time to perform the duties inherent to a steward's responsibilities. Stewards will be offered available overtime work if qualified.

ARTICLE XI - DISPUTES AND GRIEVANCES

11.1 This Agreement is intended to provide close cooperation between management and labor. Each of the Signatory Union Affiliates will assign a representative to this Project for the purpose of completing the construction of the Project economically, efficiently, continuously, and without interruptions, delays, or work stoppages.

11.2 The Contractors, Union, and the employees, collectively and individually, realize the importance to all parties to maintain continuous and uninterrupted performance of the work of the Project, and agree to resolve disputes in accordance with the grievance arbitration provisions set forth in this Article.

11.3 Any question or dispute arising out of and during the term of this Project Agreement (other than trade jurisdictional disputes) shall be considered a grievance and subject to resolution under the following procedures:

Step 1. (a) When any employee subject to the provisions of this Agreement feels he or she is aggrieved by a violation of this Agreement, he or she, through his or her local union business representative or job steward, shall, within five (5) working days after the occurrence of the violation, give notice to the work-site representative of the involved Contractor stating the provision(s) alleged to have been violated. The business representative of the local union or the job steward and the work-site representative of the involved Contractor and the Project Contractor shall meet and endeavor to adjust the matter within three (3) working days after timely notice has been given. The representative of the Contractor shall keep the meeting minutes and shall respond to the Union representative in writing (copying the Project Contractor) at the conclusion of the meeting but not later than twenty-four (24) hours thereafter. If they fail to resolve the matter within the prescribed period, the grieving party may, within forty-eight (48) hours thereafter, pursue Step 2 of the Grievance Procedure, provided the grievance is reduced to writing, setting forth the relevant information concerning the alleged grievance, including a short description

thereof, the date on which the grievance occurred, and the provision(s) of the Agreement alleged to have been violated.

(b) Should the Local Union(s) or the Project Contractor or any Contractor have a dispute with the other party and, if after conferring, a settlement is not reached within three (3) working days, the dispute may be reduced to writing and proceed to Step 2 in the same manner as outlined herein for the adjustment of an employee complaint.

Step 2. The International Union Representative and the involved Contractor shall meet within seven (7) working days of the referral of a dispute to this second step to arrive at a satisfactory settlement thereof. Meeting minutes shall be kept by the Contractor. If the parties fail to reach an agreement, the dispute may be appealed in writing in accordance with the provisions of Step 3 within seven (7) calendar days thereafter.

Step 3. (a) If the grievance has been submitted but not adjusted under Step 2, either party may request in writing, within seven (7) calendar days thereafter, that the grievance be submitted to an Arbitrator mutually agreed upon by them. The Contractor and the involved Union shall attempt mutually to select an arbitrator, but if they are unable to do so, they shall request the American Arbitration Association to provide them with a list of arbitrators from which the Arbitrator shall be selected. The rules of the American Arbitration Association shall govern the conduct of the arbitration hearing. The decision of the Arbitrator shall be formal and binding on all parties. The fee and expenses of such Arbitration shall be borne equally by the Contractor and the involved Local Union(s).

(b) Failure of the grieving party to adhere to the time limits established herein shall render the grievance null and void. The time limits established herein may be extended only by written consent of the parties involved at the particular step where the extension is agreed upon. The Arbitrator shall have the authority to make decisions only on issues presented to him or her, and he or she shall not have authority to change, amend, add to or detract from any of the provisions of this Agreement.

11.4 The Project Contractor and Owner shall be notified of all action at Steps 2 and 3 and shall, upon their request, be permitted to participate in all proceedings at these steps.

ARTICLE XII - JURISDICTIONAL DISPUTES

12.1 The assignment of work will be solely the responsibility of the Contractor performing the work involved, in accordance with applicable Collective Bargaining Agreements and past practices. To the extent that past practice is a factor in assigning work under the Project Labor Agreement, including assignments under any collective bargaining agreements to which any of the signatory contractors hereto may be a party, the practice to be applied shall be that followed within the geographical area encompassed by the Southwestern Illinois Building and Construction Trades Council. The practice followed in any other geographical area, even though a Union signatory to this Project Labor Agreement may also represent employees in that area, shall not be a factor in the assignment. All jurisdictional disputes between or among Building and Construction Trades Unions and employees and the Contractor, parties to this Agreement, shall be settled and adjusted according to the present Plan established by the Building and Construction Trades Department or any other plan or method of procedure that may be adopted in the future by the Building and Construction Trades Department. Decisions rendered shall be final, binding and conclusive on the Contractor and Union parties to this Agreement.

12.2 All jurisdictional disputes shall be resolved without the occurrence of any strike, work stoppage, or slow-down of any nature, and the Contractor's assignment shall be adhered to until the dispute is resolved. Individuals violating this section shall be subject to immediate discharge.

12.3 Each Contractor will conduct a pre-job conference with the appropriate Building and Construction Trades Council prior to commencing work. The Project Contractor and the Owner will be advised in advance of all such conferences and may participate if they wish.

ARTICLE XIII - WORK STOPPAGES AND LOCKOUTS

13.1 During the term of this Agreement there shall be no strikes, picketing, work stoppages, slow downs or other disruptive activity for any reason by the SIBTC, its Signatory Union Affiliates or by any employee and there shall be no lockout by the Contractor. Failure of any Signatory Union Affiliate or employee to cross any picket line established at the project site is a violation of this Article.

13.2 The SIBTC and its Signatory Union Affiliates shall not sanction, aid or abet, encourage or continue any work stoppage, picketing or other disruptive activity and will not make any attempt of any kind to dissuade others from making deliveries to or performing services for or otherwise doing business with the Contractor at the project site. Should any of these prohibited activities occur the SIBTC and the Signatory Union Affiliates will take the necessary action to end such prohibited activities.

13.3 No employee shall engage in any activities which violate this Article. Any employee who participates in or encourages any activities which interfere with the normal operation of the project shall be subject to disciplinary action, including discharge, and if justifiably discharged for the above reasons, shall not be eligible for rehire on the same project for a period of not less than ninety (90) days.

13.4 Neither the SIBTC nor its Signatory Union Affiliates, will be liable for acts of employees for whom it has no responsibility. The principal officer or officers of the SIBTC will immediately instruct, order and use the best efforts of his office to cause Signatory Union Affiliates to cease any violations of this Article. The SIBTC in its compliance with this obligation shall not be liable for unauthorized acts of Signatory Union Affiliates or Non-Signatory Union Affiliates. The principal officer or officers of any involved Signatory Union Affiliate will immediately instruct, order or use the best effort of his office to cause the employees the union represents to cease any violations of this Article. A union complying with this obligation shall not be liable for unauthorized acts of employees it represents. The failure of the Contractor to exercise its right in any instance shall not be deemed a waiver of its right in any other instance.

13.5 In lieu of any action at law or equity, any party shall institute the following procedure when a breach of this Article is alleged, after all involved parties have been notified of the fact.

- a. The party invoking this procedure shall notify _____ whom the parties agree shall be the permanent arbitrator under this procedure. In the event the permanent arbitrator is unavailable at any time, he shall appoint his alternate. Notice to the arbitrator shall be by the most expeditious means available with notice by telegram or any effective written means to the party alleged to be in violation and all involved parties.

- b. Upon receipt of said notice the arbitrator named above shall set and hold a hearing within twenty-four (24) hours if it is contended the violation still exists but not before twenty-four (24) hours after the telegraph notice to all parties involved as required above.
- c. The Arbitrator shall notify the parties by telegram or any other effective written means, of the place and time he has chosen for this hearing. Said hearing shall be completed in one session. A failure of any party or parties to attend said hearing shall not delay the hearing of evidence or issuance of an Award by the Arbitrator.
- d. The sole issue at the hearing shall be whether or not a violation of this Article has in fact occurred. The Award shall be issued in writing within three (3) hours after the close of the hearing, and may be issued without an Opinion. If any party desires an Opinion, one shall be issued within fifteen (15) days, but its issuance shall not delay compliance with, or enforcement of, the Award. The Arbitrator may order cessation of the violation of this Article, and such Award shall be served on all parties by hand or registered mail upon issuance.
- e. Such Award may be enforced by any court of competent jurisdiction upon the filing of the Agreement and all other relevant documents referred to herein above in the following manner. Telegraphic notice of the filing of such enforcement proceedings shall be given to the other party. In the proceeding to obtain a temporary order enforcing the Arbitrator's Award as issued under Section 13.5 of this Article, all parties waive the right to a hearing and agree that such proceedings may be exparte. Such agreement does not waive any party's right to participate in a hearing for a final order of enforcement. The Court's order or orders enforcing the Arbitrator's Award shall be served on all parties by hand or by delivery to their last known address or by registered mail.
- f. Any rights created by statute or law governing arbitration proceedings inconsistent with the above procedure or which interfere with compliance therewith are hereby waived by parties to whom they accrue.
- g. The fees and expenses of the Arbitrator shall be borne by the party or parties found in violation, or in the event no violation is found, such fees and expenses shall be borne by the moving party.
- h. If the Arbitrator determines in accordance with Section 13.5 that the SIBTC or a Signatory Union Affiliate has violated Article XIII, the SIBTC or the Signatory Union Affiliate shall, within eight (8) hours of receipt of this Award, direct all employees they represent at the project to immediately return to work. If the employees do not return to work at the beginning of the next regularly scheduled shift following receipt of the Arbitrator's Award, and the SIBTC or Signatory Union Affiliate have not complied with Section 13.4 above, then the SIBTC or the Signatory Union Affiliate which has not complied with Section 13.4 shall pay the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) as liquidated damages to the affected owner, and shall pay an additional ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) per shift for each shift thereafter on which the employees have not returned to work. The Arbitrator shall retain jurisdiction to determine compliance with this Section and Section 13.4, and to assess liquidated damages.

ARTICLE XIV -GENERAL SAVINGS CLAUSE

14.1 If any Article or provision of this Agreement shall be declared invalid, inoperative or unenforceable by operation of law or by any of the above mentioned tribunals of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Agreement or the application of such Article or provision to persons or circumstances other than those as to which it has been held invalid, inoperative or unenforceable shall not be affected thereby.

ARTICLE XV - TERM OF AGREEMENT

15.1 This Agreement shall be in full force as of and from the date of the Notice of Award to the Final Acceptance of all applicable contractors.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the respective duly authorized representatives of the parties hereto have executed this Agreement on the date set forth opposite their respective signatures.

Date: _____

(Contractor Representative)

(Firm's Name)

(Firm's Address)

(Phone Number)

Email address

Date: _____

Charles Bailey, Exec. Sec.-Treas.
Southwestern Illinois Building &
Construction Trades Council
2A Meadow Heights Professional Park
Collinsville, IL 62234

ATTACHMENT A (CONTRACTOR LETTER OF ASSENT)

Note: All contractors of whatever tier (except those construction contractors who have directly signed the Agreement) shall execute the following Letter of Assent prior to commencing work:

CONTRACTOR LETTERHEAD

DATE _____

To: (Name of Owner)
(Address of Owner)

RE: _____ Construction Project Agreement

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to Article I, Section 1.2, of the above reference Agreement, the undersigned contractor hereby agrees that it will be bound by and comply with all terms and conditions of said Project Labor Agreement, and any amendments thereto.

This Letter of Assent will remain in effect for the duration of the Agreement, and any extensions, after which this understanding will automatically terminate, except as provided for in Article I, Section 1.9, of the Agreement.

Sincerely,

(Company Name)

By.....
 (<Authorized Representative)

Title: _____

Date: _____

Phone: _____

INSTRUCTION TO BIDDERS

Award of Contract

The general contract will be awarded to the lowest responsible and eligible general bidder complying with the conditions and requirements provided in these instructions, the bid forms and the other bid documents. A "responsible" bidder is a bidder demonstrably possessing the skill, ability and integrity necessary to faithfully perform the work called for by the contract, based upon a determination of competent workmanship and financial soundness. An "eligible" bidder is a bidder who is not debarred from bidding under any applicable law, and who shall certify that he is able to furnish labor that can work in harmony with all other elements of labor employed or to be employed on the project. In the interests of such harmony, the long-term supply of skilled manpower, and to provide a legally enforceable means of assuring labor stability and labor peace over the life of the project, each successful bidder and any and all levels of subcontractors, as a condition of being awarded a contract or subcontract, shall be required to enter into a Project Labor Agreement for the project known as: _____

located in the (Municipality) with the Southwestern Illinois Building and Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO, and its Signatory Affiliated Local Unions for the development and construction of the Project, and will be bound by the provisions of that agreement in the same manner as any other provision of the contract.