

FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION
Office of Administrative Law Judges

COAST CITRUS DISTRIBUTORS D/B/A OLYMPIC FRUIT & VEGETABLE; AMAZON PRODUCE NETWORK, LLC; REFIN TROPICALS, S.A.; JW FRESH, S.A.; SEMBRÍOS DE EXPORTACIÓN SEMBRIEXPORT, S.A.; AND BRESSON S.A., *Complainants*

DOCKET NO. 23-06

v.

NETWORK SHIPPING LTD., INC., *Respondent*.

Served: August 17, 2023

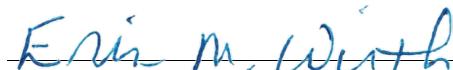
ORDER OF: Erin M. WIRTH, *Chief Administrative Law Judge*.

ORDER ON MOTION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME TO FILE ANSWER

On August 16, 2023, Respondent filed a request for a five-week extension of time to file its response to the complaint to gather documents and familiarize themselves with the facts underlying the complaint. Respondent states that Complainant's counsel agreed to the requested extension.

The Commission set a deadline for this case to be resolved within one year. Delays at the beginning of the proceeding create additional time pressure later in the proceeding and should be minimized. Moreover, agreements between the parties will not extend deadlines. The request for a five-week extension is excessive. It is noted, however, that counsel just entered his appearance in this proceeding and may need time to prepare the responsive pleading. Therefore, a fifteen-day extension will be granted.

Accordingly, it is hereby ordered that Respondent's motion seeking an extension of time to file its responsive pleading be **GRANTED IN PART AND DENIED IN PART**. The deadline for Respondent's responsive pleadings is extended to September 12, 2023. As required by the Initial Order, parties must submit a joint status report with proposed schedule within fifteen days of the service of the answer. Counsel should only request extensions when necessary and should endeavor to meet all deadlines in this proceeding.


Erin M. Wirth
Chief Administrative Law Judge