
Dispute Boards

Dispute Boards is the generic name or term used to include Dispute Resolution Boards, Dispute Adjudication Boards, Dispute Review Boards, Dispute Review Panels and Dispute Conciliation Boards among others. No matter what term is used a Dispute Board is normally a group of experienced professionals engaged by the parties during the course of a contract in order to issue speedy recommendations and/or determinations in respect of matters referred to them. Such Dispute Boards are normally associated with large projects and while they frequently comprise three persons it is by no means uncommon to have a one person Dispute Board.

Ideally such boards are appointed at the outset of a project and follow its progress through being copied with much of the contract documentation and also by carrying out regular site visits. The intention is that the Dispute Board is familiar with every aspect of the contract and also the parties. Depending on the contract provisions the Board will deal with issues as and when they arise either by means of non binding recommendations or by binding determinations. Such determinations of the Board will be subject ultimately to Arbitration or some other final determination. Normally any party can refer a matter to the Board at any time for a recommendation or a determination within a relatively rapid time frame.

Because of the involvement of the Dispute Board from the start of the project it is frequently seen as more of a dispute avoidance than a dispute resolution process.

In the past Engineers Ireland has provided training for those interested in appointment to Dispute Boards and for some years maintained a separate Panel of suitable persons. Engineers Ireland has several suitably qualified and experienced persons available for this work on its panels of arbitrators and conciliators and the President of Engineers Ireland will appoint/nominate if requested to do so.