

Quenvale Marine and Norhaven Bulk take charter dispute to arbitration

Rafe Callindor, Harbour Ledger Wire, 8 Oct 2025, 206 words

Quenvale Marine Pte. Ltd. and Norhaven Bulk have referred a dispute over a time-charter agreement to an arbitration tribunal seated in Singapore, after talks between the two companies failed to produce a settlement.

The disagreement centres on a Supramax bulk carrier that Norhaven Bulk chartered from Quenvale Marine for 18 months from early 2024. Norhaven Bulk says the vessel was slower than the speed promised in the charter and has withheld about USD 2.6 million in hire payments. Quenvale Marine says the reduced speed was caused by weather and by Norhaven's own routing instructions, and is seeking the unpaid hire plus interest.

Both companies confirmed the referral but declined to discuss the details, citing the confidentiality of the proceedings. A hearing is expected in the first quarter of next year.

"This is a commercial disagreement about vessel performance, and we are confident in our position," a spokesperson for Singapore-based Quenvale Marine said. Norhaven Bulk said it would present its case to the tribunal.

Speed and fuel-consumption claims are among the most common causes of charter disputes in the dry-bulk market, according to maritime lawyers, and are usually resolved through arbitration rather than in court.

No regulatory action has been taken against either company over the matter.

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