1. General remarks and scope

1.1. The present terms apply to all business transactions entered into by Deutsche Benkert GmbH (“Benkert” in the following) and their customers (“customer” in the following).

1.2. These terms shall apply exclusively to all business transactions. Any conflicting or diverging terms and conditions of the customer will not be recognized by Benkert, unless their application was expressly agreed to by Benkert. The present terms shall apply even if Benkert effects delivery to the customer without reservation while being aware of such conflicting, diverging or supplementary terms of the customer.

1.3. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, separate, individual agreements concluded with the customer shall take precedence over the provisions in these terms. Such individual agreements require written form and/or Benkert’s written confirmation to be effective.

1.4. Any legally relevant representations and notices to be made to Benkert by the customer after conclusion of the contract (incl. deadlines or grace periods, notices of defects, revocation of the contract or price reductions) need to be made in writing to be effective.

1.5. References to statutory provisions are for clarification purposes only. Even without such references, legal regulations and statutory provisions generally apply without limitation unless they are expressly changed or excluded in these terms.

2. Conclusion of a contract

2.1. Benkert’s offers are without engagement. The placing of an order by the customer constitutes a binding offer to conclude a contract. Unless otherwise specified in the order, Benkert may accept the customer’s contract offer within four weeks upon receipt of the order.

2.2. Delivery contracts only enter into force upon written acceptance or shipment of the goods at the latest. Transmitting acceptance via telecommunications shall be deemed written acceptance.

2.3. In the event Benkert uses a telecommunications or other electronic media service to conclude a contract, the customer hereby waives his right to appropriate, effective and accessible technical means for the detection and correction of type errors, disclosure of the information specified in Art. 246, Sec. 3 EGBGB (German Introductory Act to the Civil Code) and to a confirmation of receipt of the order. Any electronically transmitted order shall not be deemed received until downloaded and opened by Benkert.

3. Prices - terms of payment

3.1. Any and all prices shall be in Euro as agreed and exclusive of VAT unless a different currency has been agreed with the Buyer or is required under applicable law.

3.2. Unless agreed otherwise in writing (in particular by way of INCOTERMS), the prices are Ex Works without packing charges, transport costs and expenses and exclusive of VAT, if applicable. The customer bears the applicable VAT as well as all packing charges, transport costs, fees, other taxes and duties in connection with the deliveries.

3.3. Should there, after the conclusion of contract, occur a substantial increase of the relevant price determinants, due to any external factor beyond the control of Benkert, as e.g., of the price for raw material and auxiliary commodities, wages and other social costs, cost for energy, taxes and likewise expenses at Benkert or its supplier, Benkert shall be entitled to adjust the prices accordingly, at his reasonably exercised discretion, for all deliveries to be made, provided that the Buyer is notified of such an adjustment at least 10 days in advance.

3.4. In case of Ex Works the goods will be invoiced on the date the goods are ready for collection at Benkert’s factory or warehouse on the confirmed delivery date. In case of FOB, CFR, CIF and DDP deliveries the goods will be invoiced on the date the goods have been dispatched from Benkert’s factory or warehouse. Unless otherwise agreed in writing, payment shall be due thirty (30) days net of the invoice date, with no discount for early payment.

3.5. The customer is considered to be in default once the payment term specified in paragraph 3.4 expires. In the event of default, the customer will be charged late-payment interest at the current applicable rate. Benkert reserves the right to make additional claims for losses caused by default. Any claim to commercial maturity interest within the meaning of Section 353 of the German Commercial Code (HGB) remains unaffected by the above provisions.

3.6. The customer may only claim a set-off or exercise its right of retention to the extent that its claim is uncontested or has become res judicata. Nothing in these terms shall exclude any opposing rights the customer may have in the event of defective deliveries.

3.7. Should it become apparent after conclusion of the contract that Benkert’s claim to the purchase price is jeopardized by the customer’s inability to perform (e.g. the customer files for bankruptcy); Benkert may refuse performance and - after setting a reasonable grace period - revoke the contract in accordance with statutory requirements (Section 321 BGB). Subject to the statutory provisions on the immediate revocation of a contract, Benkert may revoke a contract governing the production of unmarketable items (products made to specification) with immediate effect.

3.8. Provided there are already outstanding claims for payment under the ongoing business relationship with the customer, Benkert may refuse further deliveries until the customer has settled all claims in full.

4. Retention of title

4.1. Benkert will retain legal ownership of the goods sold until full payment is received for all present and future claims arising out of the corresponding sales contracts and the current business transaction (“secured claims” in the following).

4.2. Any goods subject to retention of title may not be pledged or offered as security to third parties by the customer until all secured claims have been paid in full. The customer shall notify Benkert immediately of any attempt by third parties to seize such goods.

4.3. Any breach of contract on the part of the customer including, without limitation, non-payment of the payable purchase price, shall authorize Benkert to revoke the contract in compliance with statutory provisions and demand the return of the goods sold on the basis of the retention of title at Benkert’s discretion. Any sums due under the ongoing business relationship will be considered as a final settlement of all outstanding accounts. Benkert may refuse further performance and/or revoke the customer’s contract offer until the customer has settled all claims in full.

4.4. The customer may resell and/or process the goods subject to retention of title in the ordinary course of business. In this case, the following supplementary provisions apply.

(a) Benkert retains title to the goods supplied even though they have been processed combined in such a way that they now form part of or are converted into a new product, whereby Benkert shall be considered as manufacturer. In case proprietary rights of third parties continue after such processing, blending or combination, Benkert acquires joint title to the new product in proportion to the invoice values of the processed or combined goods. In all other respects, the same provisions that apply to the goods delivered subject to retention of title shall also apply to the new product.

(b) Any claims against third parties arising out of the resale of Benkert’s goods or the newly created product shall be considered assigned to Benkert by the customer by way of security either in full or in proportion to the value of the joint title as specified in the provisions above. Benkert accepts the assignment.
6.3. In case of Ex Works deliveries Benkert's factory or warehouse from which the goods are collected shall be the place of performance. All risks and hazards shall pass to the customer at the place of performance as soon as the goods are ready for collection on the confirmed delivery date.

6.4. In case of FOB, CFR and CIF deliveries all risks and hazards shall pass to the customer as soon as the goods have been unloaded on board of the nominated vessel.

6.5. In case of DDP deliveries, all risks and hazards shall pass to the customer at the time of delivery to the customer's premises or other agreed point of delivery.

6.6. If Benkert, upon the customer's request, dispatches the goods to any other place than the place of performance, all risks and hazards shall pass to the customer upon Benkert having handed over the goods to the shipping agent, the carrier or any other person or agency designated for such handling ("Designated Freight Forwarder").

6.7. Irrespective of the applicable delivery terms, all risks and hazards shall pass to the customer, if the customer or its Designated Freight Forwarder wrongfully fails to take delivery of the goods, at the time when Benkert has tendered delivery of the goods. If collection/ delivery is delayed due to circumstances within the customer's reasonable control, the risk of loss or damage shall pass to the customer at the date of notification of readiness for collection/delivery. Without prejudice to its other rights, Benkert shall be entitled to bill the warehousing costs commencing five business days following the notification of readiness for collection/delivery, and to dispose of the goods at its own discretion provided that an appropriate grace period notified in writing to the customer announcing the intention to dispose of the goods has expired without results.

7. Intellectual Property rights

7.1. The customer shall inform Benkert without delay of any intellectual property right claims of third parties pertaining to the products delivered by Benkert. Benkert may, but is not obliged to, defend these rights at its own cost and for its own benefit.

7.2. The intellectual property rights in any specifications written or determined as by Benkert as well as designs, samples, sample rolls, patterns, and other information attributable to Benkert shall remain the exclusive property of Benkert.

7.3. The customer shall not assert any claims to intellectual property rights, copyrights or any other rights to specifications written or determined by Benkert or design, samples, sample rolls, patterns, and other information attributable to Benkert or determined by Benkert.

7.4. If the customer secures any intellectual property rights in violation of paragraphs 7.2 and 7.3, customer hereby agrees that Benkert shall own all right, title and interest in and to such intellectual property. To the extent that the right, title and interest in and to such intellectual property cannot be assigned to Benkert pursuant to this paragraph 7.4 under applicable laws, customer hereby grants to Benkert an exclusive, irrevocable, royalty-free, world-wide and perpetual license to use, sub-license, assign, modify, develop, enhance and otherwise exploit in any manner the intellectual property.

8. Claims for defects of the customer

8.1. Unless otherwise provided below, the rights of the customer in the event of material and/or legal defects are subject to statutory requirements. In case of papers and printed products used as component for tobacco products, packing of food, bottling and drinking of beverage, packaging applications for organoleptically sensitive products, and packaging of pharmaceutical products, the customer is obliged to check the suitability of the papers and printed products before processing and forthwith notify Benkert in case of unsuitability. The customer shall obtain all necessary permits, licenses, approvals and the like to export, import, use, market and
process any papers and printed products sourced from Benkert being used as component for tobacco products, packing of food, bottling and drinking of beverage, packaging applications for organoleptically sensitive products, and packaging of pharmaceutical products.

8.2. The legal basis for any liability for defects on the part of Benkert shall be the agreement made concerning the quality of the goods. Agreements on the quality of the goods include product specifications provided by Benkert to the customer. Products process variations like missing dots in gravure printing, ink splashes, short blade lines, minor fiber agglomerations and short distance verge lines shall not be considered to be defects and shall not constitute grounds for warranty claims.

8.3. Customer's claims for defects are subject to the precondition that customer has fulfilled its statutory obligations to examine and notify defects in accordance with the Paragraphs 377, 381 German Commercial Code (HGB) upon delivery. In particular, the customer must carry out an inspection for obvious defects (including incorrect and incomplete delivery) and transport damage immediately after delivery. If a defect is discovered during such inspections or if a defect that could not be detected during these inspections upon delivery becomes apparent at a later stage, Benkert must be notified of this in writing without delay. Such notification shall be deemed to be made without delay if it is made within seven (7) working days after delivery and, in the case of defects that were not recognisable within the same period from the time of their discovery or from the time at which they would have been discovered in the course of an appropriate inspection. Timely dispatch of the notification shall be sufficient to meet the deadline. If the customer fails to carry out the proper inspection and/or report defects in accordance with the above provisions, the goods shall be deemed to have been accepted in the condition in which they were delivered within the meaning of Paragraph 377 German Commercial Code (HGB).

8.4. Goods which are the subject of a complaint must be separated by the customer and thus withdrawn from further processing by a defect, if necessary, these may not be processed or assembled. Any violation of these provisions shall be deemed to constitute approval of contractual performance by the Customer.

8.5. Insofar as the goods are used in products of the customer which - in the case of the defectiveness of the goods delivered by Benkert - represent a danger to life and limb or a not inconsiderable damage to health, the goods must first be inspected/tested by the customer for their fitness for use (e.g. via laboratory examination or test run). This regulation shall not apply if a quality assurance agreement has been concluded which includes the performance of specific quality inspections/tests or enhanced quality measures for the individually affected products delivered by Benkert.

8.6. Should the goods delivered be defective, Benkert reserves the right to choose an appropriate remedy either by repairing the defect (rectification) or providing goods free of defects (replacement delivery). However, nothing in this agreement shall exclude or in any way limit Benkert's right to refuse the provision of a remedy in accordance with the statutory provisions.

8.7. The customer shall give Benkert a reasonable period of time and the opportunity to provide the required remedy including, without limitation, returning the defective goods to Benkert for examination purposes. In the event of replacement, the customer shall accept the new goods delivered by Benkert in accordance with statutory requirements.

8.8. In the event the goods are defective, all costs incurred during the examination of the goods and the provision of a remedy including, without limitation, transport, travel, work and material costs shall be borne by Benkert. Should the claim of the customer turn out to be unjustified, Benkert may demand reimbursement of all costs incurred in connection with the customer's claim.

8.9. In the event Benkert fails to remedy a defect or a reasonable grace period set by the customer expires without any results or can be dispensed with in accordance with statutory provisions, the customer may revoke the contract or reduce the purchase price. The customer has no right to revoke the contract if the defect is immaterial.

8.10. Except as expressly provided in Section 9, any claims of the customer for damages and/or for reimbursement of futile expenses are hereby excluded.

9. Other liability

9.1. Unless otherwise specified in these terms and conditions including the following provisions, Benkert shall be liable for any breach of contractual or non-contractual obligations in accordance with statutory requirements.

9.2. Nothing in these terms shall exclude or limit Benkert's liability for claims based on willfulness or gross negligence howsoever arising. In the event of ordinary negligence, Benkert shall only be liable for

(a) death or personal injury;
(b) material breaches of contractual obligations (obligations essential for the proper performance of the contract the compliance with which the contracting partner may generally trust).

In such a case Benkert's liability shall, however, be limited to the foreseeable damage normally covered by a contract.

9.3. The foreseeable, typically occurring damage within the meaning of the above paragraph 9.2 is limited to EUR 100.000 (one hundred thousand) per case of liability. Any liability exceeding this amount shall exist in cases in which the parties have expressly agreed on a purpose of use and the customer has quantified the resulting risk of damage - at least in an approximate figure. If this information is plausible, Benkert's liability is increased by the amount thereby provided and confirmed.

9.4. Notwithstanding the provisions in paragraph 9.2 and 9.3, Benkert does not exclude or limit liability for fraudulent concealment of defects or for any guarantees or representations made by Benkert as to the nature or quality of the goods. The same applies to claims of the customer made on the basis of the German Product Liability Act (ProdHaftG).

9.5. In the event of a breach of contractual obligations not caused by Benkert, the customer may only revoke or terminate the contract if Benkert is responsible for this breach. The right of the customer to terminate the contract at any time (including but not limited to the rights granted in sections 650 and 648 BGB) is hereby excluded. In all other respects, the statutory provisions apply.

10. Limitation of actions

10.1. Notwithstanding the provisions in Section 438, paragraph 1, number 3, BGB, the standard limitation period for claims based on material or legal defects shall be one year from the delivery date.

10.2. The above limitation period shall also apply to all contractual and non-contractual claims for damages made by the customer based on defective goods, unless applicable legal provisions require shorter limitation periods in individual cases (sections 195, 199 BGB). Irrespective of the above provisions, nothing in this agreement shall preclude or in any way limit the limitation periods for claims under the German Product Liability Act. In all other respects, claims made by the customer for damages under Section 9 are subject to the applicable statutory limitation periods.

11. Applicable law and place of jurisdiction

11.1. These business transactions and all legal relationships between Benkert and the customer are subject to the laws of the Federal Republic of Germany under exclusion of all international and supranational (contractual) legal systems including, without limitation, the UN Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods. The legal requirements and effects of the retention of title clause under Section IV are subject to the laws applicable at the location of the goods to the extent the laws of the Federal Republic of Germany are invalid or ineffective.

11.2. In case the customer is located in one of the member states of the European Union and all disputes arising out of or in connection with any Contract or with these General Terms, or any infringement, termination or nullity thereof, shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the competent court at Benkert's registered office in Herne, Germany. Any such disputes may also be brought before the competent court at the
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customer’s corporate location, at the sole discretion of
Benkert. Upon written notification of the customer to Benkert
of its intention to take legal actions, Benkert shall inform the
customer within 20 business days about his choice of forum.
If Benkert fails to inform the customer about his choice of fo-
rum, it shall be deemed that Benkert agreed to the exclusive
jurisdiction of the competent court at Benkert’s corporate lo-
cation.

11.3. In case the customer is located in a country that is not a
member state of the European Union any and all disputes
arising out of or in connection with any Contract or with these
General Terms, or any infringement, termination or nullity
thereof, shall be finally settled under the Rules of Arbitration
of the International Arbitral Centre of the Austrian Federal
Economic Chamber Vienna (Vienna Rules) by one or three
arbitrators appointed in accordance with the said Rules.
Place of arbitration shall be Vienna, the language to be used
in the arbitral proceedings shall be English. Any dispute, con-
troversey, confrontation of complaint arising from or relating to
the Contract may also be brought before the competent court
at Benkert’s corporate location, at the sole discretion of
Benkert. Upon written notification of the customer to Benkert
of its intention to take legal actions, Benkert shall inform the
customer within 20 business days about his choice of forum.
If Benkert fails to inform the customer about his choice of fo-
rum, it shall be deemed that Benkert agreed to arbitration in
accordance with this point 3.

Valid as of 1st January 2022