

INTRODUCTION

The Common Auction Conditions have been produced for real estate auctions in England and Wales to set a common standard across the industry. They are in three sections:

1. Glossary

The glossary gives special meanings to certain words used in both sets of conditions.

2. Auction Conduct Conditions

The Auction Conduct Conditions govern the relationship between the auctioneer and anyone who has a catalogue, or who attends or bids at the auction. They cannot be changed without the auctioneer's agreement. We recommend that these conditions are set out in a two-part notice to bidders in the auction catalogue, part one containing advisory material – which auctioneers can tailor to their needs – and part two the auction conduct conditions.

3. Sale Conditions

The Sale Conditions govern the agreement between each seller and buyer. They include general conditions of sale and template forms of special conditions of sale, tenancy and arrears schedules and a sale memorandum.

GLOSSARY

This glossary applies to the auction conduct conditions and the sale conditions. Wherever it makes sense:

- singular words can be read as plurals, and plurals as singular words;
- a "person" includes a corporate body;
- words of one gender include the other genders;
- references to legislation are to that legislation as it may have been modified or re-enacted by the date of the auction or the contract date (as applicable); and
- where the following words printed in bold black type appear in bold blue type they have the specified meanings.

Actual completion date

The date when completion takes place or is treated as taking place for the purposes of apportionment and calculating interest.

Addendum

An amendment or addition to the conditions or to the particulars or to both whether contained in a supplement to the catalogue, a written notice from the auctioneers or an oral announcement at the auction.

Agreed completion date

Subject to condition G9.3:

- (a) the date specified in the special conditions; or
- (b) if no date is specified, 20 business days after the contract date; but if that date is not a business day the first subsequent business day.

Approved financial institution

Any bank or building society that has signed up to the Banking Code or Business Banking Code or is otherwise acceptable to the auctioneers.

Arrears

Arrears of rent and other sums due under the tenancies and still outstanding on the actual completion date.

Arrears schedule

The arrears schedule (if any) forming part of the special conditions.

Auction

The auction advertised in the catalogue.

Auction conduct conditions

The conditions so headed, including any extra auction conduct conditions.

Auctioneers

The auctioneers at the auction.

Business day

Any day except (a) a Saturday or a Sunday; (b) a bank holiday in England and Wales; or (c) Good Friday or Christmas Day.

Buyer

The person who agrees to buy the lot or, if applicable, that person's personal representatives; if two or more are jointly the buyer their obligations can be enforced against them jointly or against each of them separately.

Catalogue

The catalogue to which the conditions refer including any supplement to it.

Completion

Unless otherwise agreed between seller and buyer (or their conveyancers) the occasion when both seller and buyer have complied with their obligations under the contract and the balance of the price is unconditionally received in the seller's conveyancer's client account.

Condition

One of the auction conduct conditions or sales conditions.

Contract

The contract by which the seller agrees to sell and the buyer agrees to buy the lot.

Contract date

The date of the auction or, if the lot is not sold at the auction:

- (a) the date of the sale memorandum signed by both the seller and buyer; or
- (b) if contracts are exchanged, the date of exchange. If exchange is not effected in person or by an

Important notice

A prudent buyer will, before bidding for a lot at an auction:

- Take professional advice from a conveyancer and, in appropriate cases, a chartered surveyor and an accountant;
 - Read the conditions;
 - Inspect the lot;
 - Carry out usual searches and make usual enquiries;
 - Check the content of all available leases and other documents relating to the lot;
 - Check that what is said about the lot in the catalogue is accurate;
 - Have finance available for the deposit and purchase price;
 - Check whether VAT registration and election is advisable;
- The conditions assume that the buyer has acted like a prudent buyer.
If you choose to buy a lot without taking these normal precautions you do so at your own risk.

irrevocable agreement to exchange made by telephone, fax or electronic mail the date of exchange is the date on which both parts have been signed and posted or otherwise placed beyond normal retrieval.

Documents

Documents of title (including, if title is registered, the entries on the register and the title plan) and other documents listed or referred to in the special conditions relating to the lot.

Financial charge

A charge to secure a loan or other financial indebtedness (not including a rent charge).

General conditions

That part of the sale conditions so headed, including any extra general conditions.

Interest rate

If not specified in the special conditions, 4% above the base rate from time to time of Barclays Bank plc. (The interest rate will also apply to judgment debts, if applicable.)

Lot

Each separate property described in the catalogue or (as the case may be) the property that the seller has agreed to sell and the buyer to buy (including chattels, if any).

Old arrears

Arrears due under any of the tenancies that are not "new tenancies" as defined by the Landlord and Tenant (Covenants) Act 1995.

Particulars

The section of the catalogue that contains descriptions of each lot (as varied by any addendum).

Practitioner

An insolvency practitioner for the purposes of the Insolvency Act 1986 (or, in relation to jurisdictions outside the United Kingdom, any similar official).

Price

The price that the buyer agrees to pay for the lot.

Ready to complete

Ready, willing and able to complete: if completion would enable the seller to discharge all financial charges secured on the lot that have to be discharged by completion, then those outstanding financial charges do not prevent the seller from being ready to complete.

Sale conditions

The general conditions as varied by any special conditions or addendum.

Sale memorandum

The form so headed (whether or not set out in the catalogue) in which the terms of the contract for the sale of the lot are recorded.

Seller

The person selling the lot. If two or more are jointly the seller their obligations can be enforced against them jointly or against each of them separately.

Special conditions

Those of the sale conditions so headed that relate to the lot.

Tenancies

Tenancies, leases, licences to occupy and agreements for lease and any documents varying or supplemental to them.

Tenancy schedule

The tenancy schedule (if any) forming part of the special conditions.

Transfer

Transfer includes a conveyance or assignment (and "to transfer" includes "to convey" or "to assign").

TUPE

The Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006.

VAT

Value Added Tax or other tax of a similar nature.

VAT option

An option to tax.

We (and us and our)

The auctioneers.

You (and your)

Someone who has a copy of the catalogue or who attends or bids at the auction, whether or not a buyer.

CONDUCT OF THE AUCTION

A1 Introduction

A1.1 Words in bold blue type have special meanings, which are defined in the Glossary.

A1.2 The catalogue is issued only on the basis that you accept these auction conduct conditions. They govern our relationship with you and cannot be disappplied or varied by the sale conditions (even by a condition purporting to replace the whole of the Common Auction Conditions). They can be varied only if we agree.

A2 Our role

A2.1 As agents for each seller we have authority to:

- (a) prepare the catalogue from information supplied by or on behalf of each seller;
- (b) offer each lot for sale;
- (c) sell each lot;
- (d) receive and hold deposits;
- (e) sign each sale memorandum; and
- (f) treat a contract as repudiated if the buyer fails to sign a sale memorandum or pay a deposit as required by these auction conduct conditions.

A2.2 Our decision on the conduct of the auction is final.

A2.3 We may cancel the auction, or alter the order in which lots are offered for sale. We may also combine or divide lots. A lot may be sold or withdrawn from sale prior to the auction.

A2.4 You acknowledge that to the extent permitted by law we owe you no duty of care and you have no claim against us for any loss.

A3 Bidding and reserve prices

A3.1 All bids are to be made in pounds sterling exclusive of any applicable VAT.

A3.2 We may refuse to accept a bid. We do not have to explain why.

A3.3 If there is a dispute over bidding we are entitled to resolve it, and our decision is final.

A3.4 Unless stated otherwise each lot is subject to a reserve price (which may be fixed just before the lot is offered for sale). If no bid equals or exceeds that reserve price the lot will be withdrawn from the auction.

A3.5 Where there is a reserve price the seller may bid (or ask us or another agent to bid on the seller's behalf) up to the reserve price but may not make a bid equal to or exceeding the reserve price. You accept that it is possible that all bids up to the reserve price are bids made by or on behalf of the seller.

A3.6 Where a guide price (or range of prices) is given that guide is the minimum price at which, or range of prices within which, the seller might be prepared to sell at the date of the guide price. But guide prices may change. The last published guide price will normally be at or above any reserve price, but not always – as the seller may fix the final reserve price just before bidding commences.

A4 The particulars and other information

A4.1 We have taken reasonable care to prepare particulars that correctly describe each lot. The particulars are based on information supplied by or on behalf of the seller. You need to check that the information in the particulars is correct.

A4.2 If the special conditions do not contain a description of the lot, or simply refer to the relevant lot number, you take the risk that the description contained in the particulars is incomplete or inaccurate, as the particulars have not been prepared by a conveyancer and are not intended to form part of a legal contract.

A4.3 The particulars and the sale conditions may change prior to the auction and it is your responsibility to check that you have the correct versions.

A4.4 If we provide information, or a copy of a document, provided by others we do so only on the basis that we are not responsible for the accuracy of that information or document.

A5 The contract

A5.1 A successful bid is one we accept as such (normally on the fall of the hammer). This condition A5 applies to you if you make the successful bid for a lot.

A5.2 You are obliged to buy the lot on the terms of the sale memorandum at the price you bid plus VAT (if applicable).

A5.3 You must before leaving the auction:

- (a) provide all information we reasonably need from you to enable us to complete the sale memorandum (including proof of your identity if required by us);
- (b) sign the completed sale memorandum; and
- (c) pay the deposit.

A5.4 If you do not we may either:

- (a) as agent for the seller treat that failure as your repudiation of the contract and offer the lot for sale again: the seller may then have a claim against you for breach of contract; or
- (b) sign the sale memorandum on your behalf.

A5.5 The deposit:

- (a) is to be held as stakeholder where VAT would be chargeable on the deposit were it to be held as agent for the seller, but otherwise is to be held as stated in the sale conditions; and
- (b) must be paid in pounds sterling by cheque or by bankers' draft made payable to us on an approved financial institution. The extra auction conduct conditions may state if we accept any other form of payment.

A5.6 We may retain the sale memorandum signed by or on behalf of the seller until the deposit has been received in cleared funds.

A5.7 If the buyer does not comply with its obligations under the contract then:

- (a) you are personally liable to buy the lot even if you are acting as an agent; and
- (b) you must indemnify the seller in respect of any loss the seller incurs as a result of the buyer's default.

A5.8 Where the buyer is a company you warrant that the buyer is properly constituted and able to buy the lot.

A6 Extra Auction Conduct Conditions

A6.1 Despite any special condition to the contrary the minimum deposit we accept is £2,000 (or the total price, if less). A special condition may, however, require a higher minimum deposit.