

Contents

Preface	V
Summary Contents	VII
About the Authors	XIII
Abbreviations	XV
Introduction	1
Part 1: The Role of Classification Societies in the Shipping Industry	5
A. Scope of Activities	5
B. Economic Background of Ship Classification.....	7
C. Class and Classification Rules	8
D. Classification Surveys	9
E. Conclusion.....	13
Part 2: Third-Party Liability of Classification Societies in Selected Legal Systems	15
A. England	15
I. Basic Principles	15
II. Liability under the Tort of Negligence	16
B. New Zealand	21
C. Australia	22
I. Basic Principles	22
II. Liability under the Tort of Negligence	23
D. United States of America	26
I. Basic Principles	26
II. Liability under the Tort of Negligence	27
III. Liability under the Tort of Negligent Misrepresentation	30
E. France.....	33
I. Basic Principles	33
II. The Case Law	35
1. Ship Buyer Cases	35
2. Other Third-Party Cases.....	37
F. Conclusion.....	38

Part 3: The Basis for Liability under German Law	39
A. Third-Party Liability for Advice and Recommendation – Systematic Foundations	39
I. Legislative Restraint	39
II. Extension of Third-Party Liability in Case Law	40
III. Conclusion	43
B. Contract to Provide Information	44
C. Contract with Protective Effects towards Third Parties	45
I. Basic Concept	46
1. Classification Agreements	46
2. Legal Basis	47
3. Prerequisites for Expanding the Scope of Protection to Third Parties	48
4. Further Conditions for Damages Claims	50
II. Application to Classification Agreements	50
1. Differences as Compared to Typical Cases of Professional Liability	51
2. Restricting the Group of Claimants	52
3. Limitations of Liability in Maritime Law	53
4. Pure Economic Loss	56
III. Scope of Protection - Selected Third Parties	59
1. Ship Purchasers	59
a) Groundwork	59
b) Class Confirmation based on Records as they Stand	63
c) Class Confirmation after Special Survey	64
d) Erroneous Certification at Routine Surveys	65
2. Hull Underwriters	66
3. Shippers and Freight Forwarders	67
4. Cargo Underwriters	69
5. Crew Members and Passengers	69
6. Conclusion	72
D. Claims based on the Doctrine of <i>Culpa in Contrahendo</i>	72
I. Prospectus Liability	73
II. Liability of Agent Availing Himself of Special Relationship of Trust	74
III. Conclusion	75
E. Claims based on the Law of Delict	75
I. Liability under § 823 (1) BGB	75
II. Liability under § 823 (2) BGB	76
III. Liability under § 826 BGB	77
IV. Vicarious Liability under § 831 (1) BGB	78
V. Product Liability	78
VI. Conclusion	81
F. Conclusion	81

Part 4: The Extent of Liability under German Law –	
Selected Issues	83
A. Contributory Negligence.....	83
I. Misconduct by the Injured Party.....	83
II. Misconduct by Third Parties.....	84
B. Limitation of Liability.....	85
I. Background.....	85
II. Validity of Limitation of Liability Clauses.....	86
1. Restriction to Supplementary Performance.....	87
2. Liability Caps and Exclusions for Ordinary Negligence.....	87
a) Exclusion for Ordinary Negligence.....	88
b) Liability Caps.....	91
c) Limitation to Foreseeable Damage.....	91
3. Limiting the Personal Liability of Directors, Officers	
and Agents.....	92
4. Conclusion.....	93
III. Validity of Limitation of Liability Clauses towards Third Parties.....	94
1. Straightforward Cases.....	94
2. Liability Limitations and Contracts Having Protective Effects	
towards Third Parties.....	94
a) Subject-matter Review of Standard Contract Terms.....	95
b) Reliance on Liability Limitations does not Violate	
the Principle of Good Faith.....	96
C. Conclusion.....	98
Part 5: Conclusion	101
Bibliography	105
Table of Cases	113
Table of Main Statutes	117
Index	121