
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1998 No. 3132

The Civil Procedure Rules 1998

PART 20

COUNTERCLAIMS AND OTHER ADDITIONAL CLAIMS

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Purpose of Part 20

20.1 The purpose of Part 20 is to enable Part 20 claims to be managed in the most convenient and effective manner.

Meaning of “Part 20 claim”

20.2.—(1) A Part 20 claim is any claim other than a claim by a claimant against a defendant and includes—

- (a) a counterclaim by a defendant against the claimant or against the claimant and some other person;
 - (b) a claim by a defendant against any person (whether or not already a party) for contribution^(GL) or indemnity^(GL) or some other remedy; and
 - (c) where a Part 20 claim has been made against a person who is not already a party, any claim made by that person against any other person (whether or not already a party).
- (2) In this Part “Part 20 claimant” means a person who makes a Part 20 claim.

Part 20 claim to be treated as a claim for the purposes of the Rules

20.3.—(1) A Part 20 claim shall be treated as if it were a claim for the purposes of these Rules, except as provided by this Part.

(2) The following rules do not apply to Part 20 claims—

- (a) rules 7.5 and 7.6 (time within which a claim form may be served);
- (b) rule 16.3(5) (statement of value where claim to be issued in the High Court); and
- (c) Part 26 (Case management—preliminary stage).

(3) The following rules do not apply to Part 20 claims except where the Part 20 claim is a counterclaim—

- (a) Part 12 (default judgment); and
- (b) Part 14 (admissions) except rules 14.1(1) and (2) (which provide that a party may admit in writing the truth of another party’s case) and 14.3 (admission by notice in writing—application for judgment).

(Rule 20.11 makes special provision for default judgment on a Part 20 claim)

Defendant’s counterclaim against the claimant

20.4.—(1) A defendant may make a counterclaim against a claimant by filing particulars of the counterclaim.

(2) A defendant may make a counterclaim against a claimant—

- (a) without the court’s permission if he files it with his defence; or
- (b) at any other time with the court’s permission.

(Part 15 makes provision for a defence to a claim and applies to a defence to a counterclaim by virtue of rule 20.3)

(3) Part 10 (acknowledgment of service) does not apply to a claimant who wishes to defend a counterclaim.

Counterclaim against a person other than the claimant

20.5.—(1) A defendant who wishes to counterclaim against a person other than the claimant must apply to the court for an order that that person be added as defendant to the counterclaim.

(2) An application for an order under paragraph (1) may be made without notice unless the court directs otherwise.

(3) Where the court makes an order under paragraph (1), it will give directions as to the management of the case.

Defendant's claim for contribution or indemnity from co-defendant

20.6 A defendant who has filed an acknowledgment of service or a defence may make a Part 20 claim for contribution^(GL) or indemnity^(GL) against another defendant by—

- (a) filing a notice containing a statement of the nature and grounds of his claim; and
- (b) serving that notice on the other defendant.

Procedure for making any other Part 20 claim

20.7.—(1) This rule applies to any Part 20 claim except—

- (a) a counterclaim; and
- (b) a claim for contribution^(GL) or indemnity^(GL) made in accordance with rule 20.6.

(2) A Part 20 claim is made when the court issues a Part 20 claim form.

(3) A defendant may make a Part 20 claim—

- (a) without the court's permission if the Part 20 claim is issued before or at the same time as he files his defence;
- (b) at any other time with the court's permission.

(Rule 15.4 sets out the period for filing a defence)

(4) Particulars of a Part 20 claim must be contained in or served with the Part 20 claim form.

(5) An application for permission to make a Part 20 claim may be made without notice, unless the court directs otherwise.

Service of a Part 20 claim form

20.8.—(1) Where a Part 20 claim may be made without the court's permission, the Part 20 claim form must—

- (a) in the case of a counterclaim, be served on every other party when a copy of the defence is served;
- (b) in the case of any other Part 20 claim, be served on the person against whom it is made within 14 days after the date on which the party making the Part 20 claim files his defence.

(2) Paragraph (1) does not apply to a claim for contribution^(GL) or indemnity^(GL) made in accordance with rule 20.6.

(3) Where the court gives permission to make a Part 20 claim it will at the same time give directions as to the service of the Part 20 claim.

Matters relevant to question of whether a Part 20 claim should be separate from main claim

20.9.—(1) This rule applies where the court is considering whether to—

- (a) permit a Part 20 claim to be made;
- (b) dismiss a Part 20 claim; or
- (c) require a Part 20 claim to be dealt with separately from the claim by the claimant against the defendant.

(Rule 3.1(2)(e) and (j) deal respectively with the court's power to order that part of proceedings be dealt with as separate proceedings and to decide the order in which issues are to be tried)

- (2) The matters to which the court may have regard include—
- (a) the connection between the Part 20 claim and the claim made by the claimant against the defendant;
 - (b) whether the Part 20 claimant is seeking substantially the same remedy which some other party is claiming from him; and
 - (c) whether the Part 20 claimant wants the court to decide any question connected with the subject matter of the proceedings—
 - (i) not only between existing parties but also between existing parties and a person not already a party; or
 - (ii) against an existing party not only in a capacity in which he is already a party but also in some further capacity.

Effect of service of a Part 20 claim

20.10.—(1) A person on whom a Part 20 claim is served becomes a party to the proceedings if he is not a party already.

(2) When a Part 20 claim is served on an existing party for the purpose of requiring the court to decide a question against that party in a further capacity, that party also becomes a party in the further capacity specified in the Part 20 claim.

Special provisions relating to default judgment on a Part 20 claim other than a counterclaim or a contribution or indemnity notice

20.11.—(1) This rule applies if—

- (a) the Part 20 claim is not—
 - (i) a counterclaim; or
 - (ii) a claim by a defendant for contribution^(GL) or indemnity^(GL) against another defendant under rule 20.6; and
- (b) the party against whom a Part 20 claim is made fails to file an acknowledgment of service or defence in respect of the Part 20 claim.

(2) The party against whom the Part 20 claim is made—

- (a) is deemed to admit the Part 20 claim, and is bound by any judgment or decision in the main proceedings in so far as it is relevant to any matter arising in the Part 20 claim;
- (b) subject to paragraph (3), if default judgment under Part 12 is given against the Part 20 claimant, the Part 20 claimant may obtain judgment in respect of the Part 20 claim by filing a request in the relevant practice form.

(3) A Part 20 claimant may not enter judgment under paragraph (2)(b) without the court's permission if—

- (a) he has not satisfied the default judgment which has been given against him; or
- (b) he wishes to obtain judgment for any remedy other than a contribution^(GL) or indemnity^(GL).

(4) An application for the court's permission under paragraph (3) may be made without notice unless the court directs otherwise.

(5) The court may at any time set aside^(GL) or vary a judgment entered under paragraph (2)(b).

Procedural steps on service of a Part 20 claim form on a non-party

20.12.—(1) Where a Part 20 claim form is served on a person who is not already a party it must be accompanied by—

- (a) a form for defending the claim;
 - (b) a form for admitting the claim;
 - (c) a form for acknowledging service; and
 - (d) a copy of—
 - (i) every statement of case which has already been served in the proceedings; and
 - (ii) such other documents as the court may direct.
- (2) A copy of the Part 20 claim form must be served on every existing party.

Case management where there is a defence to a Part 20 claim form

20.13.—(1) Where a defence is filed to a Part 20 claim the court must consider the future conduct of the proceedings and give appropriate directions.

(2) In giving directions under paragraph (1) the court must ensure that, so far as practicable, the Part 20 claim and the main claim are managed together.