

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
NORTH CAROLINA

**ECHJAY INDUSTRIES PRIVATE LTD. v. INDUS POWERTECH,
INC.**

Echjay Industries · No. 5:25-CV-00754-M · Decided November 25, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina grants Echjay Industries Private Ltd.’s motion to seal materials submitted in support of its petition to confirm an arbitration award. The court finds that the materials contain confidential information protected under English law and that sealing limited portions of the filings is the least drastic alternative. The court orders documents at docket entries 2 and 4 maintained under seal and directs the petitioner to file a redacted public version of its memorandum.

OPINION

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA WESTERN DIVISION Case No. 5:25-CV-00754-M ECHJAY INDUSTRIES PRIVATE LTD., Petitioner, V. ORDER INDUS POWERTECH, INC., Respondent. This matter comes before the court on Petitioner’s Motion to Seal. DE 5. Petitioner seeks to restrict from public access its Memorandum in Support of the Petition to Confirm Arbitration Award and Exhibits D-H to the Declaration of David W. Bowker, which Petitioner explains contain information that is presumptively confidential under English law.

DE 5. Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 79.2, and consistent with the requirements set forth in *Ashcraft v. Conoco, Inc.*, 218 F.3d 233, 302 (4th Cir. 2000), the court finds that the records contain confidential information that should be sealed.

Before ordering certain documents sealed, a district court must “(1) provide public notice of the request to seal and allow interested parties a reasonable opportunity to object, (2) consider less drastic alternatives to sealing the documents, and (3) provide specific reasons and factual findings supporting its decision to seal the documents and for rejecting the alternatives.” *Ashcraft*, 218 F.3d at 302.

These requirements are met here. First, Petitioner filed their Motion to Seal on the public docket reasonably in advance of the court issuing this order; thus, the court has provided public notice of Petitioner’s request to seal—thereby allowing interested parties a reasonable opportunity to object. *Arch Ins. Co. v. Starr Surplus Lines Ins. Co.*, 2021 WL 5287162, at *1 (E.D.N.C.

Oct. 28, 2021) (“[d]Jockeying the motion to seal reasonably in advance of deciding the issue is sufficient to meet the public notice requirement.”). Second, the court concludes that Petitioner’s request is the least drastic alternative to protect the confidential information at issue here. Petitioner has requested to file under seal only the confidential information and documents that are presumptively protected under English law.

Petitioner explains that those documents pertain to a confidential proceeding before the Commercial Court at the High Court of Justice of England and Wales between Petitioner and Respondent. Under English Civil Procedure Rule 62.10, all arbitration claims other than “a preliminary point of law under section 45 of the 1996 Act[] or an appeal under section 69 of the 1996 Act on a question of law arising out of an award... will be heard in private,” unless otherwise ordered by the appropriate English court.

English Civil Procedure Rule 62.10. Petitioner’s request is less drastic than sealing all documents in their entirety because Petitioner requests permission to redact only the portions of its Memorandum that are confidential and to seal only a handful of exhibits to the Declaration of David W. Bowker that pertain to the confidential English proceedings.

Third, the court has made the findings of fact necessary to support its decision to seal the information and exhibits that are the subject of Petitioner’s Motion and to reject the alternatives. For these reasons, Petitioner’s Motion to Seal is GRANTED.

The Clerk of the Court shall maintain under seal the documents located at DE 2 and 4 until further order of the court. Petitioner shall file on the public docket a version of its Memorandum in Support of the Petition to Confirm Arbitration Award with limited redactions of confidential information. SO ORDERED this da ovember, 2025. NS = RICHARD E. MYERS II CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE