

**THE CONVENTION ON THE INTERNATIONAL REGULATIONS FOR
PREVENTING COLLISIONS AT SEA, 1972 (RATIFICATION) AND FOR
MATTERS CONNECTED THEREWITH LAWS OF 1980 TO 1989¹**

LAW NO. 18 OF 1980 AS AMENDED

A LAW TO PROVIDE FOR THE RATIFICATION OF THE CONVENTION ON THE
INTERNATIONAL REGULATIONS FOR PREVENTING COLLISIONS AT SEA,
1972 AND FOR MATTERS CONNECTED THEREWITH

(25th April, 1980)

The House of Representatives enacts as follows:

- Short title.* **1.** This Law shall be cited as the Convention on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972 (Ratification) and for Matters Connected Therewith Laws of 1980 to 1989.
- 18 of 1980*
8 of 1981
66 of 1982
4 of 1989.
- Interpretation.* **2.** In this Law, unless the context otherwise requires—
“Convention” means the Convention on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, which was done at London on the 20th October 1972, the text of which together with the Regulations attached thereto are set out in the English original in Part I of the Schedule and in translation in Greek in Part II of the Schedule².
- Schedule*
Part I
Part II.
- Provided that in case of conflict between the two texts, the text set out in Part I of the Schedule shall prevail.
- Ratification of*
Convention.
2 of 66/82
3 of 4/89. **3.** The Convention together with the Regulations attached thereto, the accession to which by the Republic of Cyprus was decided by virtue of the Council of Ministers Decision No. 18.786 dated 11th February 1980, and its amendments³, are hereby ratified .

¹ Consolidation Note: Includes the latest amendments introduced by Law 4/89. All these Laws were published in the Greek language in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Cyprus. This is an “unofficial” consolidated translation into English prepared by the Department of Merchant Shipping and does not intend to replace any translation prepared by the Law Commissioner’s Office.

According to Article 3 of the Constitution of the Republic of Cyprus, the official languages of the Republic of Cyprus are Greek and Turkish and therefore the present translation into English is **not the authentic version. The authentic and therefore legally binding version, is the Greek version of this Law.**

² Consolidation Note: The present consolidation does not include the *Schedule*, i.e. the full text of the Convention, obtainable from the International Maritime Organization (IMO) publications.

³ Consolidation Note: It is recalled that by virtue of Laws 66/82 and 4/89, the Republic of Cyprus ratified IMO Assembly Resolution A. 464(XII) dated 19 November 1981 and Resolution A. 626(15) dated 19 November 1987, respectively.

Application.

4. This Law and the Regulations made there under, the Regulations attached to the Convention and any traffic separation schemes adopted from time to time by the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organisation (hereinafter referred to as “traffic separation schemes”) shall be complied with compulsorily –

- (a) by Cyprus ships wherever sailing around the globe, and
- (b) by ships under the flag of other States, when sailing within the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus.

2 of 8/81.

Prohibition of sailing.

5. The sailing of ships which are subject to the provisions of this Law shall be prohibited as long as these ships do not comply with the requirements specified in this Law, the Regulations made there under and the Regulations attached to the Convention.

Competent Authority.

6. —(1) The Minister of Communications and Works, usually acting through the Permanent Secretary of his Ministry, shall be the Competent Authority for the application of this Law, the Regulations made there under, the Regulations attached to the Convention and the traffic separation schemes and this includes any person authorised by him for the purposes of the above instruments and schemes.

(2) The Competent Authority may authorise any local or foreign natural or legal person to inspect ships in order to ascertain whether the provisions of this Law, the Regulations made there under and the Regulations attached to the Convention are being complied with.

Regulations.

7. – (1) The Council of Ministers has power to make Regulations to be published in the Official Gazette of the Republic for the better carrying out of the provisions of this Law and the Regulations attached to the Convention.

(2) In particular and without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1), the Regulations may provide for any or all of the following matters:

- (a) For prescribing any matter which under the provisions of this Law and the Regulations attached to the Convention is required or may be prescribed;
- (b) for the obligations of masters of Cyprus ships, according to the category of their ships and the performed sailings by these; and
- (c) for the manner of writing and sending the required reports by the masters of Cyprus ships.

(3) Regulations made under this section shall be laid before the House of Representatives. If after the lapse of thirty days of their laying the House of Representatives does not amend or reject the Regulations wholly or partly, then the Regulations shall be immediately published in the Official Gazette of the Republic and shall come into force as from such publication. In case of an amendment to the Regulations by

the House of Representatives, wholly or partly, then the Regulations shall be published in the Official Gazette of the Republic as amended and shall come into force as from such publication.

Offences.

8. —(1) Any person who contravenes or suffers any person under his authority to contravene the provisions of this Law, the Regulations made there under, the Regulations attached to the Convention and the traffic separation schemes or any person who fails to act or suffers any person under his authority to fail to act, the commission whereof is imposed under the provisions of this Law, the Regulations made there under, the Regulations attached to the Convention and the traffic separation schemes, shall be guilty of an offence punishable upon conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years or to a fine not exceeding five thousand pounds (£5.000) or to both such sentences.

*14 of 1960
50 of 1962
11 of 1963
8 of 1969
40 of 1970
58 of 1972
1 of 1980.*

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1) of section 24 of the Courts of Justice Laws of 1960 to 1980, a President of a District Court, a Senior District Judge or a District Judge shall, upon consent of the Attorney-General of the Republic, have jurisdiction to try any offence which may be committed contrary to the provisions of subsection (1).

(3) Notwithstanding the provisions of any other Law, the Competent Authority may prohibit the sailing of a ship in respect of which there is reasonable suspicion that an offence under subsection (1) has been committed, until the issue of an order as provided by subsection (4).

(4) Notwithstanding the provisions of any other Law, every member of a District Court shall, during the police investigation and until the trial and issue of a judgement for an offence under the provisions of subsection (1) and until the payment of a fine imposed, if any, or the deposit of a relevant bank guarantee issued by a recognized bank of equal amount, have jurisdiction to issue an order prohibiting the sailing of a ship in respect of which there is reasonable suspicion that an offence under subsection (1) has been committed.

(5) Notwithstanding the provisions of any other Law, the payment of any fine imposed under this Law shall constitute a charge on the ship in connection with which the offence has been committed.

*Compounding
of offences.*

9. —(1) Where the Competent Authority has reasonable grounds to believe that a person has committed an offence under subsection (1) of section 8, it shall have power to compound the offence by accepting the payment of such amount, not exceeding the amount of the fine provided for that offence, as it may determine.

(2) The amount so paid under subsection (1) shall be deemed to be a fine imposed upon conviction for the relevant offence.

(3) Upon the payment of the amount provided by subsection (1), the Competent Authority shall issue to the payer a receipt for such payment in the prescribed form.

(4) Upon the compounding of the offence, the payment of the amount prescribed under subsection (1) and the issue of the relevant receipt under subsection (3), no further proceeding for that offence shall lie and the production to court of the receipt mentioned in subsection (3) shall be conclusive evidence of the facts stated therein and shall result in the acquittal of the accused.

*Repeal.
28 of 1966.*

10. The International Regulation for the Prevention of Collisions at Sea (Ratification) Law 1966 is hereby repealed.

**Consolidated DMS Version
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