

CHAPTER 415

THE SHIPPING AGENCY ACT

[PRINCIPAL LEGISLATION]

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CHAPTER 415

THE SHIPPING AGENCY ACT

An Act to provide for the regulation and control of the business of shipping agency and for matters connected therewith.

[1st July, 2002]

Act No. 13 of 2002

PART I

PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS (ss 1-2)

[PCh415s1]1. Short title

This Act may be cited as the Shipping Agency Act.

[PCh415s2]2. Interpretation

In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires—

"Authority" means the Surface and Marine Transport Regulatory Authority;

"Director-General" means the Director-General of the Authority;

"Divisional Director" means the Divisional Director of the Authority responsible for shipping agency matters;

"licence" means a licence to carry on business of shipping agency issued under this Act;

"Minister" means the Minister responsible for shipping matters;

"Ministry" means the Ministry responsible for shipping agency matters;

"port services or facilities" shall have the meaning assigned to them in the Tanzania Harbours Authority Act *;

"prescribed" means prescribed by regulations made under this Act;

"principal" means a person for whom another person acts on his behalf as an agent in the business of shipping agency;

"shipping agent" means any person or company engaged in providing shipping agency services on behalf of the principal.

PART II

SHIPPING AGENCY SERVICES (s 3)

[PCh415s3]3. Services of a shipping agent

Shipping agency services shall include but are not be limited to the following–

- (a) arrangements for the arrival or departure of ships;

- (b) arrangements for the provision of port services through port operators, Customs and other Government or semi-governmental institutions, firms or private individuals;
- (c) arrangements for cargo documentation and forwarding of cargo;
- (d) arrangements for procuring and processing of documents and performing activities required for dispatch of cargo;
- (e) arrangements for the provision of services pertaining to crew matters; and
- (f) arrangements for the provision of ship stores, supplies, ship repairing and any other related services.

PART III

ADMINISTRATION (ss 4-6)

[PCh415s4]4. Functions of the Divisional Director

Functions of the Divisional Director in relation to shipping agency matters, shall include—

- (a) to provide assistance and advice to the Director-General in the regulation and control of the business of shipping agency;
- (b) to advise the Director-General in the performance of his functions and duties under this Act;
- (c) to advise the Director-General on matters related to licensing and for any other matter submitted to the Division by the Director-General or the Minister; and

(d) to advise the Director-General on any measures to be taken against any contravention made under this Act or regulations made under this Act.

[PCh415s5]5. Functions and duties of the Authority

(1) Notwithstanding the functions set out under section 6 of the Surface and Marine Transport Regulatory Authority Act *, the additional functions and duties of the Authority shall be—

- (a) to license and register shipping agents;
- (b) to superintend the conduct of shipping agents;
- (c) to formulate and enforce the standards required of the conduct of the business of shipping agency;
- (d) to afford guidance to shipping agents on—
 - (i) the standardisation of shipping agency contracts;
 - (ii) the amendment of the terms and conditions in shipping agency contracts, which are obscure or are unfair to the shipping agents; and
 - (iii) the simplification or clarification of terms and conditions in shipping agency contracts.

(2) Before the coming into operation of the Surface and Marine Transport Regulatory Authority Act * or the Authority, the Minister shall assume all functions and duties of the

Authority relating to shipping agency business under the Surface and Marine Transport Regulatory Authority Act *.

[PCh415s6]6. Continuation of business after operation of the Act

(1) Every person who immediately before the commencement of this Act, was a holder of a licence authorising him to carry on business of shipping agency is, upon payment of prescribed licence fees, authorised to continue carrying on such business for a period of six months from the date of commencement of this Act.

(2) At any time within six months from the date of commencement of this Act, any person carrying on business of shipping agency pursuant to subsection (1), may apply for, and upon satisfying the requirements of sections 7 and 11 be entitled to the grant of a licence under this Act.

(3) Any person carrying on business of shipping agency pursuant to subsection (1), who elects not to apply for a licence or who having applied for a licence has not satisfied the requirements of sections 7 and 11, shall cease to carry on business of shipping agency on expiration of the period referred to in subsection (1).

PART IV

CAPITAL AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS FOR SHIPPING AGENTS (ss 7-10)

[PCh415s7]7. Qualifications for registration and licensing

No person shall, after coming into operation of this Act, be registered and licensed as a shipping agent unless that person—

- (a) is a citizen of Tanzania;
- (b) is a body corporate incorporated under the Companies Act * in which more than fifty percent of the share capital is held directly or indirectly by a citizen of Tanzania.

[PCh415s8]8. Capital requirements

(1) The Minister shall, upon consultation with the Authority by order published in the Gazette, prescribe the minimum paid up share capital to be maintained by a shipping agent.

(2) The Minister may, from time to time, by order published in the Gazette, vary the minimum paid up share capital prescribed under subsection (1).

[PCh415s9]9. Margin of solvency

(1) Any person or company carrying on business as a shipping agent shall, at all time while carrying on such business, maintain of solvency of not less than the amount which the Minister shall by regulations published in the Gazette prescribe.

(2) The regulations made under subsection (1) shall prescribe the method of calculating the assets and liabilities of a shipping agent for the purposes of this section.

(3) Any shipping agent acting in contravention of this section commits an offence.

[PCh415s10]10. Restriction on transfer of shares

(1) No shipping agent shall at any time declare, credit or pay any dividend or make any other transfer from profit if the payment or transfer results in the shipping agent not meeting the margin of solvency requirement provided in section 9.

(2) If any shipping agent contravenes the provisions of this section, the shipping agent commits an offence.

PART V

LICENSING PROCEDURES (ss 11-16)

[PCh415s11]11. Application of licence

(1) Any person intending to carry on the business of shipping agency shall make an application to the Authority on the prescribed form and pay the prescribed fee.

(2) Where the Authority approves an application made under subsection (1), the Authority shall issue a licence to the applicant.

(3) The Authority shall not issue a licence to any applicant if–

- (a) the applicant is a ship owner, an operator or a charterer;
- (b) the applicant does not possess the prescribed qualifications for the proper carrying on of the business of shipping agency;
- (c) the applicant has a known criminal record inside or outside the country; or

(d) the provisions of this Act or regulations made under this Act have not been complied with.

[PCh415s12]12. Licence not transferable

No licence issued under this Act shall be transferable to any other person.

[PCh415s13]13. Suspension or cancellation

(1) Subject to subsections (2) and (3), if the Authority is of the opinion that any person to whom a licence has been issued is unfit to carry on the business of shipping agency, the Authority may by notice in writing suspend the licence for any period specified in the notice, or cancel the licence.

(2) No notice made under subsection (1) shall be made against a shipping agent without a written notice requiring the shipping agent to show cause within a period specified in the notice on why such notice should not be made.

(3) The notice issued pursuant to subsection (2) shall be for a period of thirty days during which, if the shipping agent to whom a notice was issued has failed to demonstrate that he is a fit and proper person to carry on the business as authorised, the Authority shall proceed to suspend the licence.

(4) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (2) and (3), the Authority shall have power to suspend any licence issued under this Act if it is of the opinion that the agent no longer satisfies the requirements or has lost qualifications with regard to which a licence was issued.

[PCh415s14]14. Effect of suspension or cancellation of an order

An order made under subsection (1) of section 13 to a shipping agent shall come into force on the date on which that order was communicated by the Authority to the shipping agent, and shall continue to be in force notwithstanding that an appeal against that order has been referred to the Fair Competition Tribunal.

[PCh415s15]15. Communication to be deemed complete

Any notice or order required to be communicated to any shipping agent under this Act, shall be deemed to be communicated after the expiry of seven days from the date of dispatch of that notice or order by whatever means.

[PCh415s16]16. No compensation for loss

No shipping agent who, prior to the coming into operation of this Act, was carrying on business as a shipping agent shall be entitled to compensation for any loss incurred by way of business or otherwise or by reason of him not being issued a licence under this Act.