

SCHEDULES

SCHEDULE 1

PROVISIONS OF VIENNA CONVENTION HAVING THE FORCE OF LAW IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

CHAPTER II.—FACILITIES, PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES RELATING TO CONSULAR POSTS, CAREER CONSULAR OFFICERS AND OTHER MEMBERS OF A CONSULAR POST

SECTION I.—FACILITIES, PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES RELATING TO A CONSULAR POST

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C1 Chapt. II Sect. I extended by [S.I. 1985/1983](#), [arts. 7, 10, 12](#)

Article 31

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C2 [Sch. 1 art. 31\(1\)-\(4\)](#) applied (18.12.1996) by [1996 c. 63, s. 1\(3\)](#), [Sch. paras. 1, 7, 8\(2\)\(3\)](#)

Inviolability of the consular premises

- 1 Consular premises shall be inviolable to the extent provided in this Article.
- 2 The authorities of the receiving State shall not enter that part of the consular premises which is used exclusively for the purpose of the work of the consular post except with the consent of the head of the consular post or of his designee or of the head of the diplomatic mission of the sending State. The consent of the head of the consular post may, however, be assumed in case of fire or other disaster requiring prompt protective action.
- [^{F13} Subject to the provisions of paragraph 2 of this Article, the receiving State is under a special duty to take all appropriate steps to protect the consular premises against any intrusion or damage and to prevent any disturbance of the peace of the consular post or impairment of its dignity.]

Textual Amendments

F1 [Art. 31 para. 3](#) inserted by [Diplomatic and Consular Premises Act 1987 \(c. 46, SIF 68:1\)](#), s. 6, [Sch. 2 para. 5](#)

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the *Consular Relations Act 1968, Section 1.—Facilities, Privileges and Immunities relating to a Consular Post.* (See end of Document for details)

- 4 The consular premises, their furnishings, the property of the consular post and its means of transport shall be immune from any form of requisition for purposes of national defence or public utility. If expropriation is necessary for such purposes, all possible steps shall be taken to avoid impeding the performance of consular functions, and prompt, adequate and effective compensation shall be paid to the sending State.

Article 32

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C3** Art. 32 extended by S.I. 1985/1983, arts. 8, 9, 12
C4 Sch. 1 art. 32 applied (18.12.1996) 1996 c. 63, s. 1(3), Sch. paras. 2, 7, **8(2)(3)**

Exemption from taxation of consular premises

- 1 Consular premises and the residence of the career head of consular post of which the sending State or any person acting on its behalf is the owner or lessee shall be exempt from all national, regional or municipal dues and taxes whatsoever, other than such as represent payment for specific services rendered.
- 2 The exemption from taxation referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall not apply to such dues and taxes if, under the law of the receiving State, they are payable by the person who contracted with the sending State or with the person acting on its behalf.

Article 33

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C5** Sch. 1 art. 33 applied (18.12.1996) by 1996 c. 63, s. 1(3), Sch. paras. 1, 7, **8(2)(3)**

Inviolability of the consular archives and documents

The consular archives and documents shall be inviolable at all times and wherever they may be.

Article 35

Freedom of communication

- 1 The receiving State shall permit and protect freedom of communication on the part of the consular post for all official purposes. In communicating with the Government, the diplomatic missions and other consular posts, wherever situated, of the sending State, the consular post may employ all appropriate means, including diplomatic or consular couriers, diplomatic or consular bags and messages in code or cipher. However, the consular post may install and use a wireless transmitter only with the consent of the receiving State.
- 2 The official correspondence of the consular post shall be inviolable. Official correspondence means all correspondence relating to the consular post and its functions.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Consular Relations Act 1968, Section 1.—Facilities, Privileges and Immunities relating to a Consular Post. (See end of Document for details)

- 3 The consular bag shall be neither opened nor detained. Nevertheless, if the competent authorities of the receiving State have serious reason to believe that the bag contains something other than the correspondence, documents or articles referred to in paragraph 4 of this Article, they may request that the bag be opened in their presence by an authorized representative of the sending State. If this request is refused by the authorities of the sending State, the bag shall be returned to its place of origin.
- 4 The packages constituting the consular bag shall bear visible external marks of their character and may contain only official correspondence and documents or articles intended exclusively for official use.
- 5 The consular courier shall be provided with an official document indicating his status and the number of packages constituting the consular bag. Except with the consent of the receiving State he shall be neither a national of the receiving State, nor, unless he is a national of the sending State, a permanent resident of the receiving State. In the performance of his functions he shall be protected by the receiving State. He shall enjoy personal inviolability and shall not be liable to any form of arrest or detention.
- 6 The sending State, its diplomatic missions and its consular posts may designate consular couriers *ad hoc*. In such cases the provisions of paragraph 5 of this Article shall also apply except that the immunities therein mentioned shall cease to apply when such a courier has delivered to the consignee the consular bag in his charge.
- 7 A consular bag may be entrusted to the captain of a ship or of a commercial aircraft scheduled to land at an authorized port of entry. He shall be provided with an official document indicating the number of packages constituting the bag, but he shall not be considered to be a consular courier. By arrangement with the appropriate local authorities, the consular post may send one of its members to take possession of the bag directly and freely from the captain of the ship or of the aircraft.

Article 39

Consular fees and charges

- 1 The consular post may levy in the territory of the receiving State the fees and charges provided by the laws and regulations of the sending State for consular acts.
- 2 The sums collected in the form of the fees and charges referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, and the receipts for such fees and charges, shall be exempt from all dues and taxes in the receiving State.

Changes to legislation:

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Consular Relations Act 1968, Section I.
—Facilities, Privileges and Immunities relating to a Consular Post.