



International Transport Conventions Act 1983

1983 CHAPTER 14

An Act to give effect to the Convention concerning International Carriage by Rail signed on behalf of the United Kingdom on 9th May 1980; and to make further provision for the amendment of Acts giving effect to other international transport conventions so as to take account of revisions of the conventions to which they give effect. [11th April 1983]

Be it enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

Annotations:

Commencement Information

II Act partly in force at Royal Assent see [s.11\(3\)](#); Act wholly in force at 1.5.1985.

The Railway Convention

1 Convention to have the force of law.

- (1) The Convention concerning International Carriage by Rail signed on behalf of the United Kingdom on 9th May 1980 shall have the force of law in the United Kingdom.
- (2) In this Act “the Convention” means the Convention referred to in subsection (1) above including, except where the context otherwise requires—
 - (a) the protocol on the privileges and immunities of the intergovernmental organisation set up by the Convention; and
 - (b) the uniform rules in Appendix A and Appendix B to the Convention together with the Annexes to Appendix B.

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- (3) The provisions having the force of law by virtue of this section are—
- (a) the provisions of the Convention as presented to Parliament in April 1982 and set out in Command Paper 8535 [^{F1}as amended by—
 - (i) Part I of the Protocol of Decisions adopted by the Revision Committee constituted by the Convention in the course of its first session held at Berne from 14th to 21st December 1989, presented to Parliament in 1991 and set out in Command Paper 1690, and
 - (ii) Part I of the Protocol of Decisions adopted by that Committee in the course of its second session held at Berne from 28th to 31st May 1990 as so presented and set out in Command Paper 1689]
 - [^{F2}and;]
 - [^{F2}(iii) the Protocol amending the Convention adopted by the 2nd General Assembly of the Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF) constituted by the Convention held at Berne from 17th to 20th December 1990 as presented to Parliament in 1993 and set out in Command Paper 2232]
 - (b) as respects Annexes I, II and III to Appendix B to the Convention, the provisions referred to in that Command Paper;
- and judicial notice shall be taken of those provisions as if they were contained in this Act.
- (4) If after the coming into force of this section the provisions referred to in paragraph (a) of subsection (3) above are republished in one or more Command Papers in the Treaty Series that subsection shall have effect as if it referred to that or those Command Papers instead of to the Command Paper there mentioned.

Annotations:

Amendments (Textual)

F1 Words in s. 1(3) inserted (12.2.1992) by S.I. 1992/237, arts. 1, 2

F2 S. 1(3)(a)(iii) added and the preceding fullstop substituted (1.11.1996) by S.I. 1994/1907, art. 2

2 Destination of Member States etc.

- (1) Her Majesty may by Order in Council from time to time certify who are the Member States for the purposes of the Convention.
- (2) An Order in Council under subsection (1) above may also certify whether the United Kingdom or any other Member State has made a reservation under—
 - (a) paragraph 3 of Article 12 of the convention (arbitration); or
 - (b) paragraph 1 of Article 3 in Appendix A to the Convention (exclusion of own nationals etc.).
- (3) Her Majesty may by Order in Council from time to time certify whether the uniform rules referred to in section 1(2)(b) above are suspended by virtue of paragraph 3 of Article 20 of the Convention (suspension pending agreement to amendments) in respect of traffic with or between any Member States.
- (4) An Order in Council under this section shall, except so far as it has been superseded by a subsequent Order, be conclusive evidence of the matters so certified.

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3 Fatal accidents.

- (1) Where by virtue of the convention any person has a right of action in respect of the death of a passenger by reason of his being a person whom the passenger was under a legal duty to maintain—
 - (a) subject to subsection (2) below, no action in respect of the passenger's death shall be brought for the benefit of that person under the ^{M1}Fatal Accidents Act 1976; but
 - (b) nothing in section 2(3) of that Act (not more than one action in respect of the same subjectmatter of complaint) shall prevent an action being brought under that Act for the benefit of any other person.
- (2) Nothing in subsection (1)(a) above effects the right of any person to claim damages for bereavement under section 1A of the said Act of 1976.
- (3) Section 4 of the said Act of 1976 (exclusion of certain benefits in assessment of damages) shall apply in relation to an action brought by any person under the Convention as it applies in relation to an action under that Act.
- (4) Where separate proceedings are brought under the Convention and under the said Act of 1976 in respect of the death of a passenger, a court, in awarding damages under that Act, shall take into account any damages awarded in the proceedings brought under the Convention and shall have jurisdiction to make any part of its award conditional on the result of those proceedings.
- (5) In the application of this section to Northern Ireland references to the said Act of 1976 and to sections 1A, 2(3) and 4 of that Act shall be construed as references to the ^{M2}Fatal Accidents (Northern Ireland) Order 1977 and Articles 3A, 4(3) and 6 of that Order.
- (6) The provisions of Schedule 1 to this Act shall, as respects Scotland, have effect in lieu of the foregoing provisions of this section.

Annotations:

Marginal Citations

M1 1976 c. 30.

M2 S.I. 1977/1251 (N.I. 18).

4 Power of court to take account of other proceedings.

- (1) A court before which proceedings are brought to enforce a liability which is limited by any of the provisions of the Convention may at any stage of the proceedings make any such order as appears to the court to be just and equitable in view of those provisions and of any other proceedings which have been, or are likely to be, commenced in the United Kingdom or elsewhere to enforce the liability in whole or in part.
- (2) Without prejudice to subsection (1) above, a court before which proceedings are brought to enforce a liability which is limited as aforesaid shall, where the liability is or may be partly enforceable in other proceedings in the United Kingdom or elsewhere, have jurisdiction to award an amount less than the court would have awarded if the limitation applied solely to the proceedings before the court, or to make any part of its award conditional on the result of any other proceedings.

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5 Conversion of special drawing rights into sterling.

- (1) The special drawing rights by reference to which any liability is limited by the Convention shall, in the case of judicial proceedings or an arbitration in the United Kingdom, be converted into their sterling equivalent on the day of the judgment or award.
- (2) For the purposes of this section the value on a particular day of a special drawing right shall be treated as equal to such a sum in sterling as the International Monetary Fund have fixed as being the equivalent of one special drawing right—
 - (a) for that day; or
 - (b) if no sum has been so fixed for that day, for the last day before that day for which a sum has been so fixed.
- (3) A certificate given by or on behalf of the Treasury stating—
 - (a) that a particular sum in sterling has been fixed as aforesaid for a particular day; or
 - (b) that no sum has been so fixed for a particular day and that a particular sum in sterling has been so fixed for a day which is the last day for which a sum has been so fixed before the particular day.

shall be conclusive evidence of those matters for the purposes of subsection (2) above; and a document purporting to be such a certificate shall in any proceedings be received in evidence and, unless the contrary is proved, be deemed to be such a certificate.

- (4) The Treasury may charge a reasonable fee for any certificate given under this section; and any fee received by the Treasury by virtue of this subsection shall be paid into the Consolidated Fund.

6 Enforcement of judgments.

- (1) Subject to subsection (2) below, Part I of the ^{M3}Foreign Judgments (Reciprocal Enforcement) Act 1933 shall apply, whether or not it would otherwise have applied, to any judgment which—
 - (a) has been pronounced as mentioned in paragraph 1 of Article 18 of the Convention by a court in a Member State other than the United Kingdom; and
 - (b) has become enforceable under the law applied by that court.
- (2) In the application of Part I of the said Act of 1933 in relation to any such judgement section 4 of that Act shall have effect with the omission of subsection (2) and (3).
- (3) The registration, in accordance with Part I of the said Act of 1933, of any such judgment shall constitute compliance with the required formalities referred to in paragraph 1 of Article 18 of the Convention.

Annotations:

Marginal Citations

M3 1933 c.13.

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7 Examination of luggage.

Paragraph 4 of Article 15 and paragraph 2 of Article 22 in Appendix A to the Convention (examination of luggage) shall not in the United Kingdom authorise the opening of any piece of luggage except in the presence of a constable.

8 Amendments consequential on revision of Convention.

- (1) If at any time it appears to Her Majesty in Council that Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom have agreed to a revision of the Convention, Her Majesty may by Order in Council make such amendments of this Act as Her Majesty considers appropriate in consequence of the revision.
- (2) In subsection (1) above "revision" means an omission from, addition to or alteration of the Convention and includes replacement of the Convention or part of it by another convention.
- (3) No recommendation shall be made to Her Majesty to make an Order under this section unless a draft of it has been laid before Parliament and approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament.
- (4) An Order under this section may contain such transitional and supplementary provisions as appear to Her Majesty to be expedient.

Other international transport conventions

9 Power to make amendments consequential on revision of other international transport conventions.

The Acts mentioned in Schedule 2 to this Act (which give effect to other international transport conventions) shall have effect with the amendments there specified, being amendments making further provision for enabling those Acts to be modified so as to take account of revisions of the conventions to which they give effect.

Supplementary

10 Application to Crown.

This Act binds the Crown.

11 Short title, repeals and commencement.

- (1) This Act may be cited as the International Transport Conventions Act 1983.
- (2) The enactments mentioned in Schedule 3 to this Act are hereby repealed to the extent specified in the third column of that Schedule; and in section 31(3) and 32(4) of the ^{M4}Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments Act 1982 for the words "section 5 of the Carriage by Railway Act 1972" there shall be substituted the words "section 6 of the International Transport Conventions Act 1983".
- (3) Section 1 above shall come into force on such day as Her Majesty may by Order in Council certify to be the day on which the Convention comes into force as regards the United Kingdom; and subsection (2) above shall have effect from that day.

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- (4) The provisions having the force of law by virtue of section 1 above do not affect any rights or liabilities arising out of an occurrence before the coming into force of those provisions; and subsection (2) above does not affect any enactment in its application to any such rights or liabilities.

Annotations:

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C1 Power of appointment conferred by section 11(3) fully exercised: [S.I. 1985/612](#)

Marginal Citations

M4 1982 c. 27.

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SCHEDULES

SCHEDULE 1

Fatal Accidents: Scotland

- 1 (1) Subject to subparagraph (2) below, no enactment or rule of law shall have effect so as to permit a person who has a right of action under the Convention in respect of the death of a passenger by virtue of his being a person whom the passenger was under a legal duty to maintain to raise any other action in that respect for any loss of support suffered by him.
- (2) Subparagraph (1) above shall not apply in so far as the other action concludes for a loss of society award as defined in section 1(4) of the ^{M5}Damages (Scotland) Act 1976.
- 2 Section 1(5) of the said Act of 1976 (exclusion of certain items in assessment of damages) shall apply to an action brought under the Convention as it applies to an action brought under that Act; but section 6 of that Act shall not apply to such an action under the Convention.
- 3 Where separate proceedings in respect of the death of a passenger are brought under the Convention and under any other enactment or rule of law the court, in awarding damages in such other proceedings, shall take into account any damages awarded in the proceedings brought under the Convention and may make any part of its award conditional on the result of those proceedings.
- 4 In the said Act of 1976—
- (a) in section 1(7) (restriction on awards of damages to relatives) before the word “no” there shall be inserted the words “ or under section 1 of the International Transport Conventions Act 1983 ”;
- (b) after subsection (1) of section 5 (provisions for avoiding multiplicity of actions) there shall be inserted the following subsection—
- “(1A) This section shall not apply to an action brought under section 1 of the International Transport Conventions Act 1983—
- (a) by a person whom the deceased was under a legal duty to maintain; or
- (b) by the deceased’s executor.”.

SCHEDULE 2

Power to make Amendments consequential on revision of International Transport Conventions

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The ^{M6}Carriage by Air Act 1961

Annotations:

Marginal Citations

M6 1961 c. 27.

- 1 In section 8A(1) for the words from “provide” to “modifications” there shall be substituted the words “ make such amendments of this Act, the Carriage by Air (Supplementary Provisions) Act 1962 and section 5(1) of the Carriage by Air and Road Act 1979 ”.

The ^{M7}Carriage of Goods by Road Act 1965

Annotations:

Marginal Citations

M7 1965 c. 37.

- 2 In section 8A(1) for paragraphs (a) and (b) there shall be substituted—
“(a) this Act; and”.

The ^{M8}Carriage of Passengers by Road Act 1974

Annotations:

Marginal Citations

M8 1974 c. 35.

- 3 (1) In section 8(1) for paragraphs (a) and (b) there shall be substituted—
“(a) of this Act, and”.
- (2) In section 8(2) for paragraphs (a) and (b) there shall be substituted the words “ of this Act ”.

The ^{M9}International Carriage of Perishable Foodstuffs Act 1976

Annotations:

Marginal Citations

M9 1976 c. 58.

- 4 For section 16(1) there shall be substituted—
“(1) If at any time it appears to Her Majesty in Council that Her Majesty’s Government in the United Kingdom have agreed to any revision of the Agreement on the International Carriage of Perishable Foodstuffs and on the Special Equipment to be Used for such Carriage (ATP) Her Majesty may by Order in Council make such amendments of this Act as Her Majesty considers appropriate in consequence of the revision.

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(1A) In subsection (1) above “revision” means an omission from, addition to or alteration of that Agreement and includes replacement of that Agreement or part of it by another agreement.”

SCHEDULE 3

Repeals

Chapter etc.	Title	Extent of repeal
1972 c. 33.	The Carriage by Railway Act 1972	The whole Act.
1976 c. 30.	The Fatal Accidents Act 1976.	In Schedule 1, paragraph 4.
S.I. 1977/1251 (N.I. 18).	The Fatal Accidents (Northern Ireland) Order 1977.	In Schedule 1, paragraph 7.
1978 c. 47.	The Civil Liability (Contribution) Act 1978.	In Schedule 1, paragraph 8.
1982 c. 53.	The Administration of Justice Act 1982.	Section 3(3).

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to :

- s. 1-8 repealed by [S.I. 2005/2092 Sch. 2 para. 1](#)
- s. 11(3)(4) repealed by [S.I. 2005/2092 Sch. 2 para. 1](#)
- Sch. 1 repealed by [S.I. 2005/2092 Sch. 2 para. 1](#)
- Sch. 2 para. 3 repealed by [2004 c. 14 Sch. 1 Pt. 14](#)