



Merchant Shipping Act 1995

1995 CHAPTER 21

PART XII

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Jurisdiction

281 Jurisdiction in case of offences on board ship.

Where any person is charged with having committed any offence under this Act then—

- (a) if he is a British citizen and is charged with having committed it—
 - (i) on board any United Kingdom ship on the high seas,
 - (ii) in any foreign port or harbour, or
 - (iii) on board any foreign ship to which he does not belong; or
- (b) if he is not a British citizen and is charged with having committed it on board any United Kingdom ship on the high seas;

and he is found within the jurisdiction of any court in any part of the United Kingdom which would have had jurisdiction in relation to the offence if it had been committed on board a United Kingdom ship within the limits of its ordinary jurisdiction to try the offence that court shall have jurisdiction to try the offence as if it had been so committed.

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S. 281 extended (with modifications) to Jersey (1.12.1997) by [S.I. 1997/2598, arts. 2, 3, Sch. 1](#)
- S. 281 extended (with modifications) to Guernsey (11.3.1998) by [S.I. 1998/260, arts. 2, 3, Sch. 1](#)
- S. 281 applied (1.1.1996) by [1980 c. 43, s. 3A](#) (as inserted (1.1.1996) by [1995 c. 21, ss. 314\(2\), 316\(2\), Sch. 13 para. 55](#) (with [s. 312\(1\)](#)))
- S. 281 applied (1.1.1996) by [1981 c. 54, s. 46A](#) (as inserted (1.1.1996) by [1995 c. 21 ss. 314\(2\), 316\(2\), Sch. 13 para. 55](#) (with [s. 312\(1\)](#)))

Status:

Point in time view as at 21/07/2022.

Changes to legislation:

Merchant Shipping Act 1995, Section 281 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 15 July 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.