

SCHEDULE 7 TO
THE MERCHANT
SHIPPING ACT 1995

CONVENTION ON LIMITATION OF LIABILITY FOR MARITIME CLAIMS 1976

PART II

PROVISIONS HAVING EFFECT IN CONNECTION WITH CONVENTION

Interpretation

1. In this Part of this Schedule any reference to a numbered article is a reference to the article of the Convention which is so numbered.

Right to limit liability

2. The right to limit liability under the Convention shall apply in relation to any ship whether seagoing or not, and the definition of “shipowner” in paragraph 2 of article 1 shall be construed accordingly.

Claims subject to limitation

3.—(1) Paragraph 1(d) of article 2 shall not apply unless provision has been made by an order of the Secretary of State for the setting up and management of a fund to be used for the making to harbour or conservancy authorities of payments needed to compensate them for the reduction, in consequence of the said paragraph 1(d), of amounts recoverable by them in claims of the kind there mentioned, and to be maintained by contributions from such authorities raised and collected by them in respect of vessels in like manner as other sums so raised by them.

(2) Any order under sub-paragraph (1) above may contain such incidental and supplemental provisions as appear to the Secretary of State to be necessary or expedient.

Claims excluded from limitation

4.—(1) The claims excluded from the Convention by paragraph (a) of article 3 include claims under article 14 of the International Convention on Salvage 1989 as set out in Part I of Schedule 11(1) and corresponding claims under a contract.

(2) The claims excluded from the Convention by paragraph (b) of article 3 are claims in respect of any liability incurred under section 153 of this Act(2).

...

(1) Schedule 11 to the 1995 Act, which sets out the International Convention on Salvage 1989 was extended to the Territories by The Merchant Shipping (Salvage Convention) (Overseas Territories) Order 1997 (S.I. 1997/2586).

(2) Section 153 of the 1995 Act was extended to Anguilla by S.I. 1997/2580; to the British Antarctic Territory by S.I. 1997/2582; and to the British Indian Ocean Territory by S.I. 1997/2583; and to South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands by S.I. 1997 (2588).

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The general limits

5.—(1) In the application of article 6 to a ship with a tonnage less than 300 tons that article shall effect as if—

- (a) paragraph 1(a)(i) referred to 166,667 Units of Account; and
- (b) paragraph 1(b)(i) referred to 83,333 Units of Account.

(2) For the purposes of article 6 and this paragraph a ship's tonnage shall be its gross tonnage calculated in such manner as may be prescribed by an order made by the Secretary of State.

(3) ...

Limit for passenger claims

6.—(1) In the case of a ship for which there is in force a Passenger Ship Safety Certificate or Passenger Certificate, as the case may be, issued under or recognised by safety regulations, the ship's certificate mentioned in paragraph 1 of article 7 shall be that certificate.

(2) In paragraph 2 of article 7 the reference to claims brought on behalf of a person includes a reference to any claim in respect of the death of a person.

Units of Account

7.—(1) For the purpose of converting the amounts mentioned in articles 6 and 7 from special drawing rights into sterling one 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 for—

- (a) the relevant date under paragraph 1 of article 8; or
- (b) if no sum has been so fixed for that date, the last preceding date for which a sum has been so fixed.

(2) A certificate given by or on behalf of the Authority stating—

- (a) that a particular sum in sterling has been fixed as mentioned in sub-paragraph (1) above for a particular date; or
- (b) that no sum has been so fixed for that date and that a particular sum in sterling has been so fixed for a date which is the last preceding date for which a sum has been so fixed,

shall be conclusive evidence of those matters for the purposes of those articles; 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.

(3) For the purposes of this paragraph, "the Authority" means—

- (a) in Anguilla, the Director of Finance;
- (b) in the British Antarctic Territory, the Commissioner;
- (c) in the British Indian Ocean Territory, the Commissioner;
- (d) in South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, the Financial Secretary.

Constitution of fund

8.—(1) The Secretary of State may, with the concurrence of the Treasury, by order prescribe the rate of interest to be applied for the purposes of paragraph 1 of article 11.

(2) ...

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(3) Where a fund is constituted with the court in accordance with article 11 for the payment of claims arising out of any occurrence, the court may stay any proceedings relating to any claim arising out of that occurrence which are pending against the person by whom the fund has been constituted.

Distribution of fund

9. No lien or other right in respect of any ship or property shall affect the proportions in which under article 12 the fund is distributed among several claimants.

Bar to other actions

10. Where the release of a ship or other property is ordered under paragraph 2 of article 13 the person on whose application it is ordered to be released shall be deemed to have submitted to... the jurisdiction of the court to adjudicate on the claim for which the ship or property was arrested or attached.

Meaning of "court"

11. References in the Convention and the preceding provisions of this Part of this Schedule to the court are references to—

- (a) the High Court, in Anguilla;
- (b) the Supreme Court, in the British Antarctic Territory;
- (c) the Supreme Court, in the British Indian Ocean Territory.
- (d) the Supreme Court, in South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands.

Meaning of "ship"

12. References in the Convention and in the preceding provisions of this Part of this Schedule to a ship include references to any structure (whether completed or in course of completion) launched and intended for use in navigation as a ship or part of a ship.

Meaning of "State Party"

13. An Order in Council made for the purposes of this paragraph and declaring that any State specified in the Order is a party to the Convention shall, subject to the provisions of any subsequent Order made for those purposes, be conclusive evidence that the State is a party to the Convention.