

ACT RESPECTING THE ICELANDIC COAST GUARD

No. 25 of 1967

Art. 1

The Coast Guard is a State establishment having a venue at Reykjavik, its aim being: -

- (a) To undertake general policing in the ocean around Iceland, both inside and outside territorial waters.
- (b) To render assistance in the rescue of persons from perils of the sea or ashore and also to undertake urgent ambulance service either independently or in co-operation with the National Life Saving Association of Iceland or other parties working on rescue duties.
- (c) To assist or salvage boats or ships which may be grounded or having difficulties at sea around Iceland, if this is desired.
- (d) To grant remote places or communities necessary aid or assistance when normal communications fail through unforeseen causes, such as polar ice, layers of snow, violent storms or other Acts of God.
- (e) To arrange for marine surveying and participate in oceanic research, fishery research, sea-bed research and other scientific work as may be decided upon at each given time.
- (f) To give notice of, remove or render harmless flotsam, mines, bombs or other articles which may endanger seafarers or the public.
- (g) To assist in the execution of civil defence, general policing, medical, Customs and light-house duties, as far as circumstances permit or as may be specially decided.
- (h) To notify the Directorate of Shipping without delay if Laws respecting the supervision of vessels or Regulations laid down in accordance therewith are violated or if the Coast Guard consider that a ship be not seaworthy.

Administration

Art. 2

The Minister of Justice undertakes superior administration of the entire activities of the Coast Guard and will issue the requisite Regulations or instructions relating to the general administration of its various sectors.

Art. 3

The President will appoint a Director to administer the Coast Guard and to assist the Minister in everything pertaining to its affairs.

Art. 4

The Director will engage the personnel of the Coast Guard, Officers as well as general employees, and will decide upon their sphere of duties in conformity with the requirements of the establishment, their special knowledge and rights.

After having received the Director's proposals the Minister of Justice will lay down further instructions relating to the engagement of personnel.

Personnel

Art. 5

The personnel of the Coast Guard shall be considered to belong to the State's police force and shall have rights and duties accordingly, cf. Act No. 56/1963 and Act No. 82/1961, Section V

Shipmates on board the vessels of the Coast Guard shall be legally signed on. It shall, however, be permissible to transfer shipmates between vessels or to other duties, provided that the Registrar of Crews be advised about such alterations.

Art. 6

The rights of employees to specific duties will be subject to Laws and Regulations relating thereto, such as those respecting professional rights of Commanders, Navigation Officers, Engineers and Captains of aircraft.

Art. 7

The personnel of the Coast Guard may neither strike nor participate in strike announcements.

Art. 8

While discharging their duties the personnel shall wear uniforms in accordance with rules laid down by the Minister of Justice.

Wages and Terms

Art. 9

Wages and terms of those employees of the Coast Guard who serve constantly ashore shall be in accordance with Acts concerning wages and terms agreements of Government employees or trade union agreements of the employees concerned.

Art. 10

Wages and terms of those employees who serve constantly at sea or in the air shall be in conformity with the wages and terms agreements of the trade unions concerned as applicable or in accordance with a special trade union agreement with the administration of the Coast Guard.

Art. 11

If employees work alternatively on land, at sea or in the air their wages shall be fixed according to their principal duties, but other terms according to the work they discharge at each given time.

Art. 12

In case a vessel or an aircraft (equipment) of the Coast Guard earn an award for the salvage of valuables there will first be paid out of the salvage award all expenditure on account of the salvage other than customary operational costs, but out of the balance remaining ~~1/4 - a quarter~~ - to the crew of a vessel or an aircraft and this will be distributed in correct proportion to the fixed monthly wages of each individual. In other respects salvage awards accrue to the Coast Guard Fund.

The superior administration of the Coast Guard shall be authorized to pay out of the Coast Guard Fund's portion a specific amount to those who have taken the greatest pains in the salvage work.

Art. 13

The insurance of employees shall be subject to the Social Security Act and the wages and terms agreements concerned. The Director shall be authorized to effect special insurance cover in respect of those employees who are intended to discharge very risky work.

Art. 14

Each employee shall be subject to medical inspection with the consultant physician of the Coast Guard once a year or more frequently if this is deemed necessary.

Coast Guard Vessels, Aircraft and Outfit

Art. 15

The Coast Guard operate coast guard vessels, aircraft and other conveyances which may be necessary for the guarding of territorial waters or other requirements, cf. Art. 1, and the equipment may either be the property of the Coast Guard Fund, other State establishments or taken on hire.

Art. 16

The vessels and aircraft of the Coast Guard shall be marked with the Icelandic Coat of Arms in a prominent place. The coast guard vessels shall be marked with names, but aircraft shall have registration marks. The Director will decide upon colour and other distinctive features in consultation with the Minister of Justice. The vessels and aircraft shall not show a special home port.

The Icelandic Coast Guard Fund

Art. 17

To a fund named the Icelandic Coast Guard Fund there shall be contributed monetary fines and the value of confiscated property on account of violations of the fishery legislation and furthermore salvage awards as stated in Art. 12 of the present Act.

Art. 18

The fund shall be devoted to getting up coast guard vessels or other permanent equipment for the requirements of the Coast Guard. The appropriating authority may, however, decide that part of the annual income and interest of the fund may be devoted to the operational expenditure of the Coast Guard.

Art. 19

The Minister of Justice undertakes the administration of the fund. Its moneys shall be placed on interest in the National Bank. Its accounts shall be published annually with those of other State establishments.