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THE STATUTES OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

RUBBER INDUSTRY ACT
(CHAPTER 280)

Act
15 of 1992

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1993

Rubber Industry Act

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

Section

1. Short title.
 2. Interpretation.
 3. Licence to pack, ship or deal in rubber or manufacture technically specified rubber.
 4. Application for a licence.
 5. Modification of licence conditions.
 6. Renewal of licence.
 7. Appeal to Minister.
 8. False statement.
 9. Display of licence.
 10. Inspection of premises.
 11. Suspension or cancellation of licence, etc.
 12. Appeal from decision of Board.
 13. Appeal Tribunal.
 14. Powers of Board in relation to rubber industry.
 15. Directions of Minister.
 16. Entry of premises by officer of Board and seizure of article as evidence.
 17. Officer of Board to produce authority for inspection.
 18. Personal immunity of members and officers of Board.
 19. Revenue of Board.
 20. Obstructing officers of Board.
 21. Proceedings to be conducted by officers of Board.
 22. Sanction of Public Prosecutor.
 23. General penalties and composition of offences.
 24. Offence by body corporate.
 25. Jurisdiction of Magistrate's Court and District Court.
 26. Regulations.
 27. By-laws.
 28. Exemption.
 29. Transitional provisions.
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An Act to provide for the promotion, regulation and control of the rubber trade and industry.

[27th May 1992]

- Short title. **1.** This Act may be cited as the Rubber Industry Act.
- Interpretation. **2.** In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires —
- Cap. 330. “Board” means the Trade Development Board established under section 3 of the Trade Development Board Act;
- Cap. 48A. “deal” means to broke in, purchase or sell rubber but does not include the purchase, sale or brokerage of rubber by means of a commodity futures contract within the meaning of the Commodity Futures Act;
- “licence” means a licence granted under section 4;
- “licensee” means any person who holds a licence granted under this Act;
- “rubber” means marketable rubber prepared from the leaves, bark or latex of any rubber plant, but does not include any manufactured article made wholly or partly of rubber;
- “rubber plant” includes any of the following plants:
- (a) *Heavea brasiliensis* (Para rubber);
 - (b) *Manihot glaziovii* (Ceara rubber);
 - (c) *Castilloa elastica*;
 - (d) *Ficus elastica* (Rambong); and
 - (e) any other plant which the Minister may, by notification in the *Gazette*, declare to be a rubber plant for the purposes of this Act;
- “to pack rubber for export” means to pack rubber in Singapore for export to any country or place;
- “to ship rubber for export” means to ship rubber in Singapore for export to any country or place;
- “treat”, with its grammatical variations and cognate expressions, means to subject to any process whatsoever;

“Singapore Rubber Fund” means the Singapore Rubber Fund established under section 14 of the Rubber Association of Singapore (Incorporation) Act repealed by the Trade Development Board (Amendment) Act 1992 and transferred to and administered by the Board by virtue of section 26H of the Trade Development Board Act.

Cap. 278.
Act 16 of
1992.

Cap. 330.

3.—(1) No person shall —

- (a) pack rubber for export;
- (b) ship rubber for export;
- (c) manufacture or otherwise produce technically specified rubber; or
- (d) deal in, treat or store rubber,

Licence to
pack, ship or
deal in
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specified
rubber.

unless he is for the time being the holder of a valid licence granted under this Act authorising him to do so or is a person employed by the holder of such a licence.

(2) For the purposes of this section, a person shall be deemed to have packed rubber for export if it is packed in any manner usually employed in Singapore when packing rubber for export.

(3) Any person who contravenes subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$25,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years or to both.

(4) Subsection (1) shall not apply to a person who ships rubber for export if he is the holder of a licence issued to him under the provisions of the Rubber Shipping and Packing Control Ordinance 1949 of Malaysia or the Malaysian Rubber Exchange and Licensing Board Act 1972.

(5) Subsection (4) shall have force and effect only so long as reciprocal arrangements exist between Singapore and Malaysia whereby a licence to ship rubber for export granted under this Act is deemed to be a valid licence to ship rubber for export issued by the competent authority in Malaysia under the provisions of the Rubber Shipping and Packing Control Ordinance 1949 of Malaysia or the Malaysian Rubber Exchange and Licensing Board Act 1972 or any other written law which repeals and re-enacts, with or without modifications, that Ordinance or that Act.

Application
for a licence.

4.—(1) Any person who desires to obtain a licence shall make an application in the prescribed manner to the Board for the grant of a licence.

(2) Upon receiving an application under subsection (1), the Board shall consider the application and may grant a licence for a period of one year at a time, with or without conditions, or refuse to grant a licence.

(3) The Board shall refuse to grant a licence if —

- (a) satisfactory evidence has not been produced to show that the applicant is a fit and proper person to hold a licence;
- (b) the applicant or, if the applicant is a company, any of its officers holding a managerial or executive position has been convicted of any offence involving dishonesty, fraud or moral turpitude; or
- (c) the Board considers it in the public interest to do so.

(4) No person who is not an incorporated person shall be licensed under this section unless there is in respect of the business a valid certificate of registration of business issued under any written law in force in Singapore relating to the registration of businesses.

(5) Every licensee shall pay such annual licence fee as may be prescribed.

Modification
of licence
conditions.

5.—(1) The Board may at any time vary or revoke any of the existing conditions of a licence granted under section 4 or impose conditions or additional conditions thereto.

(2) The Board shall, before taking any action under subsection (1), notify its intention to take such action to the licensee concerned and shall give the licensee an opportunity to submit reasons why the conditions of his licence should not be so varied or revoked.

(3) Where a licence is subject to conditions, the licensee shall comply with those conditions.

Renewal of
licence.

6.—(1) An application for the renewal of a licence shall be made to the Board one month before the expiry of the licence.

(2) The Board may refuse to renew a licence if it is of the opinion that the holder thereof has contravened or failed to comply with any of the conditions of the licence or the provisions of this Act or any regulations or by-laws made thereunder.

(3) Where the Board is of the opinion that a licence should not be renewed, the Board shall notify the holder thereof in writing of its intention and give him a reasonable opportunity of being heard.

7. Any person who is aggrieved by a decision of the Board under section 4, 5 or 6 may, within one month of being notified of the decision, appeal against that decision to the Minister whose decision shall be final. Appeal to Minister.

8. Any person who, in connection with an application for a licence under section 4 or for the renewal of a licence under section 6, wilfully makes a statement which is false or misleading in a material particular knowing it to be false or misleading or wilfully omits to state any matter or thing without which the application is misleading in a material respect shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$2,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both. False statement.

9. Every licensee shall cause the licence to be displayed in a conspicuous place on the premises he is carrying on the business of packing or shipping rubber for export or dealing in, treating or storing rubber or manufacturing technically specified rubber, as the case may be. Display of licence.

10.—(1) Every licensee shall allow at all reasonable times the inspection of the premises in which he is carrying on the business of packing rubber for export or dealing in, treating or storing rubber or manufacturing technically specified rubber, as the case may be, by any officer of the Board authorised in writing in that behalf by the Board. Inspection of premises.

(2) Every licensee shall, on demand being made in that behalf by any such authorised officer, produce for inspection —

- (a) such books and other documents as are reasonably necessary to enable that officer to ascertain if the provisions of this Act or any regulations or

by-laws made thereunder have been and are being complied with; and

(b) all rubber on such premises.

(3) Any person who fails without lawful excuse to produce any such books, documents or rubber upon demand being made in that behalf by any such officer as aforesaid shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both.

Suspension
or
cancellation
of licence,
etc.

11.—(1) If the Board is satisfied that a person who is granted a licence under section 4 is contravening, or has contravened and is likely again to contravene, any of the conditions of the licence or the provisions of this Act or any regulations or by-laws made thereunder, the Board may, by notice in writing and without any compensation, do any of the following:

- (a) revoke his licence;
- (b) suspend his licence for such period as the Board may determine;
- (c) in the event of an order of suspension being made under paragraph (b), prohibit the renewal of his licence for such period as the Board may determine;
- (d) impose a fine not exceeding \$25,000, which shall be recoverable in the same manner as a judgment debt;
- (e) require such person as security for his future compliance with any of the provisions of this Act or any regulations or by-laws made thereunder to deposit or give a bank guarantee for any sum not exceeding \$25,000 for such period as the Board may determine, and any such sum or guarantee shall be deposited with or given, as the case may be, to the Board;
- (f) warn him of the consequences of a further contravention; and
- (g) order such person to pay to the Board a sum not exceeding \$5,000 to cover the costs incurred by the Board as a result of the contravention by that person.

(2) The Board shall not proceed under subsection (1) without first giving the licensee a reasonable opportunity of being heard.

(3) The amount of any fine imposed under subsection (1) (d) shall be paid into the Singapore Rubber Fund.

(4) Execution of any decision of the Board conveyed in the notice given under subsection (1) shall be stayed pending the expiration of the period within which a notice of appeal under section 12 may be given or the decision on such appeal, as the case may be.

12.—(1) Any person aggrieved by a decision of the Board under section 11 (1) may appeal to the Appeal Tribunal established under section 13. Appeal from
decision of
Board.

(2) Notice in writing of such appeal together with the grounds thereof shall be given to the Appeal Tribunal within 14 days of the receipt by the person aggrieved of the notice given under section 11 (1), and a copy of the notice of appeal and the grounds thereof shall be served upon the Board by the appellant. Every notice given to the Appeal Tribunal under this subsection shall be sent to such address in Singapore as may be specified by the Appeal Tribunal.

(3) The appellant may, if he so desires, be present at the hearing of his appeal and may be heard either in person or by any person authorised by him in that behalf.

(4) At the hearing of an appeal, the Appeal Tribunal may allow the appeal, confirm or vary, within the limits specified in section 11 (1), the decision of the Board, and any decision of the Appeal Tribunal shall be final and conclusive and shall be enforceable in the same manner as a decision of the Board.

(5) The Appeal Tribunal shall regulate its own procedure at the hearing of any such appeal and shall not be bound by any law or rule of practice relating to the admissibility of evidence.

(6) The Appeal Tribunal may, in its discretion, from time to time extend any limit of time fixed for the giving of a notice of appeal.

Appeal
Tribunal.

13.—(1) For the purposes of section 12, there shall be established an Appeal Tribunal, which shall consist of a Chairman, who shall be a person qualified to be appointed as a Judge of the Supreme Court and two other persons, all of whom shall be appointed by the Minister for a term of not less than one year and not more than 3 years.

Cap. 280,
1985 Ed.

(2) Those persons who, on 26th May 1992, were holding the appointments of Chairman or member of the Appeal Tribunal established under the repealed Rubber Industry Act shall be deemed to have been appointed as Chairman or member, as the case may be, of the Appeal Tribunal under subsection (1).

(3) The Appeal Tribunal may make rules governing the fees payable to the Board and the procedure to be followed on appeals under section 12.

Powers of
Board in
relation to
rubber
industry.

14. The Board, its officers and agents may, for the purposes of promoting, supporting, developing, regulating and maintaining the rubber trade and industry in general, particularly as regards the national and individual interests therein —

- (a) conduct a market in Singapore for the sale, purchase and brokerage of rubber and make such arrangements and regulations as may be considered desirable for the proper conduct of the trade and commerce in and for the marketing and distribution of rubber, and for those purposes to secure that such trade, marketing and distribution shall so far as possible be carried on through the market established by, and under the arrangements and regulations from time to time formulated by, or with the approval of, the Board;
- (b) provide means to facilitate the business and the transaction of the business of the trade, and to set up forms of contract for the transaction of business between licensees and between licensees and others;
- (c) inspect, sample and grade rubber in any part of the world in such manner as may be considered expedient; and

- (d) act as arbitrator and appoint arbitrators and umpires in any dispute affecting rubber or any packing, shipping or dealing therein and otherwise to make arrangements for the settlement of disputes by arbitration.

15. The Minister may from time to time issue general directions not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act regarding the administration of this Act and the Board shall comply with those directions.

Directions of Minister.

16. Any officer of the Board duly authorised in writing in that behalf may enter at all reasonable times any premises or place in which he has reasonable cause to believe there is evidence of a contravention of any of the provisions of this Act or any regulations made thereunder, and may search the premises or place and seize any article found therein that may be reasonably necessary as evidence in connection with the contravention.

Entry of premises by officer of Board and seizure of article as evidence.

17. Any officer of the Board entering any premises or place in exercise of the powers conferred by this Act shall produce for the inspection of the person in charge of the premises or place or, in his absence, that person's agent his authority for such entry.

Officer of Board to produce authority for inspection.

18. No member, officer or agent of the Board shall be personally liable for an act or default of the Board done or omitted to be done in good faith and without negligence in the course of carrying out the functions vested in the Board under this Act.

Personal immunity of members and officers of Board.

19. The fees and other sums paid to the Board under this Act shall be paid into the Singapore Rubber Fund and any expenses incurred by the Board in the administration of this Act may be paid out of moneys in the Fund.

Revenue of Board.

20. Any person who obstructs or hinders the Chairman, the chief executive officer or an officer or agent of the Board acting in the discharge of his duty under this Act or any regulations made thereunder shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both.

Obstructing officers of Board.

Proceedings to be conducted by officers of Board.

21. Any proceedings in respect of an offence under this Act or any regulations made thereunder may be conducted by an officer of the Board or an officer of the Government authorised in writing in that behalf by the chief executive officer of the Board.

Sanction of Public Prosecutor.

22. No court shall take cognizance of an offence under this Act or any regulations made thereunder except with the sanction of the Public Prosecutor.

General penalties and composition of offences.

23.—(1) A person who commits an offence under this Act or any regulations made thereunder for which no penalty is expressly provided shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months or to both.

(2) The Board or any person authorised by the Board in writing may compound any offence under this Act or any regulations made thereunder which is prescribed as a compoundable offence by collecting from a person reasonably suspected of having committed the offence a sum not exceeding \$2,000.

(3) The Board may, with the approval of the Minister, make regulations to prescribe the offences which may be compounded.

(4) All sums collected under this section shall be paid to the Board.

Offence by body corporate.

24. Where an offence under this Act or any regulations made thereunder is committed by a body corporate and it is proved to have been committed with the consent or connivance of, or to be attributable to an act or default on the part of, a director, manager, secretary or other similar officer of the body corporate, or a person who was purporting to act in any such capacity, he, as well as the body corporate, shall be guilty of that offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

Jurisdiction of Magistrate's Court and District Court.

25. Notwithstanding anything in any other written law, a Magistrate's Court or a District Court shall have power to try any offence under this Act and to impose the full penalty prescribed therefor.

26.—(1) The Board may, with the approval of the Minister, make regulations — Regulations.

- (a) regulating the packing, grading and shipping of rubber;
- (b) regulating the dealing, treatment or storage of rubber;
- (c) for the purpose of ensuring that the quality of rubber to be exported is of the standard required by the contract governing the transaction and for the prevention of fraud or malpractices in connection therewith, and prescribing the marks to be stamped or otherwise inscribed on rubber packed or shipped for export or on technically specified rubber;
- (d) regulating the manufacture of technically specified rubber and to prescribe the specifications for technically specified rubber;
- (e) prescribing the testing and quality control procedures to be adopted and followed by manufacturers of technically specified rubber;
- (f) prescribing the conditions upon which any licence or a class of licences is issued under this Act;
- (g) for the purpose of further securing the effectual control of the sale, purchase, storage and disposal of rubber and the prevention of fraud in connection therewith;
- (h) providing for the form and manner in which accounts and records are to be kept;
- (i) for the maintenance of proper standards of conduct in the carrying on of the rubber trade and industry and to deal with infringements thereof;
- (j) providing for the audit and presentation of accounts;
- (k) prescribing anything which may be prescribed under the provisions of this Act;
- (l) prescribing the fees for licences granted under this Act;

- (m) providing for the form and manner in which a register of licensees is to be kept for the purposes of this Act;
- (n) providing for the determination and designing by the Board of forms for the purposes of this Act and any regulations made thereunder;
- (o) prescribing the fees and travelling and subsistence allowances to be paid to the Chairman and members of the Appeal Tribunal; and
- (p) generally for the better carrying out of the purposes of this Act.

(2) Regulations made under subsection (1) shall be published in the *Gazette*.

By-laws.

27.—(1) The Board may, with the approval of the Minister, make and enforce in such manner as may seem expedient by-laws as to the conduct of the rubber trade and industry, and the terms and conditions on which it is to be carried on, and for the maintenance of proper standards of conduct in the carrying on of such trade and industry, and the regulation of transactions between licensees and between licensees and others.

(2) Any by-laws made by the Board pursuant to subsection (1) shall be deemed not to be subsidiary legislation.

Exemption.

28. The Board may, with the approval of the Minister, if it considers it to be in the public interest and not inconsistent with the purposes of this Act, exempt any person from all or any of the provisions of this Act and may revoke any such exemption.

Transitional provisions.
Cap. 279,
1990 Ed.
Cap. 280,
1985 Ed.

29.—(1) Any licence granted under the repealed Rubber Dealers Act or the repealed Rubber Industry Act shall continue in force until the date of expiry provided thereunder as if it had been granted under the relevant provisions of this Act.

(2) Any order, ruling or direction made or given by the Appeal Tribunal established under the repealed Rubber Industry Act shall be entered as an order, ruling or direction of the Appeal Tribunal established under section 13 of this Act and shall have the same force and effect as if it had been made or given by the Appeal Tribunal under this Act.