

Queensland



SEA CARRIAGE OF GOODS (STATE) ACT 1930

**Reprinted as in force on 8 November 1995
(Act not amended up to this date)**

Reprint No. 1

**This reprint is prepared by
the Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel
Warning—This reprint is not an authorised copy**

Information about this reprint

This Act is reprinted as at 8 November 1995.

Minor editorial changes allowed under the provisions of the Reprints Act 1992 mentioned in the following list have also been made to—

- update citations and references (pt 4, div 2)
- express gender specific provisions in a way consistent with current drafting practice (s 24)
- use standard punctuation consistent with current drafting practice (s 27)
- use conjunctives and disjunctives consistent with current drafting practice (s 28)
- use expressions consistent with current drafting practice (s 29)
- reorder definitions and other provisions consistent with current drafting practice (ss 30 and 30A)
- relocate marginal or cite notes (s 34)
- omit provisions that are no longer required (ss 37 and 39)
- omit unnecessary referential words (s 41)
- omit the enacting words (s 42A).

See endnotes for information about—

- **when provisions commenced**
- **editorial changes made in the reprint including table of obsolete and redundant provisions.**

Queensland



**SEA CARRIAGE OF GOODS (STATE)
ACT 1930**

TABLE OF PROVISIONS

Section	Page
1 Short title	3
2 Interpretation	3
3 Application of rules in schedule	3
4 Absolute warranty of seaworthiness not implied	3
5 Provisions as to bills of lading	4
6 Received for shipment bills of lading	4
7 Bulk cargoes	4
8 Saving	4
SCHEDULE	5

RULES RELATING TO BILLS OF LADING

ARTICLE 1

Definitions

ARTICLE 2

Risks

ARTICLE 3

Responsibilities and liabilities

ARTICLE 4

Rights and immunities

ARTICLE 5

**Surrender of rights and immunities, and increase of
responsibilities and liabilities**

ARTICLE 6

Special conditions

ARTICLE 7

Limitations on the application of the rules

ARTICLE 8

Limitation of liability

ARTICLE 9

ENDNOTES

1	Index to endnotes	14
2	Date to which amendments incorporated	14
3	Key	14
4	List of legislation	15
5	List of annotations	15
6	Table of obsolete and redundant provisions	15

SEA CARRIAGE OF GOODS (STATE) ACT 1930

[reprinted as in force on 8 November 1995]

An Act relating to the sea carriage of goods from any port in the State to any other port in the said State

Short title

1. This Act may be cited as the *Sea Carriage of Goods (State) Act 1930*.

Interpretation

2. In this Act—

“**bill of lading**” includes a shipping receipt or other similar document evidencing a contract of carriage by sea.

Application of rules in schedule

3. Subject to the provisions of this Act, the rules contained in the schedule (the “**rules**”) shall have effect in relation to and in connection with the carriage of goods by sea in ships carrying goods from any port in the State to any other port in the said State.

Absolute warranty of seaworthiness not implied

4. There shall not be implied in any contract for the carriage of goods by sea to which this Act applies any absolute undertaking by the carrier of the goods to provide a seaworthy ship.

Provisions as to bills of lading

5. Every bill of lading issued in Queensland which contains or is evidence of any contract to which the rules apply shall contain an express statement that it is to have effect subject to the provisions of the rules as applied by this Act.

Received for shipment bills of lading

6. A bill of lading issued in accordance with article 3, paragraph 3 of the rules shall for all purposes be deemed to be a valid bill of lading with the like effect and capable of negotiation in all respects and with the like consequences as if it were a shipped bill of lading.

Bulk cargoes

7. Where under the custom of any trade the weight of any bulk cargo inserted in the bill of lading is a weight ascertained or accepted by a third party other than the carrier or the shipper, and the fact that the weight is so ascertained or accepted is stated in the bill of lading, then, notwithstanding anything in the rules, the bill of lading shall not be deemed to be prima facie evidence against the carrier of the receipt of goods of the weight so inserted in the bill of lading, and the accuracy thereof at the time of shipment shall not be deemed to have been guaranteed by the shipper.

Saving

8.(1) Nothing in this Act shall affect the operation of any other enactment for the time being in force limiting the liability of the owners of seagoing vessels.

(2) The rules shall not by virtue of this Act apply to any contract for the carriage of goods by sea made before the commencement of this Act.

SCHEDULE**RULES RELATING TO BILLS OF LADING****ARTICLE 1***Definitions*

In these rules—

“carriage of goods” covers the period from the time when the goods are loaded on to the time when they are discharged from the ship.

“carrier” includes the owner or the charterer who enters into a contract of carriage with a shipper.

“contract of carriage” applies only to contracts of carriage covered by a bill of lading or any similar document of title in so far as such document relates to the carriage of goods by sea, including any bill of lading or any similar document as aforesaid issued under or pursuant to a charter party from the moment at which such bill of lading or similar document of title regulates the relations between a carrier and a holder of the same.

“goods” includes goods, wares, merchandises, and articles of every kind whatsoever, except live animals and cargo which by the contract of carriage is stated as being carried on deck and is so carried.

“ship” means any vessel used for the carriage of goods by sea.

SCHEDULE (continued)

ARTICLE 2***Risks***

Subject to the provisions of article 6, under every contract of carriage of goods by sea, the carrier, in relation to the loading, handling, stowage, carriage, custody, care, and discharge of such goods, shall be subject to the responsibilities and liabilities and entitled to the rights and immunities hereinafter set forth.

ARTICLE 3***Responsibilities and liabilities***

1. The carrier shall be bound before and at the beginning of the voyage to exercise due diligence to—

- (a) make the ship seaworthy; and
- (b) properly crew, equip, and supply the ship; and
- (c) make the holds, refrigerating and cool chambers, and all other parts of the ship in which goods are carried, fit and safe for their reception, carriage, and preservation.

2. Subject to the provisions of article 4, the carrier shall properly and carefully load, handle, stow, carry, keep, care for, and discharge the goods carried.

3. After receiving the goods into his or her charge, the carrier, or the master or agent of the carrier, shall, on demand of the shipper, issue to the

SCHEDULE (continued)

shipper a bill of lading showing among other things—

- (a) the leading marks necessary for identification of the goods as the same are furnished in writing by the shipper before the loading of such goods starts, provided such marks are stamped or otherwise shown clearly upon the goods if uncovered, or on the cases or coverings in which such goods are contained, in such a manner as should ordinarily remain legible until the end of the voyage;
- (b) either the number of packages or pieces, or the quantity or weight, as the case may be, as furnished in writing by the shipper;
- (c) the apparent order and condition of the goods.

Provided that no carrier, master, or agent of the carrier shall be bound to state or show in the bill of lading any marks, number, quantity, or weight which he or she has reasonable ground for suspecting not accurately to represent the goods actually received or which he or she has had no reasonable means of checking.

4. Such a bill of lading shall be prima facie evidence of the receipt by the carrier of the goods as therein described in accordance with paragraph 3(a), (b) and (c).

5. The shipper shall be deemed to have guaranteed to the carrier the accuracy at the time of shipment of the marks, number, quantity, and weight, as furnished by the shipper, and the shipper shall indemnify the carrier against all loss, damages, and expenses arising or resulting from inaccuracies in such particulars.

The right of the carrier to such indemnity shall in no way limit the carrier's responsibility and liability under the contract of carriage to any person other than the shipper.

6. Unless notice of loss or damage and the general nature of such loss or damage be given in writing to the carrier or the carrier's agent at the port of discharge before or at the time of the removal of the goods into the custody

SCHEDULE (continued)

of the person entitled to delivery thereof under the contract of carriage, or, if the loss or damage be not apparent, within 3 days, such removal shall be prima facie evidence of the delivery by the carrier of the goods as described in the bill of lading.

The notice in writing need not be given if the state of the goods has at the time of their receipt been the subject of joint survey or inspection.

In any event the carrier and the ship shall be discharged from all liability in respect of loss or damage unless suit is brought within 1 year after delivery of the goods or the date when the goods should have been delivered.

In the case of any actual or apprehended loss or damage the carrier and the receiver shall give all reasonable facilities to each other for inspecting and tallying the goods.

7. After the goods are loaded the bill of lading to be issued by the carrier, master or agent of the carrier, to the shipper shall, if the shipper so demands, be a 'shipped' bill of lading, provided that if the shipper shall have previously taken up any document of title to such goods, the shipper shall surrender the same as against the issue of the 'shipped' bill of lading, but at the option of the carrier such document of title may be noted at the port of shipment by the carrier, master, or agent with the name or names of the ship or ships upon which the goods have been shipped and the date or dates of shipment, and when so noted the same shall for the purpose of this article be deemed to constitute a 'shipped' bill of lading.

8. Any clause, covenant, or agreement in a contract of carriage relieving the carrier or the ship from liability for loss or damage to or in connection with goods, arising from negligence, fault, or failure in the duties and obligations provided in this article, or lessening such liability otherwise than as provided in these rules, shall be null and void and of no effect.

A benefit of insurance or similar clause shall be deemed to be a clause relieving the carrier from liability.

SCHEDULE (continued)

ARTICLE 4***Rights and immunities***

1. Neither the carrier nor the ship shall be liable for loss or damage arising or resulting from unseaworthiness unless caused by want of due diligence on the part of the carrier to make the ship seaworthy, and to secure that the ship is properly crewed, equipped, and supplied, and to make the holds, refrigerating and cool chambers and all other parts of the ship in which goods are carried fit and safe for their reception, carriage, and preservation in accordance with the provisions of article 3, paragraph 1.

Whenever loss or damage has resulted from unseaworthiness, the burden of proving the exercise of due diligence shall be on the carrier or other person claiming exemption under this section.

2. Neither the carrier nor the ship shall be responsible for loss or damage arising or resulting from—

- (a) act, neglect, or default of the master, mariner, pilot, or the servants of the carrier in the navigation or in the management of the ship;
- (b) fire, unless caused by the actual fault or privity of the carrier;
- (c) perils, dangers, and accidents of the sea or other navigable waters;
- (d) act of God;
- (e) act of war;
- (f) act of public enemies;
- (g) arrest or restraint of princes, rulers, or people, or seizure under legal process;
- (h) quarantine restrictions;
- (i) act or omission of the shipper or owner of the goods, his or her agent or representative;

SCHEDULE (continued)

- (j) strikes or lockouts or stoppage or restraint of labour from whatever cause, whether partial or general;
- (k) riots and civil commotions;
- (l) saving or attempting to save life or property at sea;
- (m) wastage in bulk or weight or any other loss or damage arising from inherent defect, quality or vice of the goods;
- (n) insufficiency of packing;
- (o) insufficiency or inadequacy of marks;
- (p) latent defects not discoverable by due diligence;
- (q) any other cause arising without the actual fault or privity of the carrier, or without the fault or neglect of the agents or servants of the carrier, but the burden of proof shall be on the person claiming the benefit of this exception to show that neither the actual fault or privity of the carrier nor the fault or neglect of the agents or servants of the carrier contributed to the loss or damage.

3. The shipper shall not be responsible for loss or damage sustained by the carrier or the ship arising or resulting from any cause without the act, fault or neglect of the shipper, the shipper's agents, or the shipper's servants.

4. Any deviation in saving or attempting to save life or property at sea, or any reasonable deviation shall not be deemed to be an infringement or breach of these rules or of the contract of carriage, and the carrier shall not be liable for any loss or damage resulting therefrom.

5. Neither the carrier nor the ship shall in any event be or become liable for any loss or damage to or in connection with goods in an amount exceeding \$200 per package or unit, or the equivalent of that sum in other currency, unless the nature and value of such goods have been declared by the shipper before shipment and inserted in the bill of lading.

SCHEDULE (continued)

This declaration if embodied in the bill of lading shall be prima facie evidence, but shall not be binding or conclusive on the carrier.

By agreement between the carrier, master, or agent of the carrier and the shipper another maximum amount than that mentioned in this paragraph may be fixed, provided that such maximum shall not be less than the figure above named.

Neither the carrier nor the ship shall be responsible in any event for loss or damage to or in connection with goods if the nature or value thereof has been knowingly misstated by the shipper in the bill of lading.

6. Goods of an inflammable, explosive, or dangerous nature to the shipment whereof the carrier, master, or agent of the carrier, has not consented, with knowledge of their nature and character, may at any time before discharge be landed at any place or destroyed or rendered innocuous by the carrier without compensation, and the shipper of such goods shall be liable for all damages and expenses directly or indirectly arising out of or resulting from such shipment.

If any such goods shipped with such knowledge and consent shall become a danger to the ship or cargo, they may in like manner be landed at any place or destroyed or rendered innocuous by the carrier without liability on the part of the carrier except to general average (if any).

ARTICLE 5***Surrender of rights and immunities, and increase of responsibilities and liabilities***

A carrier shall be at liberty to surrender in whole or in part of all or any of the carrier's rights and immunities or to increase any of the carrier's responsibilities and liabilities under the rules contained in any of these

SCHEDULE (continued)

articles, provided such surrender or increase shall be embodied in the bill of lading issued to the shipper.

The provisions of these rules shall not be applicable to charter parties, but if bills of lading are issued in the case of a ship under a charter party they shall comply with the terms of these rules.

Nothing in these rules shall be held to prevent the insertion in a bill of lading of any lawful provision regarding general average.

ARTICLE 6*Special conditions*

Notwithstanding the provisions of articles 1 to 5, a carrier, master, or agent of the carrier, and a shipper shall in regard to any particular goods be at liberty to enter into any agreement in any terms as to the responsibility and liability of the carrier for such goods, and as to the rights and immunities of the carrier in respect of such goods, or the carrier's obligation as to seaworthiness, so far as this stipulation is not contrary to public policy, or the care or diligence of the carrier's servants or agents in regard to the loading, handling, stowage, carriage, custody, care, and discharge of the goods carried by sea, provided that in this case no bill of lading has been or shall be issued and that the terms agreed shall be embodied in a receipt which shall be a non-negotiable document and shall be marked as such.

Any agreement so entered into shall have full legal effect.

Provided that this article shall not apply to ordinary commercial shipments made in the ordinary course of trade, but only to other shipments where the character or condition of the property to be carried or the circumstances, terms, and conditions under which the carriage is to be performed are such as reasonably to justify a special agreement.

SCHEDULE (continued)

ARTICLE 7*Limitations on the application of the rules*

Nothing herein contained shall prevent a carrier or a shipper from entering into any agreement, stipulation, condition, reservation, or exemption as to the responsibility and liability of the carrier or the ship for the loss or damage to or in connection with the custody and care and handling of goods prior to the loading on and subsequent to the discharge from the ship on which the goods are carried by sea.

ARTICLE 8*Limitation of liability*

The provisions of these rules shall not affect the rights and obligations of the carrier under any statute for the time being in force relating to the limitation of the liability of owners of seagoing vessels.

ARTICLE 9

The monetary units mentioned in these rules are to be taken to be gold value.

ENDNOTES

1 Index to endnotes

	Page
2 Date to which amendments incorporated	14
3 Key	14
4 List of legislation	15
5 List of annotations	15
6 Table of obsolete and redundant provisions	15

2 Date to which amendments incorporated

This is the reprint date mentioned in the Reprints Act 1992, section 5(c). However, no amendments have commenced operation on or before that day. Future amendments of the Sea Carriage of Goods (State) Act 1930 may be made in accordance with this reprint under the Reprints Act 1992, section 49.

3 Key

Key to abbreviations in list of legislation and annotations

AIA	=	Acts Interpretation Act 1954	(prev)	=	previously
amd	=	amended	proc	=	proclamation
ch	=	chapter	prov	=	provision
def	=	definition	pt	=	part
div	=	division	pubd	=	published
exp	=	expires/expired	R[X]	=	Reprint No.[X]
gaz	=	gazette	RA	=	Reprints Act 1992
hdg	=	heading	reloc	=	relocated
ins	=	inserted	renum	=	renumbered
lap	=	lapsed	rep	=	repealed
notfd	=	notified	s	=	section
om	=	omitted	sch	=	schedule
o in c	=	order in council	sdiv	=	subdivision
p	=	page	SIA	=	Statutory Instruments Act 1992
para	=	paragraph	SL	=	subordinate legislation
prec	=	preceding	sub	=	substituted
pres	=	present	unnum	=	unnumbered
prev	=	previous			

4 List of legislation

Sea Carriage of Goods (State) Act 1930 21 Geo 5 No. 18

date of assent 23 October 1930

commenced 30 March 1931 (proc pubd gaz 14 March 1931 p 1446)

5 List of annotations

Short title

prov hdg amd R1 (see RA s 7(1)(k))

s 1 amd R1 (see RA s 37)

6 Table of obsolete and redundant provisions

TABLE OF OBSOLETE AND REDUNDANT PROVISIONS under the Reprints Act 1992 s 39

Omitted provision	Provision making omitted provision obsolete/redundant
definitions to be read in context	Acts Interpretation Act 1954 s 32A
references to Queensland implied	Acts Interpretation Act 1954 s 35