

# PRINTERS AND PUBLISHERS ORDINANCE

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1 of 1885,  
48 of 1973,  
6 of 1976,  
28 of 1951,  
27 of 1983.

AN ORDINANCE to regulate the Printing and publication of books and to provide for the preservation of copies of books and for the registration of particulars relating thereto.

[Date of Commencement: 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1885]

### 1. Short title.

This Ordinance may be cited as the Printers and Publishers Ordinance.

### 2. Five copies of books printed and of all subsequent editions, to be delivered at the office of the Registrar within a month of being printed.

Five printed or lithographed copies of the whole of every book which shall be printed or lithographed in Sri Lanka together with all maps, prints, or other engravings belonging thereto, finished and coloured in the same manner as the best copies of the same shall be produced, and also of any second or subsequent edition which shall be so produced with any additions or alterations, whether the same shall be in letterpress or in the maps, prints, or other engravings belonging thereto, and whether the first edition of such book shall have been produced before or after this Ordinance shall come into force, shall, within one calendar month after the day in which any such book shall first be delivered out of the press, and notwithstanding any agreement (if the book be published) between the printer and publisher thereof, be delivered free of any charge, claim, or demand whatsoever by the printer, bound, sewed, or stitched together, and upon the best paper on which the same shall be printed or lithographed, at the office of the Registrar. The publisher or other person employing the printer shall, at a reasonable time before the expiration of the said month, supply him with all maps, prints, and engravings, finished and coloured as

aforesaid, which may be necessary to enable him to comply with the requirements aforesaid.

[S 2 am by s 2 of Law 6 of 1976.]

### 3. Receipt for copies.

The Registrar shall thereupon give a receipt in writing for the copies so received,

### 4. Disposal of copies received under section 2.

Upon receipt by the Registrar of the five copies of a book under section 2, he shall deposit one copy with the Department of National Archives, and transmit one copy each to the National Museums Department, the University of Sri Lanka, the Ceylon National Library Services Board and the British Museum in the United Kingdom.

[S 4 subs by s 3 of Law 6 of 1976.]

### 5. Registration of memoranda of books.

There shall be kept at the office of the Registrar a book to be called "A Catalogue of Books printed in Sri Lanka", wherein shall be registered a memorandum of every book which shall have been delivered pursuant to section 2 of this Ordinance. Such memorandum shall (so far as may be practicable) contain the following particulars, that is to say—

- (a) the title of the book and the contents of the title page, with a translation into English of such title and contents, when the same are not in the English language;

- (b) the language in which the book is written;
- (c) the name of the author, translator, or editor of the book or any part thereof;
- (d) the subject;
- (e) the place of printing and the place of publication;
- (f) the name or firm of the printer and the name or firm of the publisher;
- (g) the date of issue from the press or of the publication;
- (h) the number of sheets, leaves, or pages;
- (i) the size;
- (j) the first, second, or other number of the edition;
- (k) the number of copies of which the edition consists;
- (l) whether the book is printed or lithographed;
- (m) the price at which the book is sold to the public; and
- (n) the name and residence of the proprietor of the copyright or of any portion of such copyright.

Such memorandum shall be registered in the case of each book as soon as practicable after the delivery of the copies thereof in manner aforesaid.

#### 6. Publication of memoranda registered.

The memoranda registered during each quarter in the said catalogue shall be published in the *Gazette* as soon as may be after the end of such quarter, and a copy of the memoranda so published shall be sent to the Trustees of the British Museum in the United Kingdom.

#### 7. Monthly declarations by printers.

Every printer shall, on or before the fifth day of each month, deliver or cause to be delivered at the office of the Registrar a written declaration by him stating whether any books were printed by him during the immediately preceding month and, if any books were so printed, the name and address of every author and publisher of each such book.

#### 8. Offences.

(1) Where a printer fails to comply with such of the provisions of section 2 of this Ordinance as are applicable to him or with the provisions of section 7 of this Ordinance, he shall be guilty of an offence and shall, on conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding two thousand five hundred rupees notwithstanding that such fine may exceed the amount of the fine which the court may in the exercise of its ordinary jurisdiction impose.

(2) Where a publisher or other person employing a printer fails to comply with such of the provisions of section 2 of this ordinance as are applicable to him, he shall be guilty of an offence and shall, on conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding two thousand five hundred rupees notwithstanding that such fine may exceed the amount of the fine which the court may in the exercise of its ordinary jurisdiction impose.

[S 8 subs by s 2 of Act 27 of 1983.]

#### 9. Declarations and offences by incorporated companies and other Corporations.

(1) Where the person who is required to make a declaration under this Ordinance is an incorporated company or any other Corporation, an officer of that company or other Corporation shall make and sign that declaration on behalf of that company or other Corporation.

(2) Where an offence under this Ordinance is committed by an incorporated company or any other Corporation, every person who at the time of the Commission of that offence was a Director, Manager or Secretary of that company or was an officer of that other Corporation, or was purporting to act in any such capacity, shall be deemed to be guilty of that offence unless he proves that that offence was committed without his consent or connivance and that he exercised all such diligence to prevent the Commission of that offence as he ought to have exercised having regard to the nature of his functions in that capacity and to all the circumstances.

#### 10. Mode of recovering penalties.

All pecuniary penalties imposed under this Ordinance may be recovered in the manner prescribed by the Code of Criminal Procedure Act, No. 15 of 1979.

#### 11. Power of Minister to make rules.

The Minister shall have power to make such rules as may be necessary or desirable for carrying out the objects of this Ordinance, and from time to time to repeal, alter, and add to such rules. All such rules and all repeals and alterations thereof and additions thereto shall be published in the *Gazette*.

#### 12. Power of Minister to exclude any class of books from operation of this Ordinance.

The Minister may, by notification in the *Gazette*, exclude any class of books from the operation of the whole or any part or parts of this Ordinance.

#### 13. Interpretation.

In this Ordinance, unless the context otherwise requires:

“book” includes every volume, part or division of a volume, and pamphlet, in any language, and every sheet of music, map, chart, or plan separately printed or lithographed; but shall not include any publication which consists merely of a price list, sale catalogue, annual report, trade circular, or trade advertisement;

“printer” means the person who is required to make a declaration under section 2 of the Printing Presses Ordinance;

[Ins by s 5 of Law 6 of 1976.]

“Registrar” means the Director of the Department of National Archives and includes an Assistant Director of the Department of National Archives.

[Subs by s 21(2) of Law 48 of 1973.]