



شعبة الترجمة الرسمية
Official Translation Department

Postal Services Law

Royal Decree No. M/4
November 5, 1985

Translation of Saudi Laws



NOTE:

The translation of Saudi laws takes the following into consideration:

- Words used in the singular form include the plural and vice versa.
- Words used in the masculine form include the feminine.
- Words used in the present tense include the present as well as the future.
- The word "person" or "persons" and their related pronouns (he, his, him, they, their, them) refer to a natural and legal person.



Postal Services Law

Chapter 1: General Provisions

Article 1

The Post Office shall be subject to this Law.

Article 2

The Post Office shall be solely responsible for transporting domestic and international mail matter, directly or indirectly, in accordance with the law. It shall also be jointly responsible with the Ministry of Finance and National Economy for issuing definitive and commemorative stamps in categories appropriate to rates of postal services.

Article 3

Postal services rates shall be determined by the Ministry of Post, Telegraph, and Telephone in coordination with the Ministry of Finance and National Economy and shall be issued pursuant to a resolution by the Council of Ministers. The Minister of Post, Telegraph, and Telephone may amend such rates in coordination with the Minister of Finance and National Economy.

Article 4

Postal services rendered shall be subject to the postal services rates, except for the cases stipulated in postal agreements or resolutions of the Council of Ministers.

Article 5

The Post Office may provide domestic and international courier and express mail services as well as any other related services. The fees for said services shall be determined pursuant to a resolution by the Council of Ministers based on the postal services rates approved by the Minister of Post, Telegraph, and Telephone and the Minister of Finance and National Economy.



Article 6

Postal services shall be rendered through:

- a) postage stamps printed or affixed on mail items which are valid in the country of origin;
- b) meter stamps; or
- c) seals of prepaid fees or machine-printed stamps.

Article 7

Letters and parcels are confidential and may not be opened except in cases stipulated by applicable laws or resolutions of the Council of Ministers, or as dictated by public interest.

Article 8

Postage meters may not be imported, cleared by customs, sold, or used except upon obtaining the necessary licenses from the Post Office. The implementing regulations shall set forth the necessary conditions and procedures.

Article 9

Prior to delivery, letters and parcels shall be deemed the property of the sender who may retrieve them or modify their delivery address according to procedures specified in the implementing regulations.

Article 10

Without prejudice to the disciplinary responsibility of postal employees and workers, the Post Office shall be deemed liable for any loss of or damage to any registered or official mail matter, or regular or insured parcels it receives. In case of loss or damage, the sender shall be entitled to compensation as specified in postal agreements or resolutions of the Council of Ministers.

Article 11

The responsibility of the Post Office shall end upon delivery of registered, official, or insured mail matter as well as regular or insured parcels to the addressee or his designee.



Article 12

If the Post Office suspects that mail matter contains prohibited items, it shall refrain from transporting it and shall immediately notify the competent authorities. A resolution by the Council of Ministers shall specify the items the mailing of which is prohibited as well as the procedures to be followed upon suspicion thereof.

Article 13

Current Saudi postage stamps may not be sold within the kingdom at a rate higher than their face value.

Article 14

- A. The Post Office shall keep undelivered mail matter and the documents related to postal service for the periods prescribed in postal agreements or the Council of Ministers resolutions issued in accordance with this Law.
- B. The sender may inquire about any registered or official mail matter or parcel within a year from the date it was delivered to the Post Office. The Council of Ministers shall determine necessary rules and fees.
- C. The Post Office administration shall destroy documents related to postal services, and shall destroy, sell, or confiscate mail matter the retention period of which has expired, in accordance with cases and conditions specified by the Council of Ministers.

Article 15

The Post Office administration shall coordinate with the relevant government agencies to require building owners to install, at the main entrance of each building, mail boxes the number of which shall be commensurate with residential units in the building. The scope of application of this provision shall be determined by the Minister of Post, Telegraph, and Telephone in coordination with the Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs.



Chapter 2: Penalties

Article 16

Penalties prescribed for forgery of postage stamps in the Anti-Forgery Law shall apply to the following:

- a) Any person who counterfeits or forges meter stamps, Arabic or international reply coupons, prints, or printed marks, or who uses the same knowing they are forged.
- b) Any person who knowingly uses postage meters in a manner that renders collection of postal fees unattainable.

Article 17

Subject to Article 14(C) and without prejudice to personal and disciplinary liability, any person who commits any of the following acts shall be penalized with a fine not exceeding one hundred thousand riyals:

- a) Transporting mail matter for a fee without the approval of the Post Office.
- b) Selling current Saudi postage stamps at a rate higher than their face value.
- c) Adding prohibited material to a mail matter.
- d) Reusing postage stamps intentionally.
- e) Concealing, destroying, or opening mail matter.
- f) Disclosing any information relating to the contents of any mail matter.
- g) Violating the provisions of Article 7 of this Law.

Such violations shall be considered aggravating circumstances if committed by a postal worker or a mail carrier.

Article 18

Violations requiring the imposition of any of the penalties set forth in this Law shall be referred to the Control and Investigation Authority. If the violation is established, the case shall be referred to the Board of Grievances for a decision.



Chapter 3: Concluding Provisions

Article 19

Postal agreements ratified by the Kingdom shall be considered supplementary to this Law.

Article 20

This Law shall repeal any provisions conflicting therewith. The Council of Ministers may amend or revoke any provisions not repealed under this Law or under other post laws relating to regular and registered correspondence promulgated by High Order No. 52/2/3 dated 17/1/1356H, the Transfers Law promulgated by Royal Order No. 84/1/6 dated 12/1/1356H, the Law of Letters and Insured and Collect Packages promulgated by High Order No. 52/2/6 dated 5/2/1356H and the Law of Regular, Insured, and Collect Parcels promulgated by High Order No. 52/2/2 dated 17/1/1356H.

Article 21

The Council of Ministers' resolutions issued in relation to this Law shall be published in the Official Gazette.

Article 22

The regulations necessary for the implementation of this Law shall be issued by the Minister of Post, Telegraph, and Telephone and shall be published in the Official Gazette.

Article 23

This Law shall be published in the Official Gazette and shall come into effect one year following the date of its publication.