

AN ACT TO MAKE THE INSTALLATIONS OF RADIO APPARATUS UBLIGATORY FOR SHIPS OF PHILIPPINE REGISTER,PROVIDED FOR THE OPERATION THEREOF AND ESTABLISH PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS.

(Act No. 3396, as amended)

Sec.1. It shall be unlawful for any vessel Philippine register specified in Section 2 to sail or attempt to sail from any port of the Philippines without being equipped with efficient apparatus, for sending and receiving messages by radio, (As amended by Rep. Act No. 1539, approved June 16, 1956)

Sec. 2. Vessels of Philippine register engaged in coastwise trade and authorized to carry passengers and/or freight and cargo vessels of Philippine register of three hundred fifty tons gross or over engaged on coastwise trade, the number of crew complement notwithstanding, except vessels plying exclusively on rivers, lakes, and bays, and on straits when the distance traversed is not greater then sixty miles point to point and its voyage does not last over five hours, shall be equipped with radio apparatus capable of sending and receiving communications over a distance of not less than two hundred nautical miles by day and night. (As amended by Act No. 4072 and by Rep. Act No. 1539, approved 16, 1956.)

Sec. 3. Whenever the Secretary of Public Works and Communications may consider it to be necessary on account of the conditions of the installation of the principal plant, vessels equipped with radio shall also be plant of the vessels which shall make it possible for sending apparatus to send messages during at least four hours over a minimum distance to two hundred miles by day and night.

Sec. 4. The radio apparatus shall be operated at all times by an operator holding a first class commercial radio telegraph operator's license duly issued under the Radio Control Law and the regulations promulgated there under. The radio apparatus, the operator or operators, the regulation of their hours of duty, the sending or receiving of messages except in so far as regulated by law or international agreement, shall be under the control of the master of the vessel; and any neglect on the part of such master to enforce the provisions of this section shall be subject to the penalty herein prescribed. (As amended by Rep. Act No. 1539, approved June 16, 1956.)

Sec. 5. It shall be the duty of the Secretary of Public Works and Communications, in the exercise of the powers conferred upon the Department of Public Works and Communications, to order a technical inspection of the radio apparatus and equipment made at least once in every six months or at any suitable time when the public interest may require it.

Sec. 6. Upon inspection of the radio apparatus installed on the ships above mentioned, an inspection certificate shall be issued if the radio apparatus so inspected are found to fulfill the legal requirements, Any radio apparatus so inspected and certified may be operated during the period stated in the inspection certificate subject to the conditions imposed by the Secretary of Public Works and Communications. Every vessel equipped with radio shall pay to the Secretary of Public Works and Communications, as fee for the inspection of the same, twenty pesos per annum.

Sec. 7. It shall be the duty of the Commissioner of Customs to supervise the strict enforcement of the provisions of this act. The violation of any of the provisions hereof shall be punished in accordance with the seriousness of the offense after administrative proceedings before the Commissioner of Customs begun by him or at the instance of the Secretary of Public Works and Communications with a fine of not less than fifty pesos nor more than two thousand pesos imposed upon the ship-owner and the suspension of the license of the master of the vessel concerned. (As amended by Rep. Act No. 1539, approved June 16,1956.)

Sec.8. The Secretary of Public Works and Communications, with the approval of the Department Head, shall promulgate such regulations as may be necessary for the efficacious application of Act and shall fix a schedule of charges to be collected for private messages sent from the ship. Any violation of such regulations shall be punished by a fine of not more than two hundred pesos.

Sec. 9. This Act shall take effect six months after its approval: Provided, That the Public Service Commission may extend this period for another six months in case there are in its discretion good reasons thereof.

Approved December 5, 1927