

No. 52, June 14th 2006

Entered into force 1 July 2006.

Chapter I

Direction, area of operations, and tasks of the Icelandic Coast Guard

Section 1

Purpose

The Icelandic Coast Guard shall provide security and rescue services at sea, enforce law at sea, and perform any other tasks provided for in this Act or any administrative provisions issued in accordance with it, or as otherwise ordered as provided for by law.

Section 2

Direction

The Minister of Justice shall exercise supreme direction of the Icelandic Coast Guard.

The Minister shall appoint a Director General for a term of five years at a time. The Director General shall be in charge of the Icelandic Coast Guard's daily operations and

provide counsel and assistance to the Minister on any matter concerning the agency.

The organisational chart of the Icelandic Coast Guard shall be approved by the Minister.

Section 3

Area of Operations

The area of operations of the Icelandic Coast Guard shall be the ocean around Iceland, i.e. internal waters, territorial waters, the economic zone and the waters over the continental shelf, and the high seas in accordance with the rules of international law. The Icelandic Coast Guard shall also undertake particular tasks ashore in co-operation with police and other authorities.

Section 4

Tasks

The tasks of the Icelandic Coast Guard shall be the following:

1. Providing security and safety at sea in accordance with Iceland' s international obligations, agreements with other States and the provisions of law.

2. Law enforcement at sea, including fisheries patrol, and assistance to law enforcement ashore in co-operation with the National and regional commissioners of police.
3. Search and rescue services to mariners and ships and other means of transport at sea.
4. Search and rescue services to aircraft.
5. Search and rescue services on land.
6. Urgent ambulance services in co-operation with other rescue organisations
7. Assistance to civil protection authorities.
8. Assistance in case of failure of ordinary communications, such as by reason of ice floe, layers of snow, violent weather or natural disasters.
9. Ocean patrol in accordance with the Act on the Maritime Security Act and other acts of law on similar matters.
10. Notification of, and disposal of, flotsam, mines, bombs or other sources of hazards to navigation, in addition to bomb disposal on land.
11. Hydrographic survey, charting, issue of notices to

mariners, preparation of tide tables, sailing directions and other publications relating to navigation.

12. Reception of notifications from ships as provided for in the Act on Foreigners, and control of jurisdictional boundaries at sea.

The Minister shall, by Regulation, issue rules in further detail on the execution of the individual tasks.

Section 5

Contractual services

The Icelandic Coast Guard may conclude service agreements on matters including the following:

1. Fisheries patrols.
2. Remote surveillance of ships at sea.
3. General air ambulance services and assistance to medical services.
4. Prevention of pollution and pollution control at sea.
5. Bomb disposal and clearance of artillery training ranges.
6. Control of shipping at sea and assistance in lighthouse operation.
7. Management of the Maritime Traffic Service.

8. Reception and dissemination of notifications from ships.
 9. Customs patrols.
 10. Research and scientific work at sea as conditions permit.
- In special circumstances the Icelandic Coast Guard may, in consultation with the Minister, conclude agreements on carrying out tasks not provided for by law.

Chapter II

Police authority and use of force

Section 6

Police powers

The following persons engaged with the Icelandic Coast Guard exercise police authority when performing or assisting in law enforcement duties in accordance with this Act within the limits of the Icelandic economic zone:

1. The Director General and his legal assistants.
2. The officers and crew of the ships and aircraft of the Icelandic Coast Guard.
3. Bomb disposal experts.
4. Officers engaged at the Operation Centre and in the Maritime Traffic Service.