

The Printing Presses and Publications (Declaration and Registration) Act, 1973

(ACT NO. XXIII OF 1973)

An Act to provide for declaration for the keeping of printing presses and the printing and publication of newspapers and for registration of books.

WHEREAS it is expedient to provide for declaration for the keeping of printing presses and the printing and publication of newspapers and for registration of books, and for matters connected therewith;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

PART I

PRELIMINARY

**Short title
and
commencement**

1. (1) This Act may be called the Printing Presses and Publications (Declaration and Registration) Act, 1973.

(2) It shall come into force at once and shall be deemed to have taken effect on the 28th day of August, 1973.

Definitions

2. In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,-

(a) “authenticated declaration” means a declaration made and subscribed under section 7 and authenticated or deemed to have been authenticated under section 12;

(b) “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;

(c) “document” includes any painting, drawing, photograph or other visible representation;

(d) "editor" means the person who controls the selection of the matter that is published in a newspaper;

(e) "form" means a form contained in the Schedule;

(f) "newspaper" means any periodical work containing public news or comments on public news, and includes such other class of periodical works as the Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, declare to be newspapers;

(g) "news-sheet" means any document other than a newspaper containing public news or comments on public news;

¹[(gg) "Press Appellate Board" means the Press Appellate Board constituted under section 2a.]

(h) "papers" includes a document, leaflet, newspaper, news-sheet and poster;

(i) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules;

(j) "press" includes a printing press and all machines, implements and plant and parts thereof and all materials used for multiplying documents;

(k) "printer" means the person who owns or keeps in his possession any press for the printing of books or papers;

(l) "printing press" includes all engines, machinery, types, lithographic stones, implements, utensils and other plant or materials used for the purpose of printing;

(m) "publisher" means the person who, in any manner whatsoever, undertakes, is in control on, or is responsible for the publication of any book or paper, and includes the proprietor of the publishing concern;

(n) "unauthorised newspaper" means any newspaper in respect of which there are not for the time being valid declarations under section 7;

(o) "unauthorised news-sheet" means any news-sheet other than a news-sheet published by a person authorised under section 21 to publish it; and

(p) "unauthorised press" means any press other than a press in respect of which there is for the time being a valid declaration under section 4.

PART IA

PRESS APPELLATE BOARD

Press Appellate Board

2A. The Government shall constitute a Press Appellate Board consisting of the following members, namely:-

- (a) Chairman of the Press Council established under the Press Council Act, 1974 (XXV of 1974), who shall also be its Chairman;
- (b) a member of the said Press Council to be nominated by its Chairman;
- (c) an officer in the service of the Republic, not below the rank of a Joint Secretary, to be nominated by the Government.]

PART II

PRINTING PRESSES

Particulars to be printed on books and papers

3. Every book or paper printed in Bangladesh shall have printed legibly on it the name of the printer and the place of printing, and, if the book or paper be published, the name of the publisher and the place of publication.

Keeper of printing press to make declaration

4. (1) No person shall keep in his possession any press for the printing of books or papers, unless he has made and subscribed before the District Magistrate within whose local jurisdiction such press may be a declaration in Form A.

(2) As often as the place where a printing press is changed, a fresh declaration shall be necessary:

Provided that where the change is for a period not exceeding sixty days and the place to which the printing press is shifted is within the jurisdiction of the same District Magistrate no fresh declaration shall be necessary if-

- (a) the keeper of the press continues to be the same; and
- (b) within twenty-four hours of the change, the keeper of the press informs the District Magistrate in writing of the Change.

PART III

PRINTING AND PUBLICATION OF NEWSPAPERS

**Publication
of
newspapers**

5. No newspaper shall be printed or published except in conformity with the provisions of this Part and unless there subsists an authenticated declaration in respect thereof.

**Name of the
editor to be
printed on
the
newspaper**

6. Every copy of every newspaper shall contain the name of the editor of the newspaper printed clearly on such copy as the name of the such editor.

**Declaration
of the
printer and
publisher**

7. The printer and the publisher of every newspaper shall appear, in person or by agent authorised in this behalf in accordance with the rules, before the District Magistrate within whose local jurisdiction such newspaper shall be printed or published and shall make and subscribe, in duplicate originals, a declaration in Form B.

**No minor to
be printer,
publisher or
editor**

8. No person who has not attained majority in accordance with the provisions of the Majority Act, 1875 (IX of 1875), or of the law to which he is subject in respect of the attainment of majority shall be permitted to make a declaration under section 7, nor shall any such person edit a newspaper.

**Effect of
non-
publication
of
newspaper**

9. (1) If a newspaper in respect of which a declaration has been made under section 7 is not published within three months of the date on which such declaration is authenticated or deemed to have been authenticated under section 12, the declaration shall become null and void.

(2) Where a declaration becomes null and void under sub-section (1), the printer and the publisher shall make and subscribe a fresh declaration under section 7 before printing or publishing the newspaper, and the provision of sub-section (1) shall apply to the fresh declaration and to any subsequent fresh declaration.

(3) Where a newspaper having been published is not published,-

(a) in the case of a daily newspaper, for three months, and

(b) in the case of any other newspaper, for six months, the declaration made in respect of that newspaper shall become null and void, and the printer and the publisher shall make and subscribe a fresh declaration u/s 7 before further printing or publishing the newspaper and to every such fresh declaration the provisions of the two foregoing sub-sections shall, without prejudice to the provisions of this sub-section, apply.

**Effect of
change of
language,
periodicity
or place of
publication**

10. If at any time after the making of a declaration under section 7, the newspaper to which the declaration relates is printed or published in a language, with a periodicity or at a place, other than the language or languages, periodicity or place shown in the declaration, the declaration shall become null and void, and any further printing and publication of the newspaper shall be unauthorised unless a fresh declaration under section 7 is made, but nothing in this section shall apply to a temporary change of the place of printing or publication for a period not exceeding thirty days at any one time, if within seventy-two hours of such temporary change the District Magistrate is informed of it in the manner prescribed.

**Effect, if
printer or
publisher
leaves
Bangladesh**

11. If at any time the printer or the publisher who has made a declaration under section 7 leaves Bangladesh, the declaration shall become null and void unless,-

(a) the absence of the printer or the publisher from Bangladesh be for a period not exceeding six months, and

(b) the printer or the publisher, before leaving Bangladesh, informs, in writing, the District Magistrate within whose jurisdiction the newspaper is printed or published, of his intended absence and the name of the person who has undertaken to discharge, in his absence and on his behalf, the responsibilities of the printer or the publisher, and furnishes to the District Magistrate a statement, in writing, of that person accepting those responsibilities.

**Authentication
of the
declaration**

12. (1) Subject to the provisions of sub-section (2), each of the duplicate originals of every declaration made and subscribed under section 7 shall