

**Secondhand Dealers Act
(CHAPTER 288)**

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SECONDHAND DEALERS ACT

(CHAPTER 288)

(Original Enactment: Ordinance 21 of 1917)

REVISED EDITION 1985

(30th March 1987)

An Act for the licensing and control of dealers in secondhand goods.

[18th October 1918]

Short title

1. This Act may be cited as the Secondhand Dealers Act.

Interpretation

2.—(1) In this Act —

“bicycle” means a pedal bicycle not propelled by mechanical power;

“bicycle part” means any component part of a bicycle and any tyre, tube, lamp, tool or other fitting, accessory, attachment or equipment of a bicycle;

“goods” in the expression “secondhand goods” does not include any of the goods specified for the time being in the Schedule;

“licensed dealer” means a dealer in secondhand goods only, or in such goods

together with goods which are not secondhand, licensed under this Act;

“motor vehicle” means a mechanically propelled vehicle intended or adapted for use on roads, and includes a trailer;

“motor vehicle part” means any component part of a motor vehicle and any tyre, tube, lamp, tool or other fitting, accessory, attachment or equipment of a motor vehicle;

“person” includes a firm or a person carrying on business in a firm’s name;

“shop” includes a house, place of business or other premises;

“stolen property” means property the possession whereof has been transferred by theft, or by extortion, or by robbery, and property which has been criminally misappropriated or in respect of which criminal breach of trust or cheating has been committed whether the transfer has been made or the misappropriation or breach of trust or cheating has been committed within or without Singapore; but if such property subsequently comes into the possession of a person legally entitled to the possession thereof, it then ceases to be stolen property;

“trailer” means a vehicle drawn by a motor vehicle.

Presumption

(2) Every person in whose shop secondhand goods are found apparently exposed for sale, or who is found in possession of secondhand goods to an unusual quantity, shall be deemed, until the contrary is proved, to be a dealer in secondhand goods; and no person shall be deemed to deal in secondhand goods unless he carries on business in a shop.

Licensing officer

3. An officer holding the appointment of Deputy Commissioner of Police shall be the licensing officer under this Act.

Licences discretionary

4.—(1) The licensing officer may in his discretion issue licences under this Act to persons approved by him on payment of the prescribed fee and any other prescribed charges.

(2) Any person aggrieved by the refusal of the licensing officer to issue a licence may appeal to the Minister whose decision shall be final and conclusive.

Exemption

5.—(1) The licensing officer may, at his discretion and on payment of the prescribed

fee, grant a certificate of exemption from this Act to any dealer in secondhand goods.

(2) The licensing officer may, by conditions to be endorsed on the certificate, restrict the exemption to any class or classes of secondhand goods.

(3) Every certificate of exemption shall expire on 31st December of the year in which it is granted.

(4) Any certificate of exemption may be cancelled at any time by the licensing officer.

Secondhand dealers to be licensed

6.—(1) No person unless exempted from this Act shall deal in secondhand goods except in accordance with the conditions of a licence issued under this Act and in the place specified in the licence.

Licence to be posted

(2) Every licensed dealer shall keep his licence posted in a conspicuous place in his shop.

Signboards

(3) Every licensed dealer shall always keep exhibited at or over the outer door of his shop a signboard of such size and in such position as the licensing officer directs, which signboard shall have printed thereon in the English, Malay, Chinese and Tamil languages the words “Licensed dealer in secondhand goods”.

Hours of business

7. No licensed dealer shall purchase or sell any goods before 7 a.m. or after 9 p.m.

Penalty

8. Any person who contravenes any of the provisions of section 6 or 7 shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$200 for the first offence, and to a fine not exceeding \$1,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months for any subsequent offence.

Issue of licences

9. A licence issued under this Act —

- (a) shall be issued by the licensing officer, on payment of the prescribed fee, and be in such form and subject to such conditions as are prescribed, but in no case shall be issued unless the fingerprints of the person applying to be

licensed have been taken by the licensing officer;

- (b) shall expire on 31st December of the year in which it is issued;
- (c) shall in every case be liable to cancellation by the licensing officer with the approval of the Minister;
- (d) shall not be transferable without the consent of the licensing officer and payment of the prescribed fee.

Keeping proper books of account

10.—(1) Every licensed dealer shall keep in his shop —

- (a) a book legibly written in which he shall enter the particulars of all goods bought by him, with the date of purchase, the price paid for them, and the name and address of the person from whom he bought them, and such other particulars as are prescribed;
- (b) a book legibly written in which he shall enter the particulars of all goods sold by him, with the date of sale, the price received for them, and such other particulars as are prescribed.

(2) Such books shall be produced for examination at any time between 7 a.m. and 9 p.m. on demand by any Magistrate, Justice of the Peace, the licensing officer or a police officer.

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(3) Any licensed dealer who fails to comply with any requirement of this section shall —

- (a) where the goods concerned are bicycles, bicycle parts, motor vehicles or motor vehicle parts, be punished with imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 years and not less than 6 months and shall also be liable to a fine; and
- (b) in the case of other goods, be liable to a fine not exceeding \$100 for the first offence, and to a fine not exceeding \$500 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months for any subsequent offence.

Information to be given by police to licensed dealers of stolen and lost property

11.—(1) Information as to any stolen property or as to any property which has been lost shall be given by the police as soon as possible after the theft or loss to all licensed dealers, with lists and descriptions of the same.

(2) If any property answering such lists and descriptions is in the possession of any licensed dealer or is thereafter offered to or shown to any licensed dealer, he shall,