



**Bureau of Experts at the Council of Ministers
Official Translation Department**

Meteorology Law

Royal Decree No. M/86
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Translation of Saudi Laws

NOTES:

1. This translation is provided for guidance. The governing text is the Arabic text.
2. 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, and who) refer to a natural and legal person.



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Meteorology Law

Article 1

In this Law, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings assigned thereto, unless the context requires otherwise:

Law: Meteorology Law.

Regulations: Regulations of this Law.

NCM: National Center for Meteorology.

Minister: Minister of Environment, Water, and Agriculture and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the NCM.

Person: Any natural or legal person.

Weather: The state of the atmosphere in a particular location over a short period of time.

Climate: The state of the atmosphere in a particular location over a long period of time.

Meteorology: The process of observing, monitoring, or forecasting the weather and climate as well as weather and marine phenomena that affect the state of the atmosphere.

Meteorological Information: Meteorological reports, analyses, forecasts, and any data related to prevailing or expected weather conditions.

Meteorological Services: Meteorological activities, outcomes, and information.

Sovereign Meteorological Services: Meteorological activities, outcomes, and information relating to national security.

Weather Stations: Any facility, equipment, or device used to carry out meteorological services.

Permit: A document issued by the NCM to a person prior to engaging in meteorological work or activities.

License: A document issued by the NCM to a person to engage in meteorological work or activities.

Permittee: A permit holder.

Licensee: A license holder.

Article 2

Meteorological requirements, controls, procedures, standards, and criteria shall be observed when providing meteorological services, as specified by the Regulations.



Article 3

A license or permit, or both, as the case may be, shall be required for the provision of meteorological services or the publication of any meteorological information, whether by creating a website or by any other means. The Regulations shall classify the types of such services.

Article 4

If the nature of a project requires the knowledge and use of meteorological information, such information shall, prior to the commencement of the project, be obtained from the NCM or from licensed meteorological service providers. The Regulations shall determine the nature of such projects.

Article 5

1. A license must be obtained for importing, installing, operating, transporting, handling, calibrating, or maintaining weather stations. The Regulations shall determine the specifications of such stations.
2. A license must be obtained prior to the assignment of weather stations.

Article 6

1. A license must be obtained to engage in training activities relating to the provision of meteorological services.
2. The NCM shall determine the training standards and controls for meteorological services.

Article 7

The Regulations shall classify the types of licenses and permits based on the required conditions, controls, and procedures, and shall determine such conditions, controls, and procedures.

Article 8

Sovereign meteorological services shall be exclusively provided by the NCM. The Regulations shall classify the types of such services.

Article 9

1. The NCM or the licensee shall provide meteorological services to relevant aeronautical agencies in the Kingdom pursuant to civil aviation laws and relevant international agreements to which the Kingdom is party.
2. The NCM or the licensee shall provide meteorological services to relevant maritime agencies.
3. The NCM shall determine the fees for the provision of meteorological services to relevant aeronautical agencies in the Kingdom, in coordination with the General Authority of Civil Aviation, pursuant to the provisions related thereto in civil aviation laws and relevant international agreements to which the Kingdom is party. The NCM shall also determine the fees for the



provision of meteorological services to relevant maritime agencies.

Article 10

The following acts shall be deemed a violation of the provisions of this Law:

1. Compromising any weather station, its facilities or networks, or the data generated thereby, whether by trespassing, tampering, disruption, transfer, or destruction wholly or partially, whether directly or indirectly.
2. Using the license or permit for purposes other than those for which it is issued.
3. Providing meteorological services without a license or permit.
4. Establishing weather stations without a license.
5. Violating any other provision of this Law and the Regulations.

Article 11

1. Inspectors from the NCM, designated pursuant to a decision by the Minister, shall detect, record, investigate, and establish violations of the provisions of this Law and the Regulations. The Regulations shall determine the work rules and procedures of said inspectors.
2. Inspectors may, prior to entering sites for the purpose of inspecting and detecting violations, seek the assistance of competent agencies. The Regulations shall determine the necessary procedures therefor.
3. Inspectors may immediately seize any items suspected of being used in violation of this Law and the Regulations, provided that such inspectors prepare a report including the types of seized items and descriptions thereof. Such report shall be submitted within seven days to the committee referred to in Article 13(1) of this Law to render a decision on whether to release the seized items or continue seizure thereof, as specified by the Regulations.
4. Inspectors shall not be prevented or obstructed from carrying out their inspection, detection, and recording duties. In carrying out such duties, inspectors shall present their credentials.
5. Without prejudice to paragraph (1) of this Article, the Minister may outsource certain tasks relating to the inspection, detection, and recording of violations of an administrative nature to specialized companies, in accordance with controls and standards specified in the Regulations.

Article 12

1. Without prejudice to any harsher penalty stipulated in any other law, a person who commits any of the violations stipulated in Article 10 of this Law shall be subject to one or more of the following penalties:
 - a) A fine not exceeding five hundred thousand riyals.
 - b) Suspension of the license or permit for a period not exceeding six months.
 - c) Cancellation of the license or permit.
 - d) Confiscation of the seized items subject of the violation.



- e) Compelling the violator to repair the damage resulting from the violation under the supervision of the NCM, or to pay the cost of repair and the loss of benefit.
2. The Minister shall issue the classification tables for the violations stipulated in Article 10 of this Law and shall determine corresponding penalties from the penalties stipulated in paragraph (1)(a, b, and c) of this Article, taking into account the nature and gravity of each violation as well as the aggravating and mitigating circumstances thereof.

Article 13

1. Subject to the provisions of Article 14 of this Law, a committee, or more, formed pursuant to a decision by the Minister for a renewable period of three years, shall review any violations of the provisions of this Law and impose the penalties stipulated in Article 12(1)(a, b, and c) of this Law. Such committee shall be composed of three members and its formation decision shall designate its chairman who shall be qualified in Sharia or law. Committee decisions shall be passed by majority vote and shall be reasoned. Committee penalty decisions imposing a fine of more than one hundred thousand riyals or the cancelation of a license or permit shall be approved by the Minister. The Regulations shall determine the committee work rules and procedures and the remuneration of its members.
2. Subject to this Law, the committee referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article may:
 - a) impose a fine for each day the violation continues after having notified the violator of its final decision;
 - b) double the penalty imposed on the violator if the violation is repeated; and
 - c) petition the competent court to order confiscation of the seized items subject of the violation.

A concerned person may appeal the decision issued against him before the Administrative Court within 60 days from the date said person is notified of the decision.

Article 14

Without prejudice to any harsher penalty stipulated in any other law, any person who provides sovereign meteorological services in violation of Article 8 of this Law shall be subject to imprisonment for a period not exceeding ten years and a fine not exceeding two million riyals, or to either penalty.

Article 15

The Public Prosecution shall investigate and prosecute violations falling within the jurisdiction of the Criminal Court.

Article 16

The Criminal Court shall consider the violations stipulated in Article 14 of this



Law and impose the prescribed penalties, and it may:

1. impose a fine for each day the violation continues after having notified the violator of the final penalty decision;
2. double the fine imposed on the violator if the violation is repeated; and
3. confiscate the seized items subject of the violation.

Article 17

The judgment or penalty decision, as the case may be, may, depending on the type, gravity, and impact of the violation, include a provision to publish the text of the ruling at the expense of the violator in a local newspaper published in his area of residence or in the nearest area to his residence if no newspaper is available in his area of residence, or by any other appropriate means, provided that the publication is made after the judgment becomes final or the decision becomes unappealable due to the lapse of the appeal period, or if a final judgment is issued dismissing the appeal.

Article 18

1. The provisions of this Law and the Regulations shall constitute the minimum requirements for compliance with the conditions, controls, procedures, standards, and criteria necessary to regulate the meteorological sector.
2. Without prejudice to the provision of paragraph (1) of this Article, the provisions of this Law shall apply where a specific legal provision is absent, provided that such provision does not prejudice compliance with the other provisions of this Law.
3. Implementation of the provisions of this Law shall not prejudice the Kingdom's commitments under relevant international agreements to which the Kingdom is party and the laws issued by the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf that the Kingdom has ratified.

Article 19

The Minister shall issue the Regulations within 180 days from the date of publication of this Law in the Official Gazette.

Article 20

This Law shall enter into force 180 days following the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.