



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

## **Private Laboratories Law**

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**NOTE:**

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) refer to a natural and legal person.



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## Private Laboratories Law

### Article 1

In this Law, the following terms shall have the meanings assigned thereto.

- A. **Competent Authority:** Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Water, Ministry of Industry and Mineral Resources, Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and Housing, Saudi Food and Drug Authority, or other government agencies specified by the Implementing Regulations, as applicable.
- B. **SAC:** Saudi Accreditation Center.
- C. **Goods:** Commercial goods produced locally or imported, whether in the form of materials, devices, tools, or any other form.
- D. **Test:** Any analysis, calibration, or examination which aims to determine the characteristics of performance, efficiency, effectiveness, or conformity.
- E. **Laboratory:** A place where goods are tested.

### Article 2

The competent minister may seek the assistance of licensed national private laboratories to test local and imported goods.

### Article 3

Licenses shall be granted to laboratories, provided that they employ qualified specialists and are equipped with the necessary equipment and devices, as determined by the competent authority and SAC.

### Article 4

The Implementing Regulations shall, upon SAC's recommendation, determine the categories of laboratories and the requirements for each category.

### Article 5

The procedures and period for license issuance shall be determined by the Implementing Regulations.

### Article 6

A licensee shall be entitled to a grace period not exceeding 18 months, commencing from the license issuance date, to obtain accreditation from SAC. If accreditation is not obtained within said period, the license shall be deemed revoked.

### Article 7

- A. The competent authority shall issue the license to a private laboratory upon payment of the license fee: 5000 riyals for the main laboratory and 2500 riyals for each branch.



- B. The license shall be for a term of five years commencing from the period provided for in Article 6 of this Law. The licensee may renew the license by filing an application with the competent authority at least three months prior to the license expiration date. The term of the renewed license shall commence from the expiration date of the previous license term.

### **Article 8**

The competent authority shall issue a list of goods which must undergo testing by a private laboratory not less than 60 days prior to assigning such testing to the private laboratory and following an announcement in the Official Gazette. Zakat, Tax, and Customs Authority shall be notified thereof.

### **Article 9**

The laboratory must comply with the following:

- a) Limiting testing to goods specified in the license.
- b) Complying with professional standards, maintaining work confidentiality, and ensuring equipment is in good condition.
- c) Maintaining records of test results for a period of not less than five years.
- d) Displaying SAC's license and accreditation certificate in a conspicuous place at the entrance to the laboratory. No modifications to said documents may be made without the approval of the competent authority.
- e) Maintaining confidentiality when transporting samples and test results.

### **Article 10**

1. The competent authority's technicians shall collect and process samples according to approved standard specifications.
2.
  - a. The owner of imported goods may not dispose of said goods prior to final testing.
  - b. The owner of locally-produced goods may not dispose of said goods prior to their approval by the relevant agency.
3. The prepared sample shall be delivered to the private laboratory together with a document accurately describing the sample and indicating the required tests, in accordance with approved standard specifications.
4. The laboratory shall, within 15 days from the date of collecting the samples, return the results along with the remainder of the samples; if the samples are completely consumed, a proof thereof shall be presented to the providing party. The competent authority shall be notified of the testing results within a period not exceeding 25 days from the date of collecting such samples.
5. Goods shall be tested at the expense of their owner.

### **Article 11**

Without prejudice to any harsher penalty provided for in any other law, any person who violates any of the provisions of this Law shall be subject to one or more of the following penalties:



1. A warning.
2. A fine of not less than five thousand riyals and not more than twenty thousand riyals.
3. Suspension of the license for a period of not less than 30 days and not more than 60 days.
4. Withdrawal of the license if the offense is repeated.

#### **Article 12**

Delay fines shall be applied as follows:

1. One thousand riyals for every year of delay to be paid upon license renewal. Renewal shall commence from the license expiration date.
2. If the laboratory fails to submit the results within the period specified in Article 10(4), a fine equal to the costs of the test subject of the violation shall be imposed.

#### **Article 13**

The supervision and inspection of laboratories and the detection of violations of the provisions of this Law and the regulations and decisions issued for its implementation shall be carried out by qualified officers. The Implementing Regulations shall specify:

1. the agency or agencies responsible for their appointment;
2. the powers of officers authorized to access and inspect laboratories; detect violations; seize samples, documents, and devices subject of the violation; and conduct investigations, as well as specify the cases where the assistance of security agencies may be sought; and
3. the agency which may grant access to laboratories for inspection.

Monitoring, inspection, and detection officers shall be of good conduct and shall maintain confidentiality, and shall, upon carrying out their duties, present their credentials and indicate the purpose of their visit.

#### **Article 14**

The Implementing Regulations shall determine investigation and prosecution procedures as well as the agency responsible therefor.

#### **Article 15**

The Board of Grievances shall decide cases relating to violations of this Law and shall impose penalties.

#### **Article 16**

The Minister of Commerce shall, in coordination with the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Water, Ministry of Industry and Electricity, Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and Housing, and the Saudi food and Drug Authority, issue the Implementing Regulations of this Law.



### **Article 17**

This Law shall be published in the Official Gazette and shall enter into force 180 days from the date of its publication.



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