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REPUBLIC OF LATVIA  
**LAW  
ON PORTS**

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SECTION 1

GENERAL TERMS

**Article 1. Application of the Law**

This Law shall establish principles of operation and management of ports and safety of navigation in ports.

**Article 2. Definition of Port**

Port is a restricted by borders part of land of Latvia including artificially created embankments and part of inland waters, including inner and outer routes and navigation routes in port accession which are designated to serve vessels and passengers, cargo, transportation and forwarding operations and other business related to navigation. Use of a port for the purposes of defence shall be set by regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers and rules of the respective port.

**Article 3. Establishment of Port Borders**

Borders of a port including territories which due to geographical location are likely to be used for the prospective development of a port shall be established by the Cabinet of Ministers according to the proposal of the respective municipality and port authority.

**Article 4. Real Estate within Port**

(1) Land of a port (hereinafter "Port Land") may belong to the state, municipality, or to any other legal entity, or to an individual.

(2) Part of inland waters of a port (hereinafter "Water Area") shall be the property of the state.

(3) Right to use land owned by the state and right to use water area is transferred to the respective port authority by the resolution of the Ministry of Transport. Right to use land owned by a municipality is transferred to the respective port authority by a resolution of the respective city or regional council.

(4) Common hydrotechnical buildings of the port (moles, dams, breakwaters, coast fortifiers), quays, navigation routes, floating navigation devices and equipment in Riga, Ventspils and Liepaja ports is the property of the state or municipality. They are in possession of the respective port authority. Common hydrotechnical constructions in other ports may belong to other legal entities or individuals.

(5) Port authority is authorized to lease or to rent land owned by the state or municipality to the third persons, or it may encumber the land with easements for construction of buildings, structures, above-ground or under-ground communications or for other businesses, specifically including use and construction rights. Port authority for the above purposes may lease or rent easements established for the benefit of the port on the port land owned by other legal entities or individuals. Port authority in the above act deals on behalf of legal owners of the land.

(6) The term of the lease or rent agreements concerning port land, and the term of easement rights established for the benefit of the port or via port administration for the benefit of legal entities or individuals may not exceed 30 years, except if the amount of investment planned in the port and actually invested as planned exceeds 50 million lats, and if each such agreement or easement is accepted in advance by the Latvian Port Council.

(7) Port authority is authorized to encumber with all necessary easements provided for in Civil Law, port land that is owned by other legal entities or individuals, according to the agreements signed with the owners or by coercion pursuant to this Law. The terms of such agreements and rules of coercive lien and remuneration shall be set by regulations of Cabinet of Ministers. Port land may be alienated by state or municipality subject to the rules set out in the law "On coercive alienation of real estate for state and public needs".

## SECTION 2

### PORT MANAGEMENT

#### Article 5. Documents regulating operation of ports

Ports function pursuant to laws, international agreements approved by the Republic of Latvia, regulations passed by the Cabinet of Ministers, port authority charter of the respective port and rules of ports.

#### Article 6. Port Rules

(1) Port rules are approved by the Ministry of Transport, agreeing on it with local municipality. Port rules shall contain:

- 1) approved borders of port land and water area;