



# **THE STATUTES OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE**

## **BILLS OF LADING ACT 1992**

### **2020 REVISED EDITION**

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# Bills of Lading Act 1992

## ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

### Section

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An Act to replace the Bills of Lading Act 1855 with new provision with respect to bills of lading and certain other shipping documents.

[12 November 1993]

### **Shipping documents, etc., to which Act applies**

**1.—**(1) This Act applies to the following documents:

- (a) any bill of lading;
- (b) any sea waybill;
- (c) any ship's delivery order.

(2) References in this Act to a bill of lading —

- (a) do not include references to a document which is incapable of transfer either by indorsement or, as a bearer bill, by delivery without indorsement; but
- (b) subject to that, do include references to a received for shipment bill of lading.

(3) References in this Act to a sea waybill are references to any document which is not a bill of lading but —

- (a) is such a receipt for goods as contains or evidences a contract for the carriage of goods by sea; and

- (b) identifies the person to whom delivery of the goods is to be made by the carrier in accordance with that contract.

(4) References in this Act to a ship's delivery order are references to any document which is neither a bill of lading nor a sea waybill but contains an undertaking which —

- (a) is given under or for the purposes of a contract for the carriage by sea of the goods to which the document relates, or of goods which include those goods; and
- (b) is an undertaking by the carrier to a person identified in the document to deliver the goods to which the document relates to that person.

### **Rights under shipping documents**

2.—(1) Subject to the following provisions of this section, a person who becomes —

- (a) the lawful holder of a bill of lading;
- (b) the person who (without being an original party to the contract of carriage) is the person to whom delivery of the goods to which a sea waybill relates is to be made by the carrier in accordance with that contract; or
- (c) the person to whom delivery of the goods to which a ship's delivery order relates is to be made in accordance with the undertaking contained in the order,

shall (by virtue of becoming the holder of the bill or, as the case may be, the person to whom delivery is to be made) have transferred to and vested in him all rights of suit under the contract of carriage as if he had been a party to that contract.

(2) Where, when a person becomes the lawful holder of a bill of lading, possession of the bill no longer gives a right (as against the carrier) to possession of the goods to which the bill relates, that person shall not have any rights transferred to him by virtue of subsection (1) unless he becomes the holder of the bill —

- (a) by virtue of a transaction effected in pursuance of any contractual or other arrangements made before the time when such a right to possession ceased to attach to possession of the bill; or
  - (b) as a result of the rejection to that person by another person of goods or documents delivered to the other person in pursuance of any such arrangements.
- (3) The rights vested in any person by virtue of the operation of subsection (1) in relation to a ship's delivery order —
  - (a) shall be so vested subject to the terms of the order; and
  - (b) where the goods to which the order relates form a part only of the goods to which the contract of carriage relates, shall be confined to rights in respect of the goods to which the order relates.
- (4) Where, in the case of any document to which this Act applies —
  - (a) a person with any interest or right in or in relation to goods to which the document relates sustains loss or damage in consequence of a breach of the contract of carriage; but
  - (b) subsection (1) operates in relation to that document so that rights of suit in respect of that breach are vested in another person,

the other person shall be entitled to exercise those rights for the benefit of the person who sustained the loss or damage to the same extent as they could have been exercised if they had been vested in the person for whose benefit they are exercised.
- (5) Where rights are transferred by virtue of the operation of subsection (1) in relation to any document, the transfer for which that subsection provides shall extinguish any entitlement to those rights which derives —
  - (a) where that document is a bill of lading, from a person's having been an original party to the contract of carriage; or