



THE STATUTES OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

CORROSIVE AND EXPLOSIVE SUBSTANCES AND OFFENSIVE WEAPONS ACT 1958

2020 REVISED EDITION

This revised edition incorporates all amendments up to and including 1 December 2021 and comes into operation on 31 December 2021.

Prepared and Published by

THE LAW REVISION COMMISSION
UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF
THE REVISED EDITION OF THE LAWS ACT 1983

Corrosive and Explosive Substances and Offensive Weapons Act 1958

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

Section

1. Short title
2. Interpretation
3. Possession of corrosive or explosive substance for purpose of causing hurt
4. Using corrosive or explosive substance or offensive weapon
5. Consorting with person carrying corrosive or explosive substance
6. Carrying offensive weapons in public places
7. Offences relating to scheduled weapons
8. Consorting with persons carrying offensive weapons in public places
9. Powers of search and seizure
10. Disposal of property
11. Presumptions
12. Power to amend Schedules
 - First Schedule — Corrosive substances
 - Second Schedule — Scheduled weapons

An Act to provide certain penalties relating to the unlawful possession of corrosive and explosive substances and the carrying of offensive and scheduled weapons.

[16 September 1963]

Short title

1. This Act is the Corrosive and Explosive Substances and Offensive Weapons Act 1958.

Interpretation

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires —

“corrosive substance” means any of the acids and substances specified in the First Schedule, and shall be deemed to include all substances which are capable on application to the human body of causing hurt through corrosive action;

“explosive substance” shall be deemed to include any materials for making any explosive substance and any bomb, grenade, apparatus, machine, implement or material used or intended to be used or adapted for causing or aiding in causing any explosion in or with any explosive substance and any part of such bomb, grenade, apparatus, machine or implement;

“hurt” means hurt as defined in the Penal Code 1871;

“offensive weapon” includes any instrument which if used as a weapon of offence is likely to cause hurt;

“scheduled weapon” means any offensive weapon specified in the Second Schedule.

Possession of corrosive or explosive substance for purpose of causing hurt

3. Any person who carries or has in his possession or under his control any corrosive or explosive substance in circumstances which raise a reasonable presumption that he intends to use or intends to enable some other person to use the substance for the purpose of causing hurt shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 10 years and shall also be punished with caning with not less than 6 strokes.

Using corrosive or explosive substance or offensive weapon

4. Any person who unlawfully and maliciously uses or attempts to use any corrosive substance or offensive weapon for the purpose of causing hurt or causes or attempts to cause by any explosive substance an explosion of a nature likely to cause hurt shall, whether any hurt has actually been caused or not, be guilty of an offence and

shall be liable on conviction to imprisonment for life and shall also be punished with caning with not less than 6 strokes.

Consorting with person carrying corrosive or explosive substance

5. Any person who consorts with, or is found in the company of, another person who is carrying or has in his possession or under his control any corrosive or explosive substance in contravention of section 3 in circumstances which raise a reasonable presumption that he knew that that other person was carrying or had in his possession or under his control any such substance shall, unless he shall prove that he had reasonable grounds for believing that that other person was carrying or had in his possession or under his control any such substance for a lawful purpose, be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to the like punishment as that other person with whom he was consorting or in whose company he was found.

Carrying offensive weapons in public places

6.—(1) Any person who in any public road or place carries or has in his possession or under his control any offensive weapon otherwise than with lawful authority or for a lawful purpose shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 years and shall also be punished with caning with not less than 6 strokes.

(2) In any prosecution for an offence under subsection (1), the onus of proving the existence of a lawful purpose shall lie upon the accused.

(3) A weapon shall be presumed to be carried with lawful authority if it is carried —

- (a) by a member of the Singapore Armed Forces or of the Singapore Police Force or of any visiting force lawfully present in Singapore under the provisions of any law relating to visiting forces; or
- (b) by any person as part of his official or ceremonial dress on any official or ceremonial occasion.