

**Price Control Act  
(CHAPTER 244)**

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**PRICE CONTROL ACT**  
**(CHAPTER 244)**

(Original Enactment: Ordinance 6 of 1950)

REVISED EDITION 1985

(30th March 1987)

An Act to provide for the control of prices.

[3rd March 1950]

**Short title**

1. This Act may be cited as the Price Control Act.

**Interpretation**

2. In this Act, and in any rule or order made thereunder, unless the context otherwise requires —

“commission agent” means a person who acts as agent for another in relation to the purchase or sale of goods and is remunerated or to be remunerated by way of commission on the price, and includes an agent remunerated or to be remunerated partly by commission and partly in some other manner;

- “controlled article” means any goods or classes of goods declared to be controlled articles under section 5(a);
- “goods” includes all chattels personal other than things in action and money;
- “maximum price” means the maximum price at which, under the provisions of this Act, goods may be sold;
- “offence under this Act” includes any act or omission declared to be an offence under this Act by any order or rule made under sections 5 and 18;
- “Price Controller” means an officer appointed Price Controller under section 3 and includes any person appointed by the Minister to act in the place of the Price Controller during the Price Controller’s absence from Singapore or his inability from illness or other causes to perform the duties of his office;
- “Price Inspector” means any person appointed under section 3(2) and includes a Chief Price Inspector and an Assistant Price Inspector;
- “price-regulated goods” means goods in respect of which maximum prices have been fixed under section 4 and includes services for which a maximum has been fixed under that section;
- “officer of customs” has the same meaning as in the Customs Act [Cap. 70];
- “sell”, with its grammatical variations and cognate expressions, includes an agreement to sell and an offer to sell, and an offer to sell shall be deemed to include the exposing of goods for sale, the publication of a price list, the furnishing of a quotation, or any other act or notification whatsoever by which willingness to enter into any transaction of sale is expressed;
- “selling price” means the actual net price charged to the purchaser of the goods concerned, less all discounts or other allowances;
- “trader” includes any person who carries on the business of selling goods and any person carrying on business in the course of which he supplies goods for the purpose of, or in pursuance of a contract made by him for work, labour and materials.

### **Appointment of Price Controller and other officers**

3.—(1) The Minister may appoint a Price Controller and such Deputy Price Controllers and Assistant Price Controllers as he may think fit.

(2) The Price Controller may appoint such chief price inspectors, price inspectors or assistant price inspectors for such areas as he may think fit.

(3) The Minister may appoint advisory committees to advise the Price Controller on questions relating to the exercise of all or any of the powers conferred on the Price Controller by sections 4, 5 and 8.

### **Prices and charges**

4.—(1) The Price Controller may from time to time by order published in the *Gazette* —

- (a) fix maximum prices, which may include charges for delivery, for the sale of any goods either by declaring the maximum sale price, or by prescribing that the sale price of the goods shall not exceed the price which they cost the seller, plus a stated sum or a stated percentage of that cost price, or by prescribing the manner in which the maximum sale price of the goods shall be ascertained;
- (b) fix the maximum charge that may be made by any person for any service in relation to the supply, repair, maintenance, packing, carriage or storage of goods, which shall include the provision of such materials as may be specified in the order;
- (c) fix the maximum price, or prescribe the manner in which the maximum price shall be ascertained, of any secondhand goods, whether for sale by persons who trade in those goods, or by the private owners of those goods; and
- (d) prescribe what shall constitute a wholesale or retail quantity or transaction either generally or in respect of any special class or classes of goods.

(2) Under this section the Price Controller may fix a maximum price or charge for service in respect of any goods for one area which differs from the maximum price or the charge for services fixed for another area in respect of like or similar goods.

### **Control of movement, export and import of and dealing in specified goods**

5. The Price Controller with the prior approval of the Minister may by order published in the *Gazette* —

- (a) declare any goods or classes of goods to be controlled articles;
- (b) prohibit the purchase, sale or barter of any controlled article for the purpose of resale in or export from any area specified without his written permission;
- (c) prohibit or control the import or export of any controlled article for the purpose of resale in or export from any area specified without his written permission;

- (d) prohibit or control the movement of controlled articles between any specified areas;
- (e) limit the wholesale or retail dealing in any controlled article to persons holding licences or permits therefor under this Act or any rules made thereunder;
- (f) restrict the sale of any controlled article either by any individual or generally by all persons dealing in the article in any manner in which he thinks fit;
- (g) prescribe such forms as he may think necessary in connection with the matters referred to in paragraphs (a) to (f); and
- (h) declare any act or omission in contravention of the provisions of any order to be an offence under this Act and prescribe penalties therefor provided that no penalty so prescribed shall exceed the maximum penalty prescribed by section 16 in corresponding circumstances.

### **Orders to be presented to Parliament**

6. Any order made by the Price Controller under section 4, 5 or 8 shall be published in the *Gazette* and shall be presented to Parliament as soon as possible after publication and if a resolution is passed pursuant to a motion notice whereof has been given for a sitting day not later than the first available sitting day of Parliament next after the expiry of one month from the date when an order was so presented annulling the order or any part thereof as from a specified date, the order or such part thereof, as the case may be, shall thereupon become void as from that date but without prejudice to anything previously done thereunder or to the making of a new order.

### **Seller to display list of prices**

7. Any person who deals in any price-regulated goods shall display in English and in any other language ordered by the Price Controller, in a prominent manner and in a conspicuous position so that it can be easily read and is clearly legible to customers in those parts of his business premises where price-regulated goods are dealt in, a list of the current maximum prices of the price-regulated goods in which he deals and any such person who fails to do so shall be guilty of an offence.

### **Controller may order display of prices of any goods or class of goods**

8. The Price Controller may by order published in the *Gazette* from time to time require any person who sells by retail any goods or class of goods specified in the order to exhibit clearly and conspicuously in such manner as may be prescribed the price demanded by him for the sale of those goods and any person failing to comply with any