



**PARLIAMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC
SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF
SRI LANKA**

**LICENSING OF SHIPPING AGENTS, FREIGHT
FORWARDERS, NON-VESSEL OPERATING
COMMON CARRIERS AND CONTAINER
OPERATORS (AMENDMENT) ACT, No. 4 OF 2026**

[Certified on 17th of February, 2026]

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*Licensing of Shipping Agents, Freight Forwarders,
Non-Vessel Operating Common Carriers and
Container Operators (Amendment) Act, No. 4 of 2026*

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L.D.-O 62/2023

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LICENSING OF SHIPPING AGENTS, FREIGHT FORWARDERS, NON-VESSEL OPERATING COMMON CARRIERS AND CONTAINER OPERATORS ACT, NO. 10 OF 1972; AND TO PROVIDE FOR MATTERS CONNECTED THEREWITH OR INCIDENTAL THERETO.

BE it enacted by the Parliament of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka as follows: -

1. This Act may be cited as the Licensing of Shipping Agents, Freight Forwarders, Non-Vessel Operating Common Carriers and Container Operators (Amendment) Act, No. 4 of 2026. Short title

2. The long title to the Licensing of Shipping Agents, Freight Forwarders, Non-Vessel Operating Common Carriers and Container Operators Act, No. 10 of 1972, (hereinafter referred to as the “principal enactment”) is hereby amended by the substitution for the words “FREIGHT FORWARDERS, NON-VESSEL OPERATING COMMON CARRIERS, AND CONTAINER OPERATORS”, of the words “FREIGHT FORWARDERS AND NON-VESSEL OPERATING COMMON CARRIERS”. Amendment of long title to Act, No.10 of 1972

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Licensing
of Shipping
Agents, Freight
Forwarders,
Non -Vessel
Operating
Common Carriers,
and Container
Operators Act,
and the
Shipping
Agents, Freight
Forwarders,
Non -Vessel
Operating
Common Carriers,
and Container
Operators to be
known as the
Licensing of
Shipping
Agents, Freight
Forwarders and
Non-Vessel
Operating
Common
Carriers Act,
and the Shipping
Agents, Freight
Forwarders and
Non-Vessel
Operating
Common Carriers
respectively

3. (1) In the principal enactment and in any other written law, there shall be substituted –

(a) for the words, “Licensing of Shipping Agents, Freight Forwarders, Non - Vessel Operating Common Carriers and Container Operators Act”, of the words “Licensing of Shipping Agents, Freight Forwarders and Non-Vessel Operating Common Carriers Act”; and

(b) for the words, “Shipping Agents, Freight Forwarders, Non - Vessel Operating Common Carriers, and Container Operators”, of the words “Shipping Agents, Freight Forwarders and Non-Vessel Operating Common Carriers”.

(2) Every reference to the “Licensing of Shipping Agents, Freight Forwarders, Non - Vessel Operating Common Carriers and Container Operators Act” in any notice, notification, contract, communication or other document shall be read and construed as a reference to the “Licensing of Shipping Agents, Freight Forwarders and Non-Vessel Operating Common Carriers Act”.

Amendment of
section 15 of
the principal
enactment

4. Section 15 of the principal enactment is hereby amended by the deletion of the definition of expression “container operators”.

Savings and
transitional
provisions

5. With effect from the date of commencement of this Act, notwithstanding any provision in any other law-

(a) any application made for the issue of licence in respect of container operator

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Non-Vessel Operating Common Carriers and
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under subsection (1A) of section 3 of the principal enactment and pending on the day immediately preceding the date of commencement of this Act shall be deemed to be made under the provisions of the Licensing of Container Depot Operators Act, No. 3 of 2026; and

- (b) unless specifically suspended or cancelled in the manner provided for in the principal enactment, all licences issued to container operator, and subsisting or having effect on the day immediately preceding the date of commencement of this Act shall be deemed with effect from the date of commencement of this Act to be licences issued under the provisions of the Licensing of Container Depot Operators Act, No. 3 of 2026.

6. In the event of any inconsistency between the Sinhala and Tamil texts of this Act, the Sinhala text shall prevail.

Sinhala text to prevail in case of inconsistency

