



# PARLIAMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA

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## LICENSING OF SHIPPING AGENTS, FREIGHT FORWARDERS, NON-VESSEL OPERATING COMMON CARRIERS AND CONTAINER OPERATORS (AMENDMENT)

### A BILL

**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**

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*Presented by the Minister of Ports and Civil Aviation on  
20th of January, 2026*

(Published in the Gazette on December 12, 2025)

*Ordered by Parliament to be printed*

**[Bill No. 50]**

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*This Bill can be downloaded from [www.documents.gov.lk](http://www.documents.gov.lk)*

*STATEMENT OF LEGAL EFFECT*

*Clause 2:* This clause amends the Long Title to the Licensing of Shipping Agents, Freight Forwarders, Non-Vessel Operating Common Carriers and Container Operators Act, No.10 of 1972 and the legal effect of that section as amended is to discontinue the application of the provisions of the principal enactment to container operators.

*Clauses 3, 4 and 5:* The amendments done by these clauses are consequential to the amendment made by clause 2.

*Licensing of Shipping Agents, Freight Forwarders,  
Non-Vessel Operating Common Carriers and  
Container Operators (Amendment)*

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. of 2026.
- 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, 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”.

2    *Licensing of Shipping Agents, Freight Forwarders, Non-Vessel Operating Common Carriers and Container Operators (Amendment)*

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

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(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

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

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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 20 shall be read and construed as a reference to the “Licensing of Shipping Agents, Freight Forwarders and Non-Vessel Operating Common Carriers Act”.

4. Section 15 of the principal enactment is hereby amended by the deletion of the definition of expression 25 “container operators”.

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

Amendment of section 15 of the principal enactment

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

Savings and transitional provisions

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

*Licensing of Shipping Agents, Freight Forwarders, 3  
Non-Vessel Operating Common Carriers and  
Container Operators (Amendment)*

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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. 2026; and

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(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. 2026.

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**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

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