



**Official Journal – Issue No. 9 Bis (A) – Dated March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**Law No. 7 of the Year 2017**  
**Amending Certain Provisions**  
**of Law No. 121 of the Year 1982**  
**Concerning the Importers Register**

**In the name of the people  
President of the Republic**

The parliament passed the following law and it is hereby promulgated;

**Article 1**

**The texts of clauses (B), (C), (D), (E) & (F) of Item First and clauses (A), (B), (D), (E), (F) & (G) of Item Second of Article (2); Clauses (A) & (C) of Article (3), Articles Nos. (6) and (8), Article (10 - heading of first paragraph), and Article (11) of the Law on the Importers Register shall be replaced by the following texts:**

**Article-2**

**Item First – As for the natural persons:**

- B) He shall be of Egyptian nationality.
- C) He shall have practiced the commercial business for at least two consecutive years before submitting the application. His practice of the commercial business shall be evidenced by virtue of a certificate to be issued by the chamber of commerce concerned, and approved by the General Federation of the Chambers of Commerce. His business turnover during the last year shall not be less than two million Egyptian Pounds, as indicated in the tax return submitted to the Tax Authority.
- However, holder of an import card on the date of applying this Law shall be exempted from the business turnover condition.
- D) He shall not have been sentenced in connection with a felony, or convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude or breach of trust, or any of the crimes prescribed in the laws on trade, combat of fraud and deception, supply, customs, import and export, control over precious metals, companies, anti-money laundering, intellectual property rights protection, protection of competition and prevention of monopolistic practices, the Central Bank, the value-added tax, the income tax, or consumer protection, or any of the



crimes prescribed in Article (8) of the present Law, unless a reconciliation has been concluded or he has been rehabilitated.

- E) He shall not have been finally convicted of criminal bankruptcy either by failure or fraud, unless he has been rehabilitated.
- F) The capital recorded in the commercial register upon submitting the application shall not be less than L.E. 500 000 (Five Hundred Thousand Egyptian pounds).

Holder of an import card on the date of applying the present law, shall adjust his state of affairs according to its provisions, within six months from the date of enforcing the necessary rules for the foregoing in the Executive Regulations, provided that these rules shall be issued within six months from the date of applying this Law.

**Item Second – As for the companies:**

- A) The company shall be recorded in the commercial register. As for the partnerships and limited liability companies, one year at least shall have lapsed since they were recorded in the commercial register, and their business turnover in the last year shall not be less than five million Egyptian Pounds, as evidenced by the tax return submitted to the Tax Authority. The companies that have import cards on the date of enforcing the executive regulations of the present law shall be exempted from the business turnover requirement.
  - B) The company's headquarters shall be seated in the Arab Republic of Egypt, and the company shall have been established according to the provisions of the Egyptian laws.
  - D) The paid-up capital in case of partnerships and limited liability companies shall not be less than L.E. 2 000 000 (Two million Egyptian pounds), and this shall be evidenced by means of the last balance sheet submitted by the company to the Tax Authority for the previous financial year, or by means of a certificate indicating that the partnership or the limited liability company has deposited its capital at any of the banks registered at the Central Bank upon the commencement of its activity.
- The partnerships and limited liability companies that are having import cards on the date of applying this law shall adjust their state of affairs according to its provisions, within six months from the date of enforcing the Executive Regulations.



E) The issued capital of the joint-stock companies and partnerships limited by shares shall not be less than five million Egyptian Pounds; and at least 51% of the shares or quotas held by the partners at the joint stock companies and the partnerships limited by shares or the limited liability companies or the partnerships shall be owned by Egyptians.

Companies holding import cards at the time of promulgating the present law shall adjust their state of affairs according to its provisions, within six months from the date of enforcing it.

Moreover, the business turnover of the joint stock companies and the partnerships limited by shares during the year preceding submission of the application shall not be less than five million Egyptian Pounds, as evidenced by the tax return submitted to the Tax Authority. However, companies holding import cards on the date of enforcing the Executive Regulations of this Law shall be exempted from this requirement.

F) The company's manager in charge of importation shall be of Egyptian nationality.

G) The company's general partners, directors and employees in charge of importation shall fulfill the requirements prescribed in clauses (D), (E), (H), and (I) hereof in respect of the natural persons.

### Article-3

#### The executive regulations of this law shall define the following:

A) The procedures and documents necessary for entry in the importers register and for renewal of such entry and amendment of data and classification of the goods categories, as well as the rules for evidencing the company's capital and business turnover in the cases where it is not possible to do so according to the provisions of Article 2 of the present Law.

C) The amounts and fees that shall be paid upon entry and amendment of data and issue of copies and certificates, as well as the publication fees, providing they shall not exceed the following:

- L.E. 5000 as the fee payable for entry for the first time, and for re-entry;
- L.E. 2000 as the fee payable for the renewal of entry;
- L.E. 1000 as the fee payable for each one of the goods categories;



- L.E. 500 as the fee payable for the request for amending or recording data with the exception of adding or modifying the goods categories;
- L.E. 500 as the publication fee in respect of the entry, renewal, or amendment;
- L.E. 100 as the fee payable for issuing a copy of the entry page in the register, or a negative certificate. The transcripts and certificates required by the ministries, governmental departments, local administrative units and public authorities, shall be exempted from such fee.

#### Article - 6

Without prejudice to the penalties prescribed in the present law or any other law, in case the importer is sentenced in connection with a felony, or convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude or breach of trust, or any of the crimes prescribed in the laws on trade, combat of fraud and deception, supply, customs, import and export, control over precious metals, companies, anti-money laundering, protection of competition and prevention of monopolistic practices, the Central Bank, the value-added tax, the income tax, or consumer protection, or any of the crimes prescribed in Article (8) of the present Law, the importer's entry in the importers register shall be deleted, and he shall forfeit his right to recover the security deposit paid upon entry in the register.

The re-entry of the importer in the importers register shall not take place unless reconciliation has been concluded or he has been rehabilitated.

#### Article 8

Subject to any stricter penalty prescribed in any other law, a penalty of confinement to jail for a period not exceeding one year and a fine of not less than fifty thousand Egyptian Pounds and not exceeding one million Egyptian Pounds or either penalty, shall be inflicted on whoever perpetrates any of the following acts:

- 1) Whoever imports goods for trade purposes without being recorded in the importers register,
- 2) Whoever submits in bad faith incorrect data whether such data are related to entry in the importers register or to the renewal of entry therein or to the amendment of the data of such entry,



- 3) Whoever records incorrect data, concerning the entry in the importers register, on any of the correspondence, publications, or documents related to the import activities.
- 4) Whoever refrains from submitting, to the administrative entity determined by the minister in charge of foreign trade affairs, the information required thereby relating to the method of dealing with the imported consignment, its storage and distribution places, or refuses to submit selling and distribution invoices, or submits fictitious or incorrect invoices, without prejudice to the provisions of the laws relating to the protection of trade information.  
  
The minimum and maximum limits of the fine penalty shall be doubled in case of recurrence.

**Article (10 - heading of first paragraph)**

A fine of not less than five thousand Egyptian Pounds and not exceeding fifty thousand Egyptian Pounds shall be inflicted on each of the following:

**Article 11**

The person in charge of actual management of the violating juridical person shall be subject to the same penalties provided for the crimes stated in Articles nos. (8) and (10) of the present Law if that person is proven to be aware of such crime and if his/her default in the management duties has contributed to the occurrence of the crime.

The juridical person shall be jointly responsible for incurring the adjudicated financial penalties if the contravention has been committed by an employee in the name or for the benefit of the juridical person.

**Article -2**

The two phrases "the ministry in charge of foreign trade affairs" and "the minister in charge of foreign trade affairs" shall replace the phrases "the Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade" and "the Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade", wherever stated in the Law on the Importers Register referred to.

Moreover, the phrase "Articles (8, 9 and 10) of the present Law" stated in Article (12) of the said Law shall be substituted with "Articles (8 and 10) of the present Law".



### Article -3

A new clause (I) shall be added to the text of Article (2-First), and new Articles sub numbers (2-Bis), (3-Bis) and (6-Bis) shall be added to the Importers Register Law, the text of which shall read as follows:

#### Article 2-First:

(I) The applicant or the manager and the employees in charge of importation shall have passed the training courses approved by the ministry in charge of foreign trade affairs. The Executive Regulations shall determine the number and specifications of these training courses.

The entry in the register may not be renewed except after passing these courses.

#### Article (2-Bis):

The registered companies practicing a production or service activity shall be exempted from entry in the Importers Register, within the limits of requisites imported thereby in the name and for the account thereof to practice such activity.

#### Article (3-Bis):

In order to be entered in the Importers Register, a security deposit shall be made or an equivalent bank letter of guarantee shall be submitted according to the controls and procedures determined by the Executive Regulations amounting to:

- 1) Fifty thousand Egyptian Pounds for natural persons;
- 2) Two hundred thousand Egyptian Pounds for juridical persons.

The said security deposit shall be refunded in case of the expiry of the register term, or if the importer does not desire to renew same.

Holders of import cards on the date of promulgating the present law, shall adjust their state of affairs within six months from the date of enforcing it.

#### Article (6-Bis):

The minister in charge of foreign trade affairs may issue a substantiated decree to suspend the entry of an importer in the Importers Register for a maximum period of two years, if the importer contravened the provisions of the laws regulating import and export, customs, taxes, the control over precious metals, or the consumer protection, or has imported a commodity in violation of the provisions of the laws regulating the combat of fraud and deception or in



violation of the approved Egyptian Standard Specifications or the provisions of the relevant international treaties in force in the Arab Republic of Egypt, whenever such acts entail damage to the consumer's safety or health, or to the domestic industry or the national economy, or disrupts the public order or morals.

#### Article -4

Item (G) of Article (2-First), the last paragraph of Article (2), and Article (9) of the Law on the Importers Register referred to shall be cancelled.

#### Article -5

The present Law shall be published in the Official Journal and shall apply as of the day following its date of publication.

This law shall be stamped with the seal of the State and shall be enforced as one of its laws.

**Issued at the Presidency of the Republic on 5 Jumada II, 1438 (Islamic Calendar), corresponding to 4 March, 2017 (Gregorian Calendar).**

**Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi**