

Submitted By: Gurpreet Kamboj

Student ID - DE240218

## Transportation Contracts and International Liability Rules in Sea and Air Transport

### Introduction

International transit is an important feature of trade, tourism, and economic growth all over the world. Millions of people travel and sail every day for job, school, fun, and other personal reasons. When someone buys a ticket for an aircraft or ship, they agree to the rules and restrictions set by the company that manages the transportation. A transportation contract is a legal document.

Transportation contracts are very important since they make it clear what each party can and can't do. They set the regulations for the trip, instructing the passenger what they could do, what the carrier had to do, and what would happen if something went wrong. International agreements have been made to make sure that everyone follows the same rules and that travellers are safe. This is due to the fact that people visit multiple countries with varied laws. This work has to do with contracts for conveying people by air and water. It also talks about the most important rules in Europe and the rest of the world that safeguard the rights and responsibilities of passengers.

### 1. Moving Things: By Land and By Water

A transportation contract is a legal agreement between a passenger or shipper and a carrier. The carrier promises to safely transfer the person, their bags, or their products from one place to another for a fee.

The most crucial parts of a transportation contract are:

- The carrier's job is to make sure the products are safe.
- The responsibility to bring passengers to their destination in a reasonable period of time.
- Giving out the correct papers, like tickets.
- There are regulations governing who is to blame for damage, harm, or delays.
- The risk that it may be used in other countries when people cross borders.

The contract is legally binding for both air and sea travel when someone buys a ticket. Even if the passenger doesn't read all of the terms and conditions, they are still legally obligated by them.

When you travel to several countries, you require transportation contracts since accidents, delays, or lost bags can harm more than one country. International accords make sure that all passengers and airlines know the law and are treated the same.

## 2. The Athens Convention for Sea Travel

The Athens Convention on the Carriage of Passengers and their Luggage by Sea was designed to make sure that all carriers are accountable for getting passengers and their luggage to their destinations by sea. Before this Convention, each country had its own rules, which made them hard to understand and follow.

The Convention's key goals are:

- To protect persons who are travelling by sea.
- To make sure that everyone knows the same rules about who is in charge.
- To make it obvious what you have to do by law.
- Making sure that everyone is financially solid by requiring insurance.

### What Are Carriers?

The Convention makes it clear what types of carriers there are so that there is no legal confusion:

- Carrier: The person or business that agrees to pick up the passenger.
- The performing carrier is the person or company that really transports the things on the ship.
- The carrier who actually does the carrying: This is anyone who physically moves the cargo, whether it's the contracting carrier or another operator.

These rules are important in court because they say who can be sued and who is to blame for injuries, deaths, or damage.

### Article 2: How the Convention Works

The Convention applies to shipping between countries when one of the following is true:

- The ship is registered in a country that is a signatory to the Convention.
- The State Party agreed to the terms.
- The State Party is the first or last stop on the tour.

But this won't work if there is already an agreement between countries on the topic. This is especially true if the treaty says who is to blame and those rules must be followed.

What Section 3 says the Carrier is responsible for

The carrier is accountable if something goes wrong with the shipping and a passenger dies or gets hurt. When you send something, these things can happen: • Hitting another boat. • The ship is burning. • The boat sank. • Capsizing or other big accidents at sea.

For each event, each traveller can only get 250,000 account units. But the carrier might not be responsible if it can establish that the event happened because of something strange or because of what someone else did.

This keeps passengers secure and makes sure that carriers follow the rules.

#### Article 4: You must have insurance

The Convention specifies that you need insurance or some other mechanism to keep your money safe so that you can get paid. Ships with more than 12 people on board must have insurance that covers injuries and deaths of passengers.

The right person in charge must give out a certificate of insurance. The Convention says that this certificate signifies that the ship can carry people.

This rule performs a great job of keeping people's money safe when they go by boat.

#### 3. Agreeing that everyone should follow the same rules when they fly to different countries

There are rules for travelling internationally that strive to make sure that everyone is responsible for the same things. Flying is rapid and brings people from all over the world together, so there should be rules that everyone follows.

#### Article 1: Who it is for

The Convention applies when you fly overseas if: • The place of departure and arrival are in two distinct states, or • The trip starts and concludes in one state, but everyone agrees to stop in another state.

It doesn't work for flights that exclusively go to the US and don't stop in any other country.

This simple definition makes sure that all flights between countries follow the same rules.

### Article 3: Travel Papers for People

The airline usually gives you a ticket, which might be either electronic or paper. The ticket must have:

- The place you are going.
- The spot where you desire to be.
- Any place where both sides agree to halt in a different state.

The ticket is proof of the transportation contract and provides vital travel information on it.

### Article 17: What the Carrier Needs to Do

The airline is in charge of:

- If a passenger dies or is harmed on the plane or while getting on or off, the airline is to blame.
- Damage, loss, or destruction of luggage while it is with the airline.
- Damage that happens because of a delay, unless the airline can prove that it did everything it could to stop it.

The airline is not responsible for damage to luggage that was already there or that happens on its own, though.

The purpose of this Convention is to make sure that airlines get paid fairly and can also protect themselves when they do the right thing.

## 4. Guidelines for how EU airlines should manage their businesses

The EU has done more than merely sign agreements to keep travellers safe. These laws apply to flights that leave EU airports and, in some cases, flights that land in the EU.

### Article 5: How to Cancel a Flight

If an airline cancels a flight, it must do the following:

- Provide food and drinks.
- Let people talk to each other.
- If you have to, get a room in a motel.
- Offer to alter the timetable or give the ticket money back.

Passengers can receive their money back unless the airline warned them ahead of time or there are specified criteria.

#### Article 6: Please wait

You have the right to help if your flight is late:• Two hours for flights that don't take long. • Three hours for planes that aren't too far away. • Four hours for planes that fly a long way.

If the delay lasts more than five hours, passengers can get their money back. In very rare cases, you might even get a prize for being late.

One of the best ways to keep passengers safe on planes is to follow EU rules.

#### Final Thoughts

Contracts for air and sea travel are particularly crucial for making sure that travellers are safe and that it is lawful to go to other countries. The Athens Convention makes it clear how to convey people by water, including limits on liability and the necessity for insurance. The Convention for International Carriage by Air specifies the same things about who is in charge of what while travelling to other countries. It also keeps individuals safe in case of problems, lost bags, or delays.

If your flight is cancelled or delayed, the European Union's rules give you even more protection. These rules work together to keep passengers safe and make sure that transportation companies treat their workers fairly.

International transportation standards are particularly crucial for making travel safer, more equitable, and more responsible all across the world.