

Translation of

the Importers Register
Law No. 121 of 1982

ترجمة قانون سجل المستوردين
رقم ١٢١ لسنة ١٩٨٢

25 June 2026


ANDERSEN

Law No. 121 of 1982 Concerning the Importers Register

In the name of the people President of the republic

Preamble

The People's Assembly has decided the following law, and we have promulgated it:

Article (1):

No natural or juristic person may import goods for the purpose of trading unless registered in the Importers Register prepared for this purpose at the competent authority of the ministry concerned with foreign trade affairs, in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

For the purposes of applying the provisions of the preceding paragraph, the importation of goods by a commercial agent shall be deemed importation for the purpose of trading.

Article (2 bis):

Registered companies carrying out production or service activities shall be exempted from registration in the Importers Register, within the limits of the supplies they import in their own name and for their own account for the purpose of carrying out such activity.

Article (2):

Any person applying for registration in the Importers Register must satisfy the following conditions:

First: With respect to the registration of natural persons:

- He must be registered in the Commercial Register and hold a tax card.
- He must be of Egyptian nationality.



- He must have practiced commercial activities for at least two consecutive years preceding the application for registration. The practice of commercial activities shall be evidenced by a certificate from the competent Chamber of Commerce approved by the General Federation of Chambers of Commerce. The business volume in the last year, as evidenced by the tax return submitted to the Tax Authority, must not be less than two million Egyptian pounds.
- A person holding an import card at the time this Law comes into force shall be exempted from the business volume requirement.
- He must not have previously been convicted by a final judgment imposing a felony penalty, or a penalty for an offence involving dishonour or breach of trust, or for any of the offences provided for in the laws concerning trade, suppression of fraud and deception, supply, customs, import and export, control of precious metals, companies, anti-money laundering, protection of intellectual property rights, protection of competition and prevention of monopolistic practices, the Central Bank, value added tax, income tax, consumer protection, or any of the offences provided for in Article (8) of this Law, unless settlement has been reached in respect thereof or he has been rehabilitated.
- No final judgment must have been issued against him for committing any of the offences of fraudulent bankruptcy or negligent bankruptcy, unless he has been rehabilitated.
- The capital stated in the Commercial Register at the time of applying for registration must not be less than five hundred thousand Egyptian pounds.
- Any person holding an import card at the time this Law comes into force shall adjust his status in accordance with its provisions within six months from the date of entry into force of the rules necessary for this purpose in the Executive Regulations, provided that such rules shall be issued within six months from the date this Law comes into force.
- Repealed.
- He must not be a member of the People's Assembly, the Shura Council, local popular councils, or be fully dedicated to political work, throughout the period of his membership or full dedication, unless he had already been engaged in this activity prior to such membership or dedication.



- The applicant for registration, or the responsible manager, and the employees concerned with importation must have passed the training courses approved by the ministry concerned with foreign trade affairs. The Executive Regulations shall determine the number and type of such training courses.
- Registration may not be renewed except after passing such courses.

Second: With respect to the registration of companies:

- The company must be registered in the Commercial Register. In respect of partnerships and limited liability companies, at least one year must have elapsed since their registration, and the business volume in the last year, as evidenced by the tax return submitted to the Tax Authority, must not be less than five million Egyptian pounds. Companies holding an import card at the time the Executive Regulations of this Law come into force shall be exempted from the business volume requirement.
- The company's head office must be located in the Arab Republic of Egypt, and the company must have been established in accordance with the provisions of Egyptian laws.
- The company's objects must include the importation of goods for the purpose of trading.
- The paid-up capital of partnerships and limited liability companies must not be less than two million Egyptian pounds. This shall be evidenced by the latest financial statements submitted by the company to the Tax Authority for the preceding financial year, or by submitting a certificate confirming the deposit of the capital in one of the banks registered with the Central Bank, in the event that the company is commencing its activity.
- Partnerships and limited liability companies holding an import card at the time this Law comes into force shall adjust their status in accordance with its provisions within six months from the date the Executive Regulations come into force.
- The issued capital of joint stock companies and partnerships limited by shares must not be less than five million Egyptian pounds, and the shares or quotas of the partners in joint stock companies, partnerships limited by shares, limited liability companies, or partnerships must be owned at a rate of at least fifty-one percent (51%) by Egyptians.



- Companies holding an import card at the time this Law is issued shall adjust their status in accordance with its provisions within six months from the date this Law comes into force.
- The business volume of joint stock companies and partnerships limited by shares in the year preceding the application for registration, as evidenced by the tax return submitted to the Tax Authority, must not be less than five million Egyptian pounds. Companies holding an import card at the time the Executive Regulations of this Law come into force shall be exempted from this condition.
- The company manager responsible for importation must be of Egyptian nationality.
- The conditions set out in paragraphs (d), (e), (h), and (i) of the conditions for registering natural persons must be satisfied by the general partners, company managers, and employees responsible for importation.
- Public sector companies shall be exempted from the conditions set out in paragraphs (e) and (f) of “Second”, where the importation is connected with their activity.

By virtue of a decision issued by the minister concerned with foreign trade affairs, a new grace period not exceeding six months may be granted for adjusting the statuses referred to in this Article, in accordance with the controls determined by such decision.

In all cases, the amounts stated in this Article may be in their equivalent value in free foreign currencies accepted by the Central Bank of Egypt.

Article (3):

The Executive Regulations shall determine the following:

- The procedures and documents relating to registration in the Importers Register, renewal of registration, amendment of data, classification of commodity groups, and the rules for proving capital and business volume in cases where it is not possible to prove the same in accordance with the provisions of Article (2) of this Law.
- The system for issuing a periodic bulletin containing the data relating to importers, to be issued by the competent authority of the ministry concerned with foreign trade affairs.



- The amounts and fees payable upon registration, amendment of data, copies, certificates, and publication fees, provided that they shall not exceed the following:
 - EGP 5,000 as the registration fee for first-time registration and re-registration.
 - EGP 2,000 as the registration renewal fee.
 - EGP 1,000 for each commodity group.
 - EGP 500 as the fee for an application to amend or record data, except for the addition or amendment of commodity groups.
 - EGP 500 as the publication fee for registration, renewal, or amendment.
 - EGP 100 as the fee for obtaining a copy of the register sheet or a negative certificate.

Extracts and certificates requested by ministries, government departments, local units, and public authorities shall be exempted from payment of this fee.

Article (3 bis):

Registration in the Importers Register shall be conditional upon depositing a cash security or submitting an equivalent bank letter of guarantee, in accordance with the controls and procedures determined by the Executive Regulations, as follows:

- EGP 50,000 for natural persons.
- EGP 200,000 for juristic persons.

Such security shall be refunded upon expiry of the register term or in the event of unwillingness to renew it.

Persons holding an import card at the time this Law is issued shall adjust their status within six months from the date this Law comes into force.



Article (4):

The importer shall notify the competent authority of the ministry concerned with foreign trade affairs of any change or amendment occurring to the data registered in the Register within sixty days from the date of its occurrence, in accordance with the procedures determined by the Executive Regulations.

Article (4 bis):

Without prejudice to the provision of Article (2) of this Law, the competent authority of the ministry concerned with foreign trade affairs may, upon being notified within sixty days of any change or amendment to the legal form of companies registered in the Importers Register or any amendment to their tax registration number, record such change or amendment in accordance with the procedures determined by the Executive Regulations of this Law. Such recording shall be deemed an amendment of the data in the Register.

Article (5):

Registration shall be renewed every five years from the date of registration or from the date of the latest renewal, provided that the application is submitted within the ninety days preceding the expiry of the term. Nevertheless, the application shall be accepted if submitted within the ninety days following the expiry of the term, provided that the applicant pays the fee doubled in such case.

The importer's registration shall be deleted if the renewal application is not submitted within the aforementioned ninety days.



Article (6):

Without prejudice to the penalties provided for in this Law or in any other law, the importer's registration shall be deleted from the Importers Register, and his right to recover the value of the registration security deposited in the Register shall lapse, in the event that a final judgment is issued against the importer imposing a felony penalty, or a penalty for an offence involving dishonour or breach of trust, or for any of the offences provided for in the laws concerning trade, suppression of fraud and deception, supply, customs, import and export, control of precious metals, companies, anti-money laundering, protection of competition and prevention of monopolistic practices, the Central Bank, value added tax, income tax, consumer protection, or any of the offences provided for in Article (8) of this Law.

The importer may not be re-registered in the Importers Register except in the event of settlement or if he has been rehabilitated.

Article (6 bis):

The minister concerned with foreign trade affairs may, by a reasoned decision, suspend the importer's registration in the Importers Register for a period not exceeding two years if the importer violates the provisions of the laws regulating import and export, customs, taxes, control of precious metals, or consumer protection, or imports a commodity in violation of the provisions of the laws regulating the suppression of fraud and deception, or in violation of the approved Egyptian standard specifications, or in violation of the provisions of the relevant international agreements in force in the Arab Republic of Egypt, whenever all of the foregoing results in harm to consumer safety or health, national industry or the national economy, public order, or public morals.

Article (7):

The importer's registration shall be deleted if he loses any of the conditions required for registration in the Register, as well as in the event of death or dissolution of the juristic person licensed to import.

Re-registration in the Register may be permitted where the heirs of the natural person, or some of them, establish a company for the purpose of carrying out the same activity of their deceased predecessor within one year and a half from the date of death, provided that the company shall, in such case, be exempted from the conditions stipulated in item **Second / (a)**



of Article (2) of this Law.

Article (8):

Without prejudice to any more severe penalty provided for under any other law, whoever commits any of the following acts shall be punished by imprisonment for a period not exceeding one year and by a fine of not less than fifty thousand Egyptian pounds and not exceeding one million Egyptian pounds, or by either of these two penalties:

- Importing goods for the purpose of trading without being registered in the Importers Register.
- Knowingly submitting incorrect data, whether such data relates to registration in the Importers Register, renewal of registration in such Register, or amendment of its data.
- Recording incorrect data concerning registration in the Register on any correspondence, publications, or papers relating to importation activities.
- Refraining from providing the administrative authority designated by the minister concerned with foreign trade affairs with the data it requests concerning the disposal of the imported consignment and the places of its storage or distribution, or refraining from submitting sale and distribution invoices, or submitting fictitious or incorrect invoices, without prejudice to the provisions of the laws relating to the protection of commercial data.

The fine penalty, at both its minimum and maximum limits, shall be doubled in the event of recidivism.

Article (9):

Repealed.



Article (10):

A fine of not less than five thousand Egyptian pounds and not exceeding fifty thousand Egyptian pounds shall be imposed on:

- Whoever deliberately refrains from enabling any of the persons entrusted with implementing the provisions of this Law to inspect the books and papers which they are entitled to inspect in accordance with its provisions.
 - Whoever commits any other violation of the provisions of this Law or the decisions issued in implementation thereof.
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Article (11):

The person responsible for the actual management of the violating juristic person shall be punished by the same penalties prescribed for the offences provided for in Articles (8) and (10) of this Law, if it is proven that he was aware thereof and that his breach of the duties imposed upon him by such management contributed to the commission of the offence.

The juristic person shall be jointly liable for the payment of any financial penalties adjudged if the violation was committed by any of its employees in the name of the juristic person or for its benefit.

Article (12):

Conviction judgments issued in respect of any of the offences provided for in Articles (8), (9), and (10) of this Law shall be published at the expense of the convicted person in one daily newspaper and in the bulletin issued by the competent authority of the ministry concerned with foreign trade affairs. Publication expenses may be collected by way of administrative attachment.



Article (12 bis):

The competent authority of the ministry concerned with foreign trade affairs may settle with the accused in respect of the offences provided for in Articles (8) and (10) of this Law, as follows:

- Before the criminal case is referred to the competent court, against payment of an amount not less than the minimum prescribed fine and not exceeding one-third of its maximum limit.
- After the criminal case has been referred to the competent court and before a final judgment is issued therein, against payment of an amount not less than three times the minimum prescribed fine and not exceeding two-thirds of its maximum limit.
- After the judgment has become final, against payment of an amount not less than the maximum prescribed fine and not exceeding twice its maximum limit.

Settlement shall result in the extinguishment of the criminal case and all effects arising from the judgment, as the case may be. The Public Prosecution shall order the suspension of the execution of the penalty if settlement takes place during its execution, even after the judgment has become final.

Article (13):

The employees responsible for implementing the provisions of this Law, who are designated by a decision of the Minister of Justice after agreement with the minister concerned with foreign trade affairs, shall have the capacity of judicial enforcement officers for the purpose of establishing offences committed in violation of the provisions of this Law and the decisions issued in implementation thereof.

For the purpose of implementing the provisions of this Law, they shall have the right to inspect records, books, and documents. The concerned persons shall provide them with the data, extracts, and copies of documents requested from them for this purpose.



Article (14):

Every person entrusted with implementing the provisions of this Law shall be obliged to observe the confidentiality of the data contained in the Importers Register and the confidentiality of the data, records, and papers to which he has access in application of the provisions of this Law.

Whoever violates the foregoing shall be punished by the penalty provided for in Article (310) of the Penal Code.

Article (15):

The Executive Regulations of this Law shall be issued by a decision of the minister concerned with foreign trade affairs within four months from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

Article (16):

This Law shall be published in the Official Gazette and shall come into force nine months after the date of its publication.

This Law shall be stamped with the Seal of the State and shall be enforced as one of its laws.



Report of the Joint Committee

Report of the Joint Committee of the Economic Affairs Committee and the Bureau of the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee on Draft Law No. 121 of 1982

A draft law concerning the Importers Register was received by the Assembly on 16 June 1981. At its session held on 27 June 1982, the Assembly referred it to the Joint Committee formed of the Economic Affairs Committee and the Bureau of the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee for examination, study, and preparation of a report thereon. The Joint Committee held a meeting for this purpose on the same date, attended by the following members of the Bureau of the Economic Affairs Committee: Messrs. Fathallah Refaat, Chairman of the Committee; Hassan Eid Ammar and Mohamed Khalil Hafez, Deputy Chairmen; and Refaat Mohamed Batal, Secretary of the Committee.

From the Bureau of the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee, Mr. Hanna Narouz, Deputy Chairman of the Committee, attended. The meeting was also attended by representatives of the Government, namely Messrs. Mohamed Abdel Fattah Ibrahim, Deputy Prime Minister for Economic and Financial Affairs and Minister of Investment and International Cooperation; Hussein Ahmed Hussein, First Undersecretary of the Ministry of Economy; Salah El-Din Awad, Chairman of the General Organization for Export and Import Control; and Mr. Omar, Legal Adviser to the Minister of Economy.

The Committee reviewed the draft law and its explanatory memorandum, and reconsidered the laws and presidential decrees referred to in the preamble of the draft law, as well as Minister of Trade Decree No. 1036 of 1978 concerning the unified decree of the Executive Regulations of the Import and Export Law, and Decree of the minister concerned with foreign trade affairs No. 783 of 1979 concerning the tax card.

In light of the discussions held at the Committee meeting, the Committee submits its report on the draft law under consideration as follows:

The President of the Republic, in his statement before the esteemed Assembly on 8 November 1981, referred to seven points requiring study by those concerned with economic affairs and by persons of expertise and experience. Item six of these points referred to "import policy...". It is self-evident that the executive authority is concerned with the urgent aspects of these items and others which have a significant direct or indirect impact on the economy of the State. While import policy requires further study, the regulation of importation itself required the prompt preparation of this draft law as a first step in such study. The reason for this is that the open-door economic policy was implemented in Egypt in 1974, and Law No. 118 of 1975 concerning Import and Export was subsequently issued.



It is noted that this Law consists of two parts: the first relating to importation, and the second relating to exportation.

It was natural that the regulation of importation under this Law should be comprehensive and include all its components. However, what occurred was that all matters relating to importation were included in Article (1) of the said Law, which provided that:

“The importation of the country’s commodity needs shall be carried out through the public and private sectors in accordance with the provisions of the State’s general plan and within the limits of the applicable monetary budget. Individuals shall have the right to import their needs for personal or private use from their own resources, whether directly or through others. The Minister of Trade shall issue a decree determining the procedures and rules governing the importation process. The Minister of Trade may restrict importation from countries with which agreements exist, as well as the importation of certain essential goods, to public sector entities.”

Upon examining this Article, it becomes clear that this Law placed all matters relating to the regulation and procedures of importation within the competence of the Minister of Trade, as such operations were then under the Ministry of Trade, which subsequently became affiliated with the Ministry of Economy, and that this regulation was to be carried out by ministerial decrees rather than by law. This concerns the first part of Law No. 118 of 1975 relating to importation. As for the second part of this Law, it relates to exportation and Articles (3) to (17) were allocated thereto. In other words, Law No. 118 of 1975 is essentially a law regulating exportation. This is natural because, when it was issued, the open-door economic policy had not yet fully crystallized and import operations had not yet taken a clear form. However, after a period of more than eight years, during which methods of importation multiplied and the natural and juristic persons, particularly those entering this field in pursuit of rapid wealth at the expense of the Egyptian people on the one hand and the national interest on the other, also multiplied, it became necessary to reconsider the subject of importation.

Upon reviewing the provisions of the draft law under consideration, although its title is “Draft Law Concerning the Importers Register”, it includes regulation of matters which would have been more appropriately included as amendments to the Import and Export Law. Accordingly, the draft law is considered, in substance, a genuine amendment to Law No. 118 of 1975 concerning Import and Export, rather than an independent law.



With regard to the articles of the draft law, observations were raised concerning Article (1) in relation to importation for the purpose of manufacturing. The Government clarified that the importation regulated under this draft is importation for the purpose of trading, without introducing any transformational or manufacturing modifications to the commodity, and therefore importation for the purpose of manufacturing is not subject to the application of the provisions of this draft.

The Committee also introduced certain drafting amendments as follows:

1. Amending Article (1), second paragraph, to read as follows:

“In applying the provisions of the preceding paragraph, the importation of goods by a commercial agent shall be deemed importation for the purpose of trading.”

2. Amending item (b) of “First” of Article (2), to read as follows:

“He must be of Egyptian nationality, and in respect of a person who has acquired Egyptian nationality by naturalization, a period of not less than ten years must have elapsed from the date of acquisition of such nationality.”

3. Amending item (f) of “Second” of Article (2), to read as follows:

“All partners and company managers in partnerships, and managers, chairmen, and members of the boards of directors of capital companies, must be Egyptians; and in respect of any person who has acquired Egyptian nationality by naturalization, a period of not less than ten years must have elapsed from the date of acquisition of such nationality.”

The Committee considered that the period required for a naturalized Egyptian to acquire the rights prescribed in this draft law should be ten years wherever such matter is mentioned, in coordination with the text set out in item (b) of “First” of Article (2), which determined such period as ten years.

4. Amending Article (5), second paragraph, to read as follows:

“The importer’s registration shall be deleted in the event that the renewal application is not submitted within the aforementioned ninety days.”

This drafting amendment aims to achieve consistency between this draft law and the draft law concerning “the regulation of commercial agency activities and certain commercial brokerage activities”, since both drafts relate to a single activity and achieve a common objective.



The Committee also introduced an amendment at the end of item (g) of “First” of Article (2) of the draft law by adding the phrase “or for disciplinary reasons”, so that an employee dismissed for disciplinary reasons would not be placed in a better position than an employee who has resigned.

While the Committee approves this draft law in the attached wording, it notes that the laws regulating import and export are numerous and varied, and that they have passed through several stages, each having its own specific character. It may be appropriate to coordinate them in a manner that achieves clarity and certainty in the legal rules governing economic activity.

Accordingly, the Committee considers it important to enact new legislation that comprehensively regulates importation, exportation, commercial agency, and other matters relating to the regulation of our foreign trade.

The Committee, while approving this draft law, requests the esteemed Assembly to approve it as amended in the attached wording.

Explanatory Memorandum

Explanatory Memorandum to Draft Law No. 121 of 1982

Importation for the purpose of trading is one of the commercial activities of significant importance affecting the national economy, since it represents the largest part of importation, which is one aspect of the balance of trade. Therefore, the practice of such activity requires awareness of the requirements of this economy, special knowledge, a certain degree of financial capacity, and distance from suspicion.

Accordingly, the idea arose of affirming the Egyptian nationality of those carrying out such activity and the necessity of certain conditions being satisfied by them, by virtue of which the requirements of those practicing such activity would be met through the registration of practitioners in a special register for importers importing for the purpose of trading, enabling the State to identify them, and so that such activity does not become the profession of those who have no profession.

In setting out the substantive provisions, the draft law took into consideration that the commercial agent continuously imports for the purpose of trading, notwithstanding the distinction between his activity in such capacity and the activity of importation, and the precision required in distinguishing between the two activities. Therefore, the importation carried out by the commercial agent was deemed importation for the purpose of trading.



The draft law also took into consideration the well-established distinction, in jurisprudence and law, between natural persons and juristic persons, and within private juristic persons, the distinction between partnerships and capital companies. It therefore allocated to each type of such persons the conditions appropriate to it, in order to achieve the objectives of the draft law, while taking into account that public sector companies may carry out importation for the purpose of trading whenever such importation is connected with their activity.

The draft law consists of fifteen articles addressing three main subjects. The first concerns substantive provisions, which are dealt with in Articles (1) to (9). These provisions relate to the prohibition on practicing importation for the purpose of trading without registration in the Importers Register, the conditions required for registration, the fees payable for registration and renewal thereof, the effect of the absence of any of such conditions, and the penalties that may be imposed on a registered person.

The second subject concerns the criminal penalties that may be imposed on an importer upon committing any of the acts set out in these provisions, which are dealt with in Articles (9) to (11).

Finally, Articles (12) and (13) deal with the employees and persons responsible for implementing the provisions of this Law.

Upon reviewing each article separately, Article (1) prohibits the importation of goods for the purpose of trading, whether the importer is a natural person or a juristic person, unless he is registered in the Importers Register prepared for this purpose. In its second paragraph, the Article considers the importation of goods by a commercial agent to be importation for the purpose of trading.

The text was drafted in general terms to include both natural and juristic persons, without distinction between juristic persons except in relation to the conditions set out in Article (2), since the State imports for the purpose of trading through public sector companies, which are not considered, in jurisprudence or law, to be public juristic persons.

The second paragraph of the same Article was also drafted in general terms, such that its effect is that every importation carried out by a commercial agent is importation for the purpose of trading. It is therefore necessary for the commercial agent to be registered in the Importers Register in order to be able to import. Article (1) also identified the authority competent for the Importers Register within the framework of the ministry concerned with foreign trade affairs.



Article (2) deals with the conditions that must be satisfied by persons registered in the Register, in a manner consistent with the legal categorization of persons previously explained. Item “First” deals with the conditions for registering natural persons, which consist of eight conditions intended to ensure that the applicant for registration is Egyptian, possesses experience or knowledge, is free from suspicion, and finally, to allow dedication to political work without combining it with the practice of importation activity. Accordingly, it prohibited the registration of members of the People’s Assembly or persons fully dedicated to political work in the Register under paragraph (c).

It is noted from the establishment of these conditions that the legislator, by requiring prior registration in the Commercial Register, made it the general register in relation to the other registers relating to specific types of commercial activity.

Furthermore, by requiring in paragraph (b) that five years must have elapsed since the acquisition of Egyptian nationality, the draft law intended to restrict the practice of this activity to persons whose Egyptian nationality has been confirmed.

The draft law also took into account, after requiring the practice of commercial activities for two consecutive years under paragraph (c), the exemption of two categories of natural persons from this condition: first, every person holding an import card at the time of issuance of this Law; and second, persons holding a university degree or equivalent qualification, unless they had left service by resignation from the Government, public institutions, local government units, or companies affiliated with the public sector, and were persons who had practiced activities similar to commercial activities, as stated in paragraph (g).

Members of the People’s Assembly or persons fully dedicated to political work who were already engaged in importation for the purpose of trading prior to their membership or dedication to political work are also exempted from the prohibition on registration in the Importers Register.

Since suspension of execution of criminal judgments may, depending on the court’s assessment, be limited to the principal penalty, or may extend to the supplementary or accessory penalties and other effects resulting therefrom, and since the suspension may be comprehensive, the second paragraph of paragraph (d) left to the authority competent for registration in the Register the discretion to decide on registration according to the circumstances of each case separately, where the applicant for registration has been sentenced to a criminal penalty or a penalty restricting freedom in the cases set out in that paragraph under a judgment accompanied by suspension of execution.



Item “Second” sets out the conditions for registering general partnerships, limited partnerships, and limited liability companies. Item “Third” sets out the conditions required for registering joint stock companies and partnerships limited by shares.

Since registration in the Register requires, in addition to the conditions that must be satisfied by the applicant for registration, attention to the conditions, procedures, and documents relating to the Register itself, the issuance of a periodic bulletin containing the data of registered persons, and the determination of the fees required for registration, renewal, and extraction of copies therefrom, Article (3) of the Law entrusted these matters to the Minister of Economy to determine them by a decree issued by him.

It is worth noting that the draft law prescribed a fee for first registration or re-registration for a maximum of ten commodity groups. It also prescribed another fee to be paid upon the addition of each commodity group exceeding the maximum limit, such additional fee being repeated upon the addition of each group requested to be added beyond such limit.

Article (4) obliges the importer to notify the competent authority of the ministry concerned with foreign trade affairs of any change or amendment occurring to the data registered in the Register within sixty days from the date of its occurrence, in accordance with the conditions and procedures determined by the decree of the minister concerned with foreign trade affairs in this regard.

Article (5) sets out the term of registration, its renewal, and the time limit for submitting the renewal application during the ninety days preceding the expiry of the term. It decided the cancellation of the importer’s registration in the event that the importer does not submit the renewal application within one hundred and eighty days from the date of expiry of the registration or its latest renewal.

The second paragraph obliges the competent authority of the ministry concerned with foreign trade affairs to notify the importer of this measure at least sixty days before the expiry of such period. However, this notification does not prevent the consequence of cancelling the importer’s registration where the prescribed period lapses without renewal. This is supported by the fact that the first paragraph of the same Article permits acceptance of the renewal application during the ninety days following expiry of the renewal period if the applicant pays the fee doubled.



Article (6) prescribes the two sanctions of warning and cancellation of registration from the Importers Register, without prejudice to the penalties provided for in this Law or any other laws that may be imposed upon the request of the minister concerned with foreign trade affairs or his delegate, or upon the request of the General Federation of Chambers of Commerce, through the committee provided for in the preceding Article of the same Law, in the event that the importer violates the provisions of this Law or the laws concerning import and export, currency, customs, taxes, supply, companies, trade, and the decisions issued in implementation thereof, or violates commercial custom, or harms the reputation and interests of the country.

Either of these two sanctions shall be imposed by a decision of the said committee after hearing the statements of the violator, verifying his grounds of defence, and establishing the violation. Any person against whom either sanction is imposed may file a grievance against the decision within sixty days from the date of being notified of the decision subject of the grievance, to the minister concerned with foreign trade affairs.

Article (7) sets out the formation of the said committee, the time limit for notifying the violator of its decision, the manner and conditions for the validity of its convening, and the manner in which its decision is issued.

Article (8) of the Law provides for the cancellation of the importer's registration where he loses any of the conditions required for registration in the Register during the period of his registration, as well as in the case of termination of his legal personality by death in respect of a natural person, or by dissolution of the juristic person licensed to import, provided that a reasoned decision to that effect shall be issued by the committee provided for in Article (7) of this Law.

Articles (9), (10), and (11) define the criminalized acts and the penalties to be imposed by the court in the event that the importer is proven to have committed any or some of the acts set out therein.

Finally, Articles (12) and (13) of the Law deal with the employees responsible for implementing the provisions of this Law and granting them the capacity of judicial enforcement officers pursuant to a decision issued by the Minister of Justice after agreement with the minister concerned with foreign trade affairs.

Article (13) obliges every person entrusted with implementing the provisions of this Law to maintain the confidentiality of the data contained in the Register and to preserve the confidentiality of the data, records, and papers to which he has access in application of the provisions of this Law. It prescribes the penalty set out in Article (310) of the Penal Code for every violator.



Article (14) also sets a time limit of four months from the date of publication of this Law in the Official Gazette for the issuance by the minister concerned with foreign trade affairs of the Executive Regulations of this Law.

Article (15), being the final article of this Law, determines the date on which this Law shall come into force, namely nine months after its publication in the Official Gazette. Accordingly, the Executive Regulations of the Law will have been issued before its provisions come into force.



Translation of

the Executive Regulation
of the Importers Register
Law No. 121 of 1982

ترجمة اللائحة التنفيذية
لقانون سجل المستوردين
رقم ١٢١ لسنة ١٩٨٢

25 June 2026


ANDERSEN

Decree of the Minister of Trade and Industry No. 846 of 2017

Regarding the Executive Regulations of Law No. 121 of 1982 concerning the Importers Register

Preamble

Having reviewed Law No. 137 of 1974 concerning certain provisions relating to import and export;

And Law No. 118 of 1975 concerning Import and Export;

And Law No. 34 of 1976 concerning the Commercial Register;

And Law No. 159 of 1981 promulgating the Law on Joint Stock Companies, Partnerships Limited by Shares, and Limited Liability Companies;

And Law No. 121 of 1982 concerning the Importers Register;

And Law No. 95 of 1995 concerning Financial Leasing;

And Law No. 17 of 1999 promulgating the Commercial Law;

And Law No. 91 of 2005 concerning Income Tax;

And Presidential Decree No. 1770 of 1971 establishing the General Organization for Export and Import Control;

And Decree of the Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade No. 343 of 1982 issuing the Executive Regulations of Law No. 121 of 1982 concerning the Importers Register;

And Decree of the Minister of Foreign Trade and Industry No. 770 of 2005 issuing the Regulations of the Rules Implementing the Provisions of Law No. 118 of 1975 concerning Import and Export;

And based on the opinion of the State Council;

Decided as follows:



Chapter One

Definitions

Article (1):

For the purposes of applying the provisions of these Regulations, the following expressions and words shall have the meanings assigned to each of them below:

Law: Law No. 121 of 1982 concerning the Importers Register.

Organization: The General Organization for Export and Import Control, or any of its branches.

Concerned Person: The individual trader, as well as any person having the right of signature and management in partnerships and limited liability companies, and the chairman of the board of directors, his deputy, or the responsible manager in capital companies, in accordance with what is stated in the registration sheet in the Commercial Register. Any representative thereof must be of Egyptian nationality and authorized pursuant to an official power of attorney.

Importation for Trading: Goods imported with a commercial nature for sale in their condition upon importation or after packaging, without carrying out any transformational or supplementary process thereon, including goods imported by financial leasing companies in accordance with the provisions of Law No. 95 of 1995 referred to above.

Certificate of Practicing Importation: A certificate evidencing that its holder has passed the training course or courses qualifying him to practice importation activity, issued by the Foreign Trade Training Center at the ministry concerned with foreign trade affairs or by other centers approved by the minister concerned with foreign trade affairs, provided that such centers shall obtain the approval of the minister concerned with foreign trade affairs for the course programs, training hours, and the fee for obtaining the certificate.

Person Responsible for Importation: The employee or employees of the sole proprietorship or company responsible for importation and working permanently at the establishment. In cases other than companies or members of the board of directors, such persons must be insured under social insurance, and the document evidencing the same shall be submitted.

Register: The Importers Register maintained at the Organization in accordance with the provisions of the Law.



Chapter Two: General Provisions

Article (2):

The Organization shall maintain the Importers Register provided for in the Law.

Article (3):

Every person who imports goods from abroad for the purpose of trading shall be registered in the Register.

Article (4):

The application for registration shall be submitted on the form prepared for this purpose at the Organization, after payment of the fees prescribed under the Law.

Article (5):

The Organization shall deliver to any person registered in the Register a document evidencing his registration, on the form prepared for this purpose, including his registration number. The registration shall be valid for five years from the date of registration or renewal.

Article (6):

Any person registered in the Register shall state his registration number in all his papers and correspondence.



Chapter Three

Registration Documents

Article (7):

The application submitted by the Concerned Person for registration in the aforementioned Register shall be accompanied by the following documents:

First: With respect to the registration of natural persons- individual traders:

- An official extract from the registration sheet in the Commercial Register for the main place of business, provided that importation is included among the trader's activities, and provided that the capital stated in the Commercial Register at the time of applying for registration is not less than five hundred thousand Egyptian pounds.
- Any person registered in the Register before the date these Regulations come into force shall adjust his status in respect of capital within six months from the date these Regulations come into force.
- A certificate from the competent Chamber of Commerce, approved by the General Federation of Chambers of Commerce, proving that the trader has practiced commercial activities for at least two consecutive years preceding the application for registration.
- A copy of the trader's identity documents.
- An official extract of the birth certificate, or the card evidencing acquisition of Egyptian nationality, for any person of foreign origin.
- A copy of the tax card, completed with all its data.
- The Certificate of Practicing Importation for the Concerned Person or the person responsible for importation.



- A copy of the tax return for the year preceding the date of application for registration, approved by the Tax Authority, provided that the business volume stated in the return is not less than two million Egyptian pounds. A person holding an import card before the date these Regulations come into force shall be exempted from submitting this document.
- A receipt evidencing the deposit of the cash security, or a bank letter of guarantee, in the amount of fifty thousand Egyptian pounds.
- Persons holding an import card before these Regulations come into force shall adjust their status in accordance with the provisions thereof within six months from the date they come into force.
- A declaration by the Concerned Person that no final judgment has previously been issued against him imposing a felony penalty, or a penalty for an offence involving dishonour or breach of trust, or for any of the offences provided for in the laws referred to in paragraph (d) of item First of Article (2) of the Law.
- A declaration by the Concerned Person that no final judgment has been issued against him for committing any of the offences of fraudulent bankruptcy or negligent bankruptcy, unless he has been rehabilitated.
- A declaration by the Concerned Person stating that he is not a member of the House of Representatives or any local council and is not fully dedicated to political work.
- If he is a member of any of such bodies or is fully dedicated to political work, he must submit evidence that the date of commencement of his membership or dedication is subsequent to his engagement in commercial activity.

Second: With respect to the registration of partnerships and limited liability companies:

- An official extract from the company's registration in the Commercial Register, provided that the importation of goods for the purpose of trading is among its objects, and provided that at least one year has elapsed since its registration.
- An official extract of the company's articles of incorporation and any amendments made thereto, provided that such articles and amendments have been published and recorded in the Commercial Register.



- A document proving that the paid-up capital is not less than two million Egyptian pounds, either by submitting a copy approved by the Tax Authority of the latest financial statements submitted by the company to the Authority, or by submitting a certificate from one of the banks registered with the Central Bank confirming the deposit of the paid-up capital.
- Companies holding an import card before these Regulations come into force shall adjust their status in accordance with the provisions thereof within six months from the date they come into force.
- An official extract of the birth certificate of the manager responsible for importation, or the card evidencing his acquisition of Egyptian nationality if he is of foreign origin.
- The Certificate of Practicing Importation for the manager responsible for importation and the employees concerned with importation.
- A copy approved by the Tax Authority of the latest tax return for the year preceding the submission of the registration application, evidencing that the business volume is not less than five million Egyptian pounds. Companies holding an import card at the time these Regulations come into force shall be exempted from this condition.
- The declarations indicated in paragraphs (i), (j), and (k) referred to in item First, with respect to the general partners, company managers, and persons responsible for importation.
- A copy of the companies' gazette in which the articles of incorporation and statute of the limited liability company were published, and a copy of the issues in which the amendments made to the company's articles were published.
- A declaration by the person having the right of management and signature, certified by the authority supervising the company, stating that at least fifty-one percent (51%) of the company's quotas are owned by Egyptians. Financial leasing companies shall be exempted from this condition.
- A receipt evidencing the deposit of the cash security, or a bank letter of guarantee, in the amount of two hundred thousand Egyptian pounds.



- Companies holding an import card before these Regulations come into force shall adjust their status in accordance with the provisions thereof within six months from the date they come into force.

Third: With respect to the registration of joint stock companies and partnerships limited by shares:

- An extract from the company's registration sheet in the Commercial Register, provided that the importation of goods for the purpose of trading is among its objects and that its head office is located in the Arab Republic of Egypt.
- A copy of the Official Gazette or the companies gazette in which the company's articles of incorporation and statute were published, as well as a copy of every issue in which any amendment made to the company's articles or statute was published, provided that the issued capital is not less than five million Egyptian pounds.
- Companies holding an import card before the date these Regulations come into force shall adjust their status in accordance with the provisions thereof within six months from the date they come into force.
- A declaration by the chairman of the company's board of directors or by the person having the right of management and signature, certified by the authority supervising the company, stating that at least fifty-one percent (51%) of the company's shares or quotas are owned by Egyptians. Financial leasing companies shall be exempted from this condition.
- A copy of the tax return approved by the Tax Authority for the year preceding the application for registration, evidencing that the business volume is not less than five million Egyptian pounds. Companies holding an import card at the time these Regulations come into force shall be exempted from this condition.
- The declarations indicated in paragraphs (i), (j), and (k) referred to in item First of this Article, with respect to the company managers and employees responsible for importation.
- The Certificate of Practicing Importation for the manager responsible for importation and the employees concerned with importation.



- A receipt evidencing the deposit of the cash security, or a bank letter of guarantee, in the amount of two hundred thousand Egyptian pounds.
- Companies holding an import card before these Regulations come into force shall adjust their status in accordance with the provisions thereof within six months from the date they come into force.

Chapter Four

Commodity Groups

Article (8):

Commodity groups shall be determined according to the sections of the Customs Import Tariff as follows:

- Live animals and products of the animal kingdom.
- Products of the vegetable kingdom.
- Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; waxes of animal or vegetable origin.
- Products of the food industries; beverages; alcoholic liquids and vinegar; tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes.
- Mineral products.
- Products of the chemical industries or allied industries.
- Plastics and articles thereof; rubber and articles thereof.
- Raw hides and skins; leather, tanned or prepared; furskins and articles thereof; saddlery and harness; travel goods, handbags and similar containers; articles of animal gut, other than silkworm gut.



- Wood and articles of wood; wood charcoal; cork and articles of cork; articles of straw, esparto, or other plaiting materials; basketware and wickerwork.
- Pulp of wood or of other fibrous cellulosic material; paper or paperboard waste and scrap for recycling; paper and paperboard and articles thereof.
- Textiles and textile articles.
- Footwear; headgear; umbrellas; sun umbrellas; walking sticks; seat-sticks; whips and riding-crops; parts of such articles; prepared feathers and articles made therewith; artificial flowers; articles of human hair.
- Articles of stone, plaster, cement, asbestos, mica, or similar materials; ceramic products; glass and glassware.
- Natural or cultured pearls; precious or semi-precious stones; precious metals; base metals clad with precious metal; articles of such materials; imitation jewellery; coins.
- Base metals and articles of base metal.
- Machinery and mechanical appliances; electrical equipment; parts thereof; sound recording and reproducing apparatus; television image and sound recording and reproducing apparatus; parts and accessories of such apparatus.
- Transport equipment.
- Optical, photographic, cinematographic, measuring, checking, precision-measuring or precision-adjusting instruments and apparatus; medical or surgical instruments and apparatus; clocks and watches; musical instruments; parts and accessories of such instruments and apparatus.
- Arms and ammunition; parts and accessories thereof.
- Miscellaneous goods and products not mentioned or included in the preceding groups.
- Works of art, collectors' pieces, and antiques.



Amendment of Registration Data in the Importers Register

Article (9):

Persons registered in the Register shall be obliged to notify the Organization of any change or amendment occurring to the data registered in the Register within sixty days from the date such change or amendment occurs.

Article (10):

If the application for amendment of data is not submitted within the time limit referred to in Article (9) of these Regulations, the Concerned Person may not invoke such amendment against third parties. However, third parties may rely on such amendment against the Concerned Person.

Article (11):

The Concerned Person shall submit an application for amendment of data on the form prepared for this purpose at the Organization, and the application shall be accompanied by an official document evidencing the amendment.



Renewal of Registration in the Importers Register

Article (12):

In the event of wishing to renew registration in the Register, the Concerned Person shall submit the renewal application on the form prepared for this purpose at the Organization during the ninety days preceding the expiry of the registration validity period, after payment of the fees prescribed in accordance with the Law.

Article (13):

In the event that an application for renewal of registration is submitted after the expiry of its validity and within a maximum period of ninety days, the registration shall be renewed, provided that the prescribed fees are paid doubled.

Article (14):

The renewal application shall be accompanied by the following documents:

- A recent extract from the registration sheet in the Commercial Register.
 - A copy of the latest financial statements of the company, approved by the Tax Authority, with respect to companies that are required to meet a financial threshold for their registration.
 - The Certificate of Practicing Importation for the Concerned Person or the persons responsible for importation.
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Chapter Seven

Fees

Article (15):

Fees for registration, re-registration, amendment of data, issuance of copies and certificates, and publication fees shall be collected as follows:

EGP 5,000 as the fee for first-time registration and re-registration.

EGP 2,000 as the fee for renewal of registration.

EGP 1,000 for each commodity group.

EGP 500 as the fee for an application to amend or record data, except for the addition or amendment of commodity groups.

EGP 500 as the publication fee for registration, renewal, or amendment.

EGP 100 as the fee for obtaining a copy of the register sheet or a negative certificate. Extracts and certificates requested by ministries, government departments, local units, and public authorities shall be exempted from payment of this fee.

Chapter Eight

Issuance of Bulletins

Article (16):

The Organization shall issue a periodic bulletin every three months containing the data relating to importers, including registration, amendment, renewal, deletion, or any other data relating to the registration of importers.

Such bulletin shall also include conviction judgments issued in respect of the offences provided for in Articles (8) and (10) of the Law.



Article (17):

The Organization shall publish the conviction judgments referred to in Article (16) of these Regulations, at the expense of the convicted person, in one daily newspaper. Publication expenses may be collected by way of administrative attachment.

Chapter Nine

Deletion of Registration

Article (18):

The decision to delete registration from the Register in the cases provided for in Articles (6) and (7) of the Law shall be issued by the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Organization.

Article (19):

The Organization shall notify the importer, by registered letter with acknowledgment of receipt, of the deletion decision and the reasons therefor within two months from the date of deletion.

Article (20):

The importer's registration shall be deleted if the application for renewal of the Register is not submitted within ninety days from the date of expiry of the Register's validity period.



Chapter Ten

Suspension of Registration

Article (21):

The decision to suspend registration from the Register for a period not exceeding two years, in the cases provided for in Article (6 bis) of the Law, shall be issued by the minister concerned with foreign trade affairs.

Article (22):

The Organization shall notify the importer, by registered letter with acknowledgment of receipt, of the suspension decision and the reasons therefor within two months from the date of suspension.

Chapter Eleven

Final Provisions

Article (23):

The right to recover the security provided for in Article (3 bis) of the Law shall lapse in the event that registration is deleted from the Register in accordance with the provisions of Article (6) of the Law. Such security shall be refunded in all other cases.

Article (24):

All authorities entrusted with applying the provisions of the laws referred to in Article (6) of the Law shall notify the Organization of final judgments issued for violations of the provisions of such laws. The Organization shall take the necessary measures to delete from the Register the registration of those against whom final judgments have been issued.



Article (25):

All authorities entrusted with applying the provisions of the laws referred to in Article (6 bis) of the Law shall notify the Organization of persons violating the provisions of such laws. The Organization shall take the necessary measures to issue a decision suspending the registration of those registered in the Register, in cases where such suspension is required.

Article (26):

Ministerial Decree No. 343 of 1982 referred to above shall be repealed, and any provision contrary to the provisions of these Regulations shall also be repealed.

Article (27):

This Decree shall be published in the Egyptian Gazette and shall come into force on the day following the date of its publication.

