



**THE STATUTES OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE**

**SECONDHAND GOODS DEALERS ACT**

**(CHAPTER 288A)**

**Act  
4 of 2007**

Amended by  
S 555/2007

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2008

# Secondhand Goods Dealers Act

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An Act to provide for the licensing and control of dealers in secondhand goods and for matters connected therewith.

[1st December 2007]

### **Short title**

1. This Act may be cited as the Secondhand Goods Dealers Act.

### **Interpretation**

- 2.—(1) In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires —

“goods” in the expression “secondhand goods” means any of the goods specified in the Schedule;

“licence” means a licence issued under section 5;

“Licensing Officer” means the Licensing Officer appointed under section 3 and includes an Assistant Licensing Officer;

“secondhand goods dealer” means any person who deals in secondhand goods;

“shop” includes a stall, house, flat, place of business, place of storage of secondhand goods, an administrative office or any other premises from which the business of a secondhand goods dealer is being carried out, whether electronically or otherwise;

“stolen property” means property, the possession of which has been transferred by theft, extortion or robbery, which has been criminally misappropriated or in respect of which criminal breach of trust or cheating has been committed, whether the transfer has been made or the misappropriation or breach of trust or cheating has been committed within or out of Singapore; but does not include such property which subsequently comes into the possession of a person legally entitled to the possession thereof.

- (2) For the purposes of this Act, a reference to a person who deals in secondhand goods includes a reference to a person in Singapore who deals in secondhand goods through the Internet.

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*Notes:*—Unless otherwise stated, the abbreviations used in the cross-references are references to the Secondhand Dealers Act (Chapter 288, 1985 Revised Edition). The references are provided for convenience and are not part of the Act.

(3) Every person in whose shop secondhand goods are found apparently exposed for sale, or who is found in possession of secondhand goods of an unusual quantity, shall be deemed, until the contrary is proved, to be a person who deals in secondhand goods.

[*Secondhand Dealers 1985 Ed., s. 2*]

### **Appointment of Licensing Officer and Assistant Licensing Officers**

3. The Minister may, by notification in the *Gazette*, appoint a Licensing Officer for the purposes of this Act and may similarly appoint such number of Assistant Licensing Officers as may be necessary.

[*Secondhand Dealers 1985 Ed., s. 3*]

### **Dealing in secondhand goods**

4.—(1) No person shall deal in secondhand goods except under and in accordance with the conditions of a licence issued under section 5.

(2) Any person who contravenes subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence.

[*Secondhand Dealers 1985 Ed., s. 6(1)*]

### **Issuance, renewal and conditions of licence**

5.—(1) An application for a licence shall be —

(a) made to the Licensing Officer in such form or manner as the Licensing Officer may require; and

(b) accompanied by —

(i) such particulars, information and documents as the Licensing Officer may require; and

(ii) the prescribed fee and any other prescribed charge.

(2) Upon receipt of an application under subsection (1), the Licensing Officer may, in his discretion, issue a licence to the applicant subject to such conditions as the Licensing Officer may think fit to impose.

(3) The Licensing Officer may at any time add to, vary or revoke any condition of a licence imposed under subsection (2).

(4) The Licensing Officer shall, before adding to, varying or revoking any condition of a licence under subsection (3), give the licensee —

(a) notice in writing of his intention to do so; and

- (b) an opportunity to be heard, within such time as may be specified in the notice, as to why the condition should not be added to, varied or revoked.

(5) Any person who is aggrieved by the decision of the Licensing Officer under this section may, within 14 days of being notified of the decision of the Licensing Officer, appeal in writing to the Minister whose decision shall be final.

(6) A licence may be renewed upon its expiry, and subsections (1) to (5) shall apply, with the necessary modifications, to an application for the renewal of a licence.

(7) Any person who, in making an application for a licence —

- (a) makes any statement or furnishes any particulars, information or document which he knows to be false or does not believe to be true; or
- (b) by the intentional suppression of any material fact, furnishes any information which is misleading,

shall be guilty of an offence.

*[Secondhand Dealers 1985 Ed., s. 4]*

### **Form and validity of licence**

6. A licence shall —

- (a) be in such form as the Licensing Officer shall determine;
- (b) contain the conditions subject to which it is issued; and
- (c) be valid for such period as may be specified therein.

*[Secondhand Dealers 1985 Ed., s. 9(a)]*

### **Transfer of licence**

7.—(1) No person shall transfer his licence to another person except with the consent of the Licensing Officer and upon payment of the prescribed fee.

(2) Any person who contravenes subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence.

*[Secondhand Dealers 1985 Ed., s. 9(d)]*

### **Revocation or suspension of licence**

8.—(1) The Licensing Officer may revoke a licence or suspend a licence for such period as he thinks fit —

(a) if he is satisfied that the licensee —

- (i) has ceased to carry on the business for which he has been licensed or, if the licensee being a company, has gone into liquidation or is wound up or otherwise dissolved;
- (ii) has improperly obtained his licence contrary to the provisions of this Act;
- (iii) is no longer a fit and proper person to continue to hold a licence;
- (iv) has been convicted of any offence involving dishonesty or, if the licensee is a company, any of its officers holding a managerial or an executive position has been convicted of any offence involving dishonesty;
- (v) is carrying on or has carried on the business of a secondhand goods dealer in such a manner as to render him unfit to continue to hold a licence;
- (vi) has failed to comply with any condition of his licence;
- (vii) is contravening or has contravened any of the provisions of this Act; or
- (viii) has been convicted of any offence under this Act or, if the licensee is a company, any of its officers holding a managerial or an executive position has been convicted of any offence under this Act; or

(b) if he considers it in the public interest to do so.

(2) The Licensing Officer shall, before revoking or suspending any licence under subsection (1), give the licensee notice in writing of his intention to do so, specifying a date, not less than 14 days after the date of the notice, upon which the revocation or suspension shall take effect and calling upon the licensee to show cause to the Licensing Officer why the licence should not be revoked or suspended.

(3) When the Licensing Officer has revoked or suspended a licence under subsection (1), he shall immediately inform the licensee by notice in writing of the revocation or suspension.

(4) Any person whose licence has been revoked or suspended under subsection (1) may, within 14 days of the receipt of the notice referred to in subsection (3) or such extended period of time as the Minister may allow, appeal in writing against the revocation or suspension to the Minister whose decision shall be final.

(5) Any revocation or suspension of a licence shall not take effect until the expiration of a period of 14 days after the Licensing Officer has informed the licensee of the revocation or suspension in accordance with subsection (3), and if within that period, the licensee gives due notice that an appeal has been made to the Minister, the revocation or suspension order shall not take effect unless the revocation or suspension order is confirmed by the Minister or the appeal is for any reason dismissed by the Minister.

(6) Where any licence has been suspended under subsection (1), the Licensing Officer may, at any time and subject to such conditions as he may think fit to impose, lift the suspension if he considers it appropriate to do so.

### **Effect of revocation or suspension of licence**

**9.—**(1) Where any revocation or suspension of a licence becomes effective under section 8(5), the licensee shall cease to carry on the business of a secondhand goods dealer.

(2) Subsection (1) shall not prejudice the enforcement by any person of any right or claim against the licensee or by the licensee of any right or claim against any person arising out of or concerning any matter or thing done prior to the revocation or suspension of the licence.

### **Keeping proper records**

**10.—**(1) Every secondhand goods dealer shall keep in his shop —

- (a) records of the particulars of all goods bought by him, including the dates of purchase, the names and addresses of the persons from whom he bought the goods and such other particulars as may be prescribed; and
- (b) records of the particulars of all goods sold by him, including the dates of sale, the names and addresses of the persons to whom he sold the goods and such other particulars as may be prescribed.

(2) Every secondhand goods dealer shall submit to the Licensing Officer the records referred to in subsection (1) at such time and in such format and through such medium (whether electronic or otherwise) as the Licensing Officer may require.

(3) Every secondhand goods dealer shall retain the records referred to in subsection (1) for a period of not less than 5 years from the end of the financial year in which the transactions or operations to which those records relate are completed.

(4) Subsection (3) shall also apply in relation to any record kept under section 10 of the repealed Secondhand Dealers Act (Cap. 288, 1985 Ed.) in force immediately before 1st December 2007.

(5) Every secondhand goods dealer shall produce the records referred to in subsection (1) for examination at any time on demand by any Magistrate, Justice of the Peace, the Licensing Officer or a police officer.

(6) Any person who —

(a) contravenes subsection (2), (3) or (5); or

(b) in compliance or purported compliance with subsection (2), (3) or (5), fabricates, keeps, submits or produces to the Licensing Officer or to a Magistrate, Justice of the Peace or police officer, any record which he knows is false or misleading,

shall be guilty of an offence.

*[Secondhand Dealers 1985 Ed., s. 10]*

### **Information of stolen and lost property to be given to secondhand goods dealers**

**11.—**(1) Where a police officer has received any information as to any stolen property or as to any property which has been lost, he may, if he thinks it necessary or expedient to assist in the recovery of the property, disseminate the information to all secondhand goods dealers, with lists and descriptions of the stolen or lost property.

(2) If any secondhand goods dealer possesses any property fitting such lists and descriptions referred to in subsection (1) or such property is thereafter offered to or shown to any secondhand goods dealer —

(a) he shall, without unnecessary delay, make a report to any police officer, with the name and address of the person in whose possession the property was seen; and

(b) he may detain the person offering or showing him such property until the arrival of a police officer.



(3) Any person who contravenes subsection (2)(a) shall be guilty of an offence.

*[Secondhand Dealers 1985 Ed., s. 11]*

### **Power to enter and search secondhand goods dealer's shop, etc.**

**12.—**(1) Any police officer may enter the shop of any secondhand goods dealer at any time and may, without a warrant, search the shop for any property which he has reason to suspect to be therein and to be stolen property or property that has been lost.

(2) Any police officer may at any time enter and search without a warrant any shop where he has reason to suspect that any person is dealing in secondhand goods without a licence issued under this Act.

(3) For the purposes of exercising his powers under this section, a police officer may, with such assistance as he considers necessary, break open any door, window, lock, fastener, floor, wall, ceiling, compartment, box, container or any other thing.

(4) Any police officer may seize any secondhand goods found in any shop referred to in subsection (1) or (2).

*[Secondhand Dealers 1985 Ed., s. 12]*

### **Power to arrest persons loitering suspiciously about secondhand goods dealer's shop**

**13.—**(1) Any police officer, having reason to believe that a person in or loitering about the shop of any secondhand goods dealer under suspicious circumstances has with him any stolen property, may arrest that person and require him to produce any property which he has with him.

(2) Where any property is produced by any person under subsection (1) and if the police officer has reason to suspect that property to be stolen property, the police officer may take the person and the property, or cause the person and property to be taken, to a police station to be dealt with according to law.

*[Secondhand Dealers 1985 Ed., s. 13]*

### **Delivery to owner of property**

**14.—**(1) If any person is convicted in any court of an offence under Chapter XVII of the Penal Code (Cap. 224) in respect of any property, and it appears to the court that the property has been sold to a secondhand goods dealer, the court may, on proof of the ownership

of the property and if it thinks fit, order the delivery thereof to the owner either on payment to the secondhand goods dealer of the amount of the purchase price or any part thereof, or without payment thereof or of any part thereof, as to the court according to the conduct of the owner and the other circumstances of the case seems just and fitting.

(2) The court may also adjourn the proceedings for the attendance of the secondhand goods dealer and may summon the secondhand goods dealer to attend at the adjourned hearing.

(3) If after hearing the secondhand goods dealer the court is satisfied that the secondhand goods dealer, before purchasing the property referred to in subsection (1) —

(a) ought reasonably to have known or suspected that the property was stolen property; and

(b) did not exercise due care and diligence to ascertain that the property was not stolen property,

the court may order the secondhand goods dealer to pay a financial penalty not exceeding \$2,000.

*[Secondhand Dealers 1985 Ed., s. 14]*

### **Offences by bodies corporate, etc.**

**15.—**(1) Where an offence under this Act committed by a body corporate is proved —

(a) to have been committed with the consent or connivance of an officer; or

(b) to be attributable to any neglect on his part,

the officer as well as the body corporate shall be guilty of the offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

(2) Where the affairs of a body corporate are managed by its members, subsection (1) shall apply in relation to the acts and defaults of a member in connection with his functions of management as if he were a director of the body corporate.

(3) Where an offence under this Act committed by a partnership is proved —

(a) to have been committed with the consent or connivance of a partner; or

(b) to be attributable to any neglect on his part,

the partner as well as the partnership shall be guilty of the offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

(4) Where an offence under this Act committed by an unincorporated association (other than a partnership) is proved —

- (a) to have been committed with the consent or connivance of an officer of the unincorporated association or a member of its governing body; or
- (b) to be attributable to any neglect on the part of such an officer or a member,

the officer or member as well as the unincorporated association shall be guilty of the offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

(5) In this section —

“body corporate” includes a limited liability partnership which has the same meaning as in section 2(1) of the Limited Liability Partnerships Act (Cap. 163A);

“officer” —

- (a) in relation to a body corporate, means any director, partner, member of the committee of management, chief executive, manager, secretary or other similar officer of the body corporate and includes any person purporting to act in any such capacity; or
- (b) in relation to an unincorporated association (other than a partnership), means the president, the secretary, or any member of the committee of the unincorporated association, or any person holding a position analogous to that of president, secretary or member of a committee and includes any person purporting to act in any such capacity;

“partner” includes a person purporting to act as a partner.

### **Liability for offences**

**16.—**(1) Where an offence under this Act is committed by any person acting as an agent or employee of another person, or being otherwise subject to the supervision or instruction of another person for the purposes of any employment in the course of which the offence was committed, that other person shall, without prejudice to the liability of the first-mentioned person, be liable under this Act in

the same manner and to the same extent as if he had personally committed the offence if it is proved that the act which constituted the offence was committed with his consent or connivance or that it was attributable to any neglect on his part.

(2) Where any person, being an agent or employee employed by a secondhand goods dealer in the course of his business as such secondhand goods dealer, wilfully does any act or commits any omission that constitutes an offence under this Act, that person shall also be guilty of that offence and shall be liable to the fine or punishment prescribed for that offence, as if he were the person carrying on such business as a secondhand goods dealer.

*[Secondhand Dealers 1985 Ed., s. 15]*

### **Jurisdiction of court**

**17.** Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in the Criminal Procedure Code (Cap. 68), a District Court shall have jurisdiction to try any offence under this Act and shall have power to impose the full penalty or punishment in respect of the offence.

### **General penalty**

**18.** Any person who is guilty of an offence under this Act shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$20,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both.

*[Secondhand Dealers 1985 Ed., s. 8]*

### **Composition of offences**

**19.—**(1) The Licensing Officer may, in his discretion, compound any offence under this Act which is prescribed as a compoundable offence by collecting from a person reasonably suspected of having committed the offence a sum not exceeding \$2,000.

(2) On payment of such sum of money, no further proceedings shall be taken against that person in respect of the offence.

(3) The Minister may make rules to prescribe the offences which may be compounded.

### **Exemption**

**20.—**(1) The Minister may, by order published in the *Gazette*, with or without conditions, exempt any person or class of persons from any or all of the provisions of this Act.

(2) If any exemption is granted under this section with conditions, the exemption operates only if the conditions are complied with.

*[Secondhand Dealers 1985 Ed., s. 5]*

### **Amendment of Schedule**

**21.** The Minister may, by order published in the *Gazette*, amend the Schedule.

*[Secondhand Dealers 1985 Ed., s. 17]*

### **Rules**

**22.** The Minister may make rules for any of the following purposes:

- (a) to prescribe the fees and charges payable for the purposes of this Act;
- (b) to prescribe the forms to be used for the purposes of this Act;
- (c) to prescribe the records to be kept by secondhand goods dealers and the particulars to be entered therein;
- (d) generally to carry out the purposes of this Act.

*[Secondhand Dealers 1985 Ed., s. 16]*

### **Transitional and savings provisions**

**23.—**(1) Any licence issued under the repealed Secondhand Dealers Act (Cap. 288, 1985 Ed.) and in force immediately before 1st December 2007 shall, so far as it is not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, be deemed to be a licence issued under section 5 of this Act, except that the licence shall expire on 31st December of the year in respect of which it was issued.

(2) Any exemption granted under section 5 of the repealed Secondhand Dealers Act and in force immediately before 1st December 2007 shall be deemed to be an exemption granted under section 20 of this Act except that the exemption shall expire on 31st December of the year in respect of which it was granted.

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## THE SCHEDULE

Section 2(1)

## SECONDHAND GOODS

1. Cameras, video-graphic and photographic equipment including lenses.
2. Computers including Tablet Personal Computers, Laptops, Palmtops, Personal Digital Assistants and computer accessories.
3. Handphones, Personal Digital Assistant handphones and Smartphones.
4. Compact Disc players and Moving Picture Experts Group-1 Audio Layer 3 players and Moving Picture Experts Group-1 Audio Layer 4 players.
5. Jewellery set with precious stones including but not limited to diamonds, jade, rubies, sapphires and emeralds.
6. Jewellery made from platinum, gold and white gold without precious stones.
7. Pawn tickets.
8. Watches.
9. Cables and wires made of copper.
10. Items (in whole or parts) that are made of copper, stainless steel, aluminium, steel or brass or a composite of such metals, and that are used or intended to be used as fittings or installations that form part of, or are attached to, any building, road, sidewalk, amenity or other place (whether public or private), including but not limited to the following:
  - (a) bicycle racks;
  - (b) drain covers;
  - (c) dry risers;
  - (d) earth bars;
  - (e) fencings;
  - (f) frames or other parts of a door or window;
  - (g) grills;
  - (h) hydrants;
  - (i) lightning conductors;
  - (j) manhole covers;
  - (k) meters;
  - (l) over-ground boxes;
  - (m) park benches;
  - (n) pipes;
  - (o) railings;
  - (p) rubbish bins or parts thereof;

THE SCHEDULE — *continued*

- (*q*) signs or signposts;
  - (*r*) sinks;
  - (*s*) television aerials;
  - (*t*) water taps.
11. Scraps of copper, stainless steel, aluminium, steel or brass or any composite of such metals, whether in the form of bars, rods, sheets, turnings or parts of disassembled items or articles, or otherwise, but excluding scraps derived from drink cans or household utensils or articles.

*[S 555/2007]*

## LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

### SECONDHAND GOODS DEALERS ACT (CHAPTER 288A)

This Legislative History is provided for the convenience of users of the Secondhand Goods Dealers Act. It is not part of the Act.

#### **Act 4 of 2007 — Secondhand Goods Dealers Act 2007**

Date of First Reading	: 8 November 2006 (Bill No. 16/2006 published on 9 November 2006)
Date of Second and Third Readings	: 22 January 2007
Date of commencement	: 1 December 2007