

# Moveable Transactions (Scotland) Act 2023 2023 asp 3

#### PART 1

**ASSIGNATION** 

# PROSPECTIVE

#### **CHAPTER 1**

ASSIGNATION OF CLAIMS, PROTECTION OF DEBTORS AND RELATED MATTERS

Assignation of claims

# 1 Assignation of claims: general

- (1) The assignation of a claim requires the execution or authentication of a document assigning the claim (an "assignation document") by the person assigning it.
- (2) The assignation document must identify the claim.
- (3) But an assignation document which assigns a number of claims need not identify each claim separately provided that the document identifies the claims in terms of their constituting an identifiable class.
- (4) It is competent to assign a claim which, at the time the assignation document is granted, is not held by the assignor (whether or not the claim yet exists at that time).
- (5) For the purposes of subsection (2), the ways in which the claim can be identified in the assignation document include by making reference in the assignation document to another document, the terms of which are not reproduced.

(6) Nothing in this Part applies to the assignation of a claim as part of a financial collateral arrangement, within the meaning of regulation 3(1) of the Financial Collateral Arrangements (No.2) Regulations 2003 (S.I. 2003/3226).

#### **Commencement Information**

II S. 1 not in force at Royal Assent, see s. 121(2)

# 2 Assignation of claim subject to a condition

- (1) The assignation of a claim may be subject to a condition which must be satisfied before the claim is transferred.
- (2) Any such condition must be specified in the assignation document.
- (3) The condition may, for example—
  - (a) be the occurrence of a particular date,
  - (b) depend on something happening (whether or not it is certain that the thing will happen), or
  - (c) depend on a period of time elapsing during which something must not happen (whether or not it is certain that the thing will happen at some time).
- (4) For the purposes of subsection (2), the ways in which the condition can be specified in the assignation document include by making reference in the assignation document to another document, the terms of which are not reproduced.

#### **Commencement Information**

I2 S. 2 not in force at Royal Assent, see s. 121(2)

#### 3 Transfer of claims

- (1) A claim in respect of which an assignation document is granted is transferred on the requirements mentioned in subsection (2) all being met.
- (2) Those requirements are that—
  - (a) the assignor is the holder of the claim,
  - (b) either—
    - (i) intimation of the assignation is effected under section 8(1), or
    - (ii) the assignation document is registered,
  - (c) the claim is identifiable as a claim to which the assignation document relates, and
  - (d) if the assignation is subject to a condition which must be satisfied before the claim is transferred, the condition is satisfied.
- (3) For the purposes of subsection (1), if the claim is a claim such as is mentioned in section 1(4)—
  - (a) the requirement mentioned in subsection (2)(a) is met when the assignor becomes the holder of the claim, and
  - (b) any rule of law as to accretion does not apply in relation to the claim.

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- (4) Subsection (2)(b)(ii) is subject to section 27 (effective registration of assignation document) and, accordingly, the requirement of that subsection—
  - (a) is not met if the registration of the assignation document is ineffective in accordance with section 27(1), and
  - (b) is met if and when that registration becomes effective in accordance with section 27(3).
- (5) Subsection (6) applies where—
  - (a) an assignor grants more than one assignation document in respect of the same claim,
  - (b) each of the purported assignations of the claim is to a different person, and
  - (c) the requirements of subsection (2) are all met in relation to each of the purported assignations at the same time by virtue of—
    - (i) the assignor becoming the holder of the claim,
    - (ii) the claim becoming identifiable as a claim to which the assignation document relates, or
    - (iii) where each of the purported assignations is subject to a condition which must be satisfied before the claim is transferred, those conditions being satisfied at the same time.
- (6) The claim transfers under subsection (1) to the person to whom it is assigned by whichever of the purported assignations of the claim first met the requirement of subsection (2)(b).
- (7) This section is subject to section 4 (assignation of claims: insolvency).
- (8) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations prescribe types of claim in relation to which sub-paragraph (i) of subsection (2)(b) is to be disregarded.

#### **Commencement Information**

I3 S. 3 not in force at Royal Assent, see s. 121(2)

## 4 Assignation of claims: insolvency

- (1) This section applies where—
  - (a) an assignation document is granted in respect of a claim such as is mentioned in section 1(4), and
  - (b) after the document is granted, the assignor becomes insolvent.
- (2) The assignation is ineffective in relation to the claim if the assignor becomes the holder of the claim after becoming insolvent.
- (3) But subsection (2) does not apply in relation to a claim in respect of income from property in so far as that claim—
  - (a) is not attributable to anything agreed to by, or done by, the assignor after the assignor became insolvent, and
  - (b) relates to the use of property in existence at the time the assignor became insolvent.
- (4) Subsection (5) applies where—

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- (a) but for subsection (3), the assignation would be ineffective by virtue of subsection (2), and
- (b) the assignor is discharged—
  - (i) under section 137, 138 or 140 of the Bankruptcy (Scotland) Act 2016, or
  - (ii) by virtue of section 184(3) of that Act.
- (5) The assignation is ineffective, in relation to the claim, if by the time of discharge the assignor has not become the holder of the claim.
- (6) For the purposes of this section—
  - (a) an assignor who is an individual, or the estate of which may be sequestrated by virtue of section 6 of the Bankruptcy (Scotland) Act 2016, becomes insolvent when—
    - (i) the assignor's estate is sequestrated,
    - (ii) the assignor grants a trust deed for creditors or makes a composition or arrangement with creditors,
    - (iii) the assignor is adjudged bankrupt,
    - (iv) a voluntary arrangement proposed by the assignor is approved,
    - (v) the assignor's application for a debt payment programme is approved under section 2 of the Debt Arrangement and Attachment (Scotland) Act 2002, or
    - (vi) the assignor becomes subject to any other order or arrangement analogous to any of those mentioned in sub-paragraphs (i) to (v) anywhere in the world, and
  - (b) an assignor other than is mentioned in paragraph (a) becomes insolvent when—
    - (i) a decision approving a voluntary arrangement entered into by the assignor has effect under section 4A of the Insolvency Act 1986 (the "1986 Act"),
    - (ii) the assignor is wound up under Part 4 or 5 of the 1986 Act or under section 367 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000,
    - (iii) an administrative receiver, as defined in section 251 of the 1986 Act, is appointed over all or part (being a part which includes the claim) of the property of the assignor,
    - (iv) the assignor enters administration ("enters administration" being construed in accordance with paragraph 1(2) of schedule B1 of the 1986 Act),
    - (v) an order under section 901F of the Companies Act 2006 sanctioning a compromise or arrangement entered into by the assignor comes into effect over all or part of the property of the assignor, or
    - (vi) the assignor becomes subject to any other order, appointment or arrangement analogous to any of those mentioned in sub-paragraphs (i) to (v) anywhere in the world.
- (7) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations modify—
  - (a) subsection (4),
  - (b) subsection (5),
  - (c) subsection (6).

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#### **Commencement Information**

I4 S. 4 not in force at Royal Assent, see s. 121(2)

# 5 Assignation in part

- (1) A claim may be assigned in whole or in part.
- (2) But if the claim is not a monetary claim, the claim may be assigned in part only if the claim is divisible and either—
  - (a) the debtor consents, or
  - (b) the assignation is not likely to result in the obligation to which it relates becoming significantly more burdensome for the debtor.
- (3) Except in so far as the debtor agrees otherwise with the assignor, or agreed otherwise with a person who was previously the holder of the claim (when that person was the holder), the assignor is liable to the debtor for any expense incurred by the debtor which is attributable to the claim's being assigned in part rather than in whole.

#### **Commencement Information**

I5 S. 5 not in force at Royal Assent, see s. 121(2)

# 6 Limitations as to assignability: general

- (1) Nothing in this Part affects any other enactment, or any rule of law, by virtue of which the assignation of a claim is of no effect.
- (2) But such an enactment or rule of law does not apply to an assignation if the grounds on which the assignation would be of no effect by virtue of that enactment or rule are grounds which this Part provides do not make the assignation of no effect.
- (3) The assignation, in whole or in part, of a claim is of no effect if and in so far as, before the assignation document in respect of the claim was granted—
  - (a) the debtor and the holder of the claim had agreed that the claim was not to be so assigned, or
  - (b) the person whose unilateral undertaking gives rise to the claim had stated that the claim was not to be so assigned.
- (4) For the purposes of subsection (3)(a), it does not matter whether the holder of the claim became the holder of the claim after the agreement was made.
- (5) Nothing in subsection (3) affects the operation of any other enactment concerning the effect of an agreement or statement such as is mentioned in that subsection.

# **Commencement Information**

I6 S. 6 not in force at Royal Assent, see s. 121(2)

# 7 Claim in respect of wages or salary

- (1) It is not competent for an individual to assign a claim in respect of wages or salary payable to the individual.
- (2) For the purposes of subsection (1), "wages" and "salary" include—
  - (a) any of the following which is referable to the individual's employment (whether or not payable under the individual's contract of employment)—
    - (i) a fee,
    - (ii) a bonus,
    - (iii) commission,
    - (iv) holiday pay, or
    - (v) any other emolument,
  - (b) any payment in respect of expenses incurred by the individual in carrying out that employment, and
  - (c) if the individual is dismissed from that employment by reason of redundancy, any payment referable to the redundancy.
- (3) Nothing in subsection (1) affects the operation of any other enactment allowing the assignation of a claim such as is mentioned in that subsection in particular circumstances.

# **Commencement Information**

I7 S. 7 not in force at Royal Assent, see s. 121(2)

## 8 Intimation of the assignation of a claim

- (1) For the purposes of section 3(2)(b)(i), intimation is effected only—
  - (a) by the assignor or the assignee serving notice of the assignation on the debtor, or
  - (b) on the occurrence either—
    - (i) of the debtor acknowledging to the assignee that the claim is assigned, or
    - (ii) of intimation to the debtor, in judicial proceedings to which the debtor is a party, that the assignation is founded on in the proceedings.
- (2) Where there are co-debtors in respect of a claim, intimation as respects any one or more of them is, for the purposes of section 3(2)(b)(i), intimation to them all.
- (3) A notice served under subsection (1)(a)—
  - (a) must—
    - (i) set out the name and address of both the assignor and the assignee,
    - (ii) provide details of the claim assigned, and
    - (iii) in the case of a claim assigned in part, provide details of the part assigned,
  - (b) must be in writing and consist of, or be contained within, one or more documents,
  - (c) need not be executed or authenticated, and

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- (d) if the claim is a monetary claim, may (but need not) be in such form (if any) as is prescribed for the purposes of this paragraph.
- (4) Where a notice is served as mentioned in subsection (5)(c), paragraph (a) of subsection (3) may be satisfied by providing an electronic link to a website, or to a portal, in which the information mentioned in that paragraph is set out.
- (5) For the purposes of subsection (1)(a), service of a notice must be by—
  - (a) delivering the notice personally to the debtor,
  - (b) sending it—
    - (i) by postal services, or
    - (ii) by any other service which conveys postal packets from one place to another,
    - either to the proper address of the debtor or to an address for postal communication provided to the assignor by the debtor, or
  - (c) transmitting it to an address for electronic communication so provided.
- (6) But a determination (a "determination as to method of service") may be made in accordance with subsection (7) that, as respects the claim (either or both)—
  - (a) only certain paragraphs and sub-paragraphs of subsection (5), as specified in the determination, are to apply for the purposes of section 3(2)(b)(i),
  - (b) subsection (5) is to apply as if for the closing words of paragraph (b) there were substituted a reference to a particular address as specified in the determination.
- (7) A determination as to method of service is made in accordance with this subsection where it is made—
  - (a) by written agreement between the debtor and the holder of the claim, or
  - (b) where a unilateral undertaking gives rise to the claim, by a written statement (whether or not comprised within the undertaking) of the person whose undertaking it was.
- (8) Where a determination as to method of service specifies an address as mentioned in subsection (6)(b)—
  - (a) the debtor may notify the holder of the claim of a different address to replace—
    - (i) the address so specified, or
    - (ii) an address previously notified under this paragraph, and
  - (b) an address notified under paragraph (a) is, until a further address is so notified, to be treated for the purposes of subsection (6)(b) as if it were specified in the determination.
- (9) Where a notice is served—
  - (a) as mentioned in subsection (5)(b) (including, where relevant, as modified by subsection (6)(b)), and
  - (b) by being sent to an address in the United Kingdom,

it is to be taken to have been received 48 hours after it is sent unless it is shown to have been received earlier.

- (10) Where a notice is served as mentioned in subsection (5)(c), it is to be taken to have been received 24 hours after it is transmitted unless it is shown to have been received earlier
- (11) In this section—

"holder of the claim" includes a person who becomes the holder of the claim after a determination is made,

"postal packet" and "postal services" have the meanings given by section 27(1) and (2) of the Postal Services Act 2011,

"proper address of the debtor" means—

- (a) in the case of a body corporate, the address of the registered or principal office of the body,
- (b) in the case of a partnership, the address of the principal office of the partnership, and
- (c) in any other case, the last known address of the debtor.
- (12) Any reference in this section to—
  - (a) a notice being served on the debtor is to be construed as including a reference to its being served on a person authorised to receive such a notice on behalf of the debtor,
  - (b) the proper address of the debtor is, where a notice is served on a person so authorised, to be construed as a reference to the proper address of that person.

#### **Commencement Information**

IS S. 8 not in force at Royal Assent, see s. 121(2)

## 9 Warrandice implied in the assignation of a claim

- (1) Subsections (2) to (5) apply except in so far as the assignor and the assignee agree otherwise.
- (2) In granting, for value, an assignation document in respect of a claim, the assignor is taken to warrant to the assignee that—
  - (a) the assignor is entitled to, or (in the case of any such claim as is mentioned in section 1(4)) will be entitled to, transfer the claim to the assignee,
  - (b) the debtor is obliged to, or (when performance becomes due) will be obliged to, perform in full to the assignor, and
  - (c) the assignor has done nothing, and will do nothing, to prejudice the assignation.
- (3) In granting, other than for value, an assignation document in respect of a claim, the assignor is taken to warrant to the assignee that the assignor will do nothing to prejudice the assignation.
- (4) In granting an assignation document in respect of a claim (whether or not for value), the assignor is not taken to warrant to the assignee that the debtor will perform to the assignee.
- (5) Subsections (2) to (4) apply in relation to providing, in a contract or unilateral undertaking, for the assignation of a claim as they apply in relation to the granting of an assignation document in respect of a claim.

# **Commencement Information**

I9 S. 9 not in force at Royal Assent, see s. 121(2)

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# Protection of debtors

# 10 Protection of debtor who performs in good faith

- (1) Subsection (2) applies where, after a claim is transferred, the debtor, or any co-debtor, performs in good faith to the person last known to the debtor, or that co-debtor, to be the holder of the claim.
- (2) The debtor, or (where there are two or more co-debtors) each of the co-debtors, is discharged from the claim to the extent of the performance.
- (3) For the purpose of subsection (2), it is not to be taken that a debtor, or any co-debtor, has performed other than in good faith by reason only of (any or all of)—
  - (a) an assignation document's having been registered,
  - (b) the application of section 8(9),
  - (c) the application of section 8(10).

## **Commencement Information**

I10 S. 10 not in force at Royal Assent, see s. 121(2)

# 11 Further provision as to protection of debtor

- (1) Subsection (2) applies where—
  - (a) the holder of a claim purports to assign the claim (or the same part of the claim) by means of more than one assignation document, each in favour of a different person,
  - (b) the claim (or part) is transferred to one of those persons,
  - (c) the debtor, or any co-debtor, receives notice of the purported assignation to the other (or, as the case may be, another) of those persons (the "purported assignee"), from the person who granted the purported assignation or from the purported assignee, in the manner mentioned in section 8(1)(a) or (b)(ii), and
  - (d) by virtue of that notice, the debtor, or any co-debtor, performs in good faith to the purported assignee.
- (2) The debtor, or (where there are two or more co-debtors) each of the co-debtors, is discharged from the claim (or part) to the extent of the performance.
- (3) Section 10(3) applies for the purposes of subsection (2) as it applies for the purposes of section 10(2).

#### **Commencement Information**

III S. 11 not in force at Royal Assent, see s. 121(2)

# Performance in good faith where claim assigned cannot be transferred by intimation

- (1) Subsection (2) applies where—
  - (a) by virtue only of being of a type prescribed under section 3(8), a claim in respect of which an assignation document is granted is not transferred, and

- (b) the debtor, or any co-debtor, performs in good faith to the assignee.
- (2) The debtor, or (where there are two or more co-debtors) each of the co-debtors, is discharged from the claim to the extent of the performance.
- (3) For the purposes of subsection (1)(b), a debtor, or co-debtor, is not to be taken to perform in good faith where that debtor or co-debtor knows—
  - (a) that the assignation document has not been registered, and
  - (b) that transfer of the claim requires registration.

#### **Commencement Information**

I12 S. 12 not in force at Royal Assent, see s. 121(2)

# 13 Performance in good faith where claim assigned subject to condition

- (1) Subsection (2) applies where—
  - (a) a claim in respect of which an assignation document is granted is subject to a condition which must be satisfied before the claim is transferred,
  - (b) the claim has not yet been transferred by virtue only of the condition not yet being satisfied, and
  - (c) the debtor, or any co-debtor, performs in good faith to the assignee.
- (2) The debtor, or (where there are two or more co-debtors) each of the co-debtors, is discharged from the claim to the extent of the performance.
- (3) Section 10(3) applies for the purposes of subsection (2) as it applies for the purposes of section 10(2).

#### **Commencement Information**

I13 S. 13 not in force at Royal Assent, see s. 121(2)

## 14 Asserting defence or right of compensation

- (1) Except in so far as the debtor and the assignor agree otherwise before an assignation document is granted in respect of the claim, the debtor, or any co-debtor, may assert against the assignee any defence which the debtor, or co-debtor, would have had the right to assert against the assignor.
- (2) Nothing in subsection (1) affects the operation of any other enactment which restricts or prevents the making of such an agreement.
- (3) For the purposes of any enactment or rule of law concerning compensation, set-off, retention, balancing of accounts or counterclaims, a debtor is not to be treated as receiving notice of the assignation of a claim only because an assignation document is registered in respect of the claim.

#### **Commencement Information**

I14 S. 14 not in force at Royal Assent, see s. 121(2)

# 15 Right to withhold performance until information as to assignation is provided

- (1) A debtor on whom a notice of assignation of a claim is served under section 8(1)(a) by an assignee may request from the assignee reasonable evidence of the granting of an assignation document in respect of the claim.
- (2) For the purposes of subsection (1), "reasonable evidence" includes, for example, the written confirmation of an assignor that the assignor granted the document.
- (3) Subsection (1) applies to a purported notice of assignation as it applies to a notice of assignation, and a reference in that subsection to an assignee includes a reference to a purported assignee.
- (4) If evidence is requested under subsection (1), the debtor may withhold performance until—
  - (a) that evidence is received, or
  - (b) the debtor receives notification in writing from the purported assignee or the purported assignor that an assignation document has not been granted in respect of the claim.
- (5) A debtor who, other than by virtue of section 8(1), has reasonable grounds to believe that an assignation document has been granted in respect of a claim may state those grounds to the supposed assignor and request that person to provide a written statement as to whether the document has been granted.
- (6) If a written statement provided by virtue of subsection (5) is to the effect that the document has been granted, that statement must include the name and last known address of the assignee.
- (7) If a written statement is requested under subsection (5), the debtor may withhold performance until that statement (conforming, where it is a statement to the effect mentioned in subsection (6), with the requirements of that subsection) is received.
- (8) A debtor who knows that an assignation document has been granted in respect of a claim may request the assignor or the assignee to provide a written statement as to whether (either or both)—
  - (a) the assignation of the claim is subject to a condition,
  - (b) any such condition has been satisfied.
- (9) If a written statement is requested under subsection (8), the debtor may withhold performance until that statement is received.
- (10) Where a debtor who makes a request under subsection (1), (5) or (8) is a co-debtor, the reference in subsection (4) or (as the case may be) (7) or (9) to the debtor is to the debtor who made the request and does not include a reference to any co-debtor of that debtor.

## **Commencement Information**

I15 S. 15 not in force at Royal Assent, see s. 121(2)

# Accessory security rights

# 16 Accessory security rights

- (1) Subsections (2) and (3)—
  - (a) apply, and apply only, in relation to any claim assigned in whole, but
  - (b) are subject to any express provision to the contrary in the assignation document.
- (2) Subject to anything which requires to be done under subsection (3), the assignee acquires, by virtue of the transfer of the claim, any security (in so far as the security is transferable) which relates to, and only to, the claim transferred.
- (3) Where the performance of some act by the assignor is necessary for the security to transfer to the assignee, the assignor must—
  - (a) perform that act, and
  - (b) do so as soon as reasonably practicable after the claim is transferred.
- (4) In this section, "security" means both—
  - (a) a right in security, and
  - (b) the correlative right in respect of a cautionary obligation.

#### **Commencement Information**

I16 S. 16 not in force at Royal Assent, see s. 121(2)

# Abolition of certain rules of law

#### 17 Abolition of certain rules of law

- (1) The following rules of law are abolished insofar as they apply to an assignation of a claim to which this Part applies—
  - (a) any rule whereby a mandate may operate as an assignation of a claim,
  - (b) any rule whereby an assignation is rendered ineffective by an instruction to the debtor by an assignee of a claim that the debtor perform to the assignor,
  - (c) any rule whereby an assignee of a claim may sue in the name of an assignor, and
  - (d) any rule as to warrandice to be implied—
    - (i) in assigning a claim, or
    - (ii) in providing, in a contract or unilateral undertaking, for the assignation of a claim.
- (2) But subsection (1)(c) does not affect the application of any enactment, or any rule of law, as respects subrogation.

#### **Commencement Information**

II7 S. 17 not in force at Royal Assent, see s. 121(2)

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#### Saving

# Saving as respects International Interests in Aircraft Equipment (Cape Town Convention) Regulations 2015

- (1) This Part is without prejudice to the application, as respects the assignment and acquisition of associated rights, of the International Interests in Aircraft Equipment (Cape Town Convention) Regulations 2015 (S.I. 2015/912).
- (2) In subsection (1)—
  - "assignment" has the meaning given by regulation 5, as read with regulation 35, of those regulations, and
  - "associated rights" has the meaning given by regulation 5 of those regulations.

# **Commencement Information**

I18 S. 18 not in force at Royal Assent, see s. 121(2)

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