



# Harbours, Docks and Piers Clauses Act 1847

## CHAPTER 27

### HARBOURS, DOCKS AND PIERS CLAUSES ACT 1847

[1.] Extent of Act.

*Interpretations in this Act*

- And with respect to the construction of this Act, and...
- 2 The expression “the special Act” used in this Act shall...
  - 3 Interpretations in this and the special Act.
  - 3A Interpretation: the Crown Estate and Scotland

*Citing the Act*

- And with respect to citing this Act, or any part...
- 4 Short title of this Act.
  - 5 Form in which portions of this Act may be incorporated in other Acts.

*Construction of harbour, dock, or pier*

- And with respect to the construction of the harbour, dock,...
- 6 Construction of harbour, dock, or pier, to be subject to the provisions of this Act and one of the Lands Clauses Consolidation Acts.
  - 7 Errors and omissions in plans, &c. may be corrected by justices, &c. who shall certify the same.
  - 8 Works not to be proceeded with until plans of all alterations authorized by Parliament have been deposited.
  - 9 Clerks of the peace, &c. to receive plans of alterations, and allow inspection.
  - 10 Copies of plans, &c. to be evidence.

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- 11 No deviation beyond the limits defined upon plans.
- 12 †Works on the shore of the sea, &c. not to be constructed without the authority of the Commissioners of Woods, &c. and of the Admiralty.
- 13 †Before alterations in plans are executed, to be approved of by the Admiralty and the Commissioners of Woods, &c.

#### *Accommodation for custom house officers*

And with respect to the construction of works for the...

- 14 Undertakers to erect watch-house and boat-house for custom house officers, and keep the same in repair.
- 15 Penalty on undertakers neglecting to repair watch-house, &c.

#### *Life-boats*

And with respect to life-boats, be it enacted as follows:...

- 16 Life-boats, &c. to be provided by undertakers.
- 17 Penalty for not providing life-boat, &c.

#### *Tide gauge, &c.*

And with respect to keeping a tide and weather gauge,...

- 18 A self-registering tide gauge and barometer to be provided by undertakers.
- 19 Penalty for not providing tide gauge, &c.

#### *Warehouses and cranes*

And with respect to the construction of warehouses, wharfs and...

- 20 Power to purchase additional land required for extraordinary purposes.
- 21 Power to construct warehouses and other works.
- 22 Undertakers to hire persons to work cranes.
- 23 Power to lease wharfs, warehouses, &c.
- 24 †Legal quays to be approved by the Treasury, &c.

#### *Rates*

And with respect to the rates to be taken by...

- 25 Rates not to be taken until the works shall be completed.
- 26 Certificate of magistrate to be evidence that the harbour &c. is completed.
- 27 Tonnage of British registered vessels to be ascertained according to law; of other vessels according to established rules.
- 28 Exemption of vessels in her Majesty's service, &c. from rates.
- 29 Vessels returning from stress of weather not to pay rates again.
- 30 Rates
- 31 As to the rates on foreign vessels where treaties of reciprocity exist.
- 32 Power to compound for tolls payable in respect of passenger or pleasure vessels.
- 33 Harbour, dock, and pier free to the public on payment of rate.

#### *Collection of rates*

And with respect to the collection and recovery of rates,...

- 34 Collector may enter vessels to ascertain rates payable.
- 35 Master to report arrival of vessel.

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- 36 Master of vessel to produce certificate of registry.
- 37 Masters of vessels to give accounts of goods intended to be unshipped within the limits, &c.
- 38 Penalty on masters giving no account, or a false account, of goods to be unshipped.
- 39 Shippers to give an account of goods intended to be shipped.
- 40 In case of dispute between collector and master, &c. goods to be weighed or measured.
- 41 As to the expences of weighing or measuring goods.
- 42 Rates on goods when payable.
- 43 Penalty on evading payment of rates.
- 44 Recovery of tonnage rates by distraint of ship and tackle.
- 45 Recovery of rates on goods.
- 46 Disputes concerning rates or charges occasioned by distress to be settled by a justice in England or Ireland, and in Scotland by the sheriff.
- 47 Collection of rates
- 48 Collector of customs may withhold a clearance to any vessel until the rates paid.

#### *Account of rates*

And with respect to the accounts to be kept of...

- 49 Undertakers to keep account of rates and vessels, &c.
- 50 Annual account to be prepared and transmitted to the clerk of the peace in England or Ireland, or to the sheriff in Scotland.

#### *Harbour, dock, and pier master*

And with respect to the appointment of harbour masters, dock...

- 51 Appointment of harbour, dock, or pier master.
- 52 Powers of harbour, dock, or pier master.
- 53 Penalty on shipmasters not complying with directions of the harbour master.
- 54 Penalty on harbour master for misbehaviour.
- 55 Penalty on offering bribes to dock officers, and on officers taking bribes.
- 56 Harbour master may remove wrecks, &c.
- 57 Unserviceable vessels to be altogether removed from harbour.
- 58 Harbour master may remove vessels within docks, &c.
- 59 Vessels entering harbour or dock to be dismantled as harbour master shall direct.
- 60 Vessels to have their sails lowered when entering and navigating dock.
- 61 Vessels to have hawsers, &c. fixed to moorings.
- 62 Penalty for wilfully cutting moorings.
- 63 Penalty on vessels lying near the entrance of harbour or dock without permission.
- 64 Vessels may be removed for the purpose of repairing harbour or dock.
- 65 Harbour master may remove such vessel if the master thereof neglect or refuse so to do.

#### *Discharge of cargoes and removal of goods*

And with respect to the discharging of vessels and the...

- 66 Delivery of cargoes and placing of discharged vessels.
- 67 Penalty on wharfingers giving undue preference.

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68 Goods may be removed from the quays, &c. after lying there longer than allowed by byelaws.

*Protection of the harbour, dock, and pier*

And with respect to the protection of the harbour, dock,...

- 69 Combustible matter on quays, &c., to be removed.
- 70 Combustibles to be guarded during the night.
- 71 Penalties against offences herein named:
- 72 Power to enter ship and search for and extinguish fires or lights.
- 73 Penalty for throwing ballast, &c., into harbour or dock.
- 74 Owner of vessel answerable for damage to works.
- 75 As to the recovery of amount of damage to quays, &c.
- 76 Owner may recover damage from his servants.

*Lighthouses, beacons, and buoys*

And with respect to buoys, lighthouses and beacons, be it...

- 77 Power to erect lighthouses and lay down buoys, with consent of Trinity House.
- 78 Lights, beacons, or sea-marks not to be exhibited or altered without sanction of Trinity House

*Harbour and dock police*

And with respect to the police of the harbour, dock,...

- 79 Justices to appoint special constables named by the undertakers.
- 80 Dismissal of constables.

*Meters and weighers*

And with respect to the appointment of meters and weighers,...

- 81 Power to appoint meters and weighers.
- 82 Licensed meters and weighers only to be employed.

*Byelaws*

And with respect to the byelaws to be made by...

- 83 Byelaws may be made for all or any of the purposes herein named.
- 84 Byelaws may be enforced by imposition of penalties.
- 85 No byelaws to come into operation until allowed in the manner prescribed, and approved by one of the judges.
- 86 Notice of allowance of byelaws to be given in one or more newspapers.
- 87 A copy of proposed byelaws to be open to inspection.
- 88 Publication of byelaws.
- 89 Byelaws to be binding on all parties.
- 90 Proof of publication of byelaws.
- 91 .....

*Recovery of damages and penalties*

And with respect to the recovery of damages not specially...

- 92 Railways Clauses Consolidation Act, 1845, as to damages, &c. to be incorporated with this and the special Act.
- 93 .....

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- 94 All things required to be done by two justices in England and Ireland may, in certain cases, be done by one, and in Scotland by the sheriff, &c.
- 95 †Penalties, &c. imposed in respect of any offence committed within the metropolitan police district to be paid to the receiver and applied under 2 & 3 Vict. c. 71.
- 96 .....

*Access to special Act*

- And with respect to access to the special Act, be...
- 97 Copies of special Act to be kept by undertakers at their office, and deposited with the clerks of the peace, &c., and be open to inspection.
  - 98 Penalty on undertakers failing to keep or deposit such copies.

*Saving of rights*

- And with respect to the saving of rights, be it...
- 99 Nothing in this or the special Act to affect the rights of the crown;
  - 100 nor the rights of the crown as to revenue, &c.;
  - 101 nor the rights of the City of London;
  - 102 nor the rights of Trinity House, &c.
  - 103 Act not to exempt the undertakers from the provisions of any general Act.
  - 104 .....

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**Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:**

- Act applied by [S.I. 2024/147 art. 4](#)
- Act excluded by [2023 c. 8 s. 11\(8\)](#)