

**Law No. (121) of 1982  
Regarding the Importers Register**

**In the name of the people  
President of Republic**

**The People's Assembly enacted the following law, and we  
promulgated it:**

**Article 1**

No natural or legal person shall import goods for the purpose of trading unless registered in the importers register prepared for this by the competent authority in the Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade in accordance with the provisions of this law and in the application of the provisions of the previous article, the import of goods by the commercial agent is considered an import for the purpose of trading.

**Article 2**

The person requesting to be registered in the importers register shall fulfill the following conditions:

**First: Registration of natural persons:**

- A. Shall be registered in the commercial register and in possession of a tax card.
- B. Shall be of Egyptian nationality. As for who acquired the Egyptian nationality, a period of no less than ten years shall be passed from the date of acquiring this nationality.
- C. Shall practice commercial business for at least two consecutive years prior to the application for registration, and the practice of business is proven by a certificate from the relevant chamber of commerce approved by the Federation of Egyptian Chambers of Commerce, or practice peer work in the government, public organizations, public institutions, local government units, or companies of all types for a similar period, and the executive regulations shall specify the businesses that are considered equivalent to the commercial businesses and how to prove their practices.

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- D. The holder of Import Card and hold a university degree or equivalent at the time of application of this law shall be exempted from that conditioned, without prejudice to the provisions set forth in section (H); clause (1) of this article.
- E. shall not be subject to an irrevocable sentence in a felony, shall not be subject to punishment in a crime of dishonesty or breaching of trust, or in a crime provided within the Laws of, Import or Export, Fund, Customs, Taxes, Supply, Companies, Trade or under one of the crimes as provided within Article (8) and Article (9) of this law; unless reconciliation of rehabilitation occurs.
- F. Shall not be discharged bankrupt unless reconciliation of rehabilitation occurs.
- G. the capital mentioned in the commercial register shall not be less than EGP 10000 when requesting registration (ten thousand pounds)  
The holder of Import Card at the time of application of this law shall be exempted from the herein condition.  
This quorum is reduced by half for the holder of a university degree or its equivalent.
- H. The person who practiced peer work for commercial work, including government employees, general organizations, public institutions, local government units, or companies affiliated to the public sector, shall be registered in the importers register after the lapse of two years period of separation from service due to resignation or disciplinary reason.
- I. Shall not be a member of people's assembly, Shoura Council, local councils, or dedicated to political work for the duration of their membership unless he was originally engaged in this work prior to his membership.

#### Second: Registration for Companies

- (a) The company shall be registered in the commercial register. As for partnerships, shall be registered for at least one year prior this. Companies holding an import card at the time of application of this law or with a capital not less than EGP 20000 (twenty thousand Egyptian pounds) shall be exempted from the condition of term.
- (b) Headquarters of the company shall be in the Arab republic of Egypt.

- (c) One of the company's objectives shall be to import goods for the purpose of trading.
  - (d) The paid-up capital of the partnerships shall not be less than EGP 15000 (fifteen thousand Egyptian pounds) This shall be proved through the last balance sheet provided by the company to the Tax Authority for the previous fiscal year, or by providing a certificate indicating deposit of the share capital within one of the banks, which are registered within the Central Bank in case the Company commences practicing the activity thereof.
- The partnerships that hold the Import card at the time of application of this law shall be exempted from this condition.

- (e) the shares or stakes of the partners in the joint-stock companies and the limited partnership companies shall be owned by Egyptians, taking into account the lapse of a period of not less than ten years from the date of acquisition of the Egyptian citizenship.
  - (f) The partners and directors of the partnerships, directors, chairmen and members of the boards of directors of associations are of Egyptian nationality. For the ones who acquire the Egyptian nationality, a period of not less than ten years shall be passed from the date of acquiring this nationality.
  - (g) The joint partners and managers of the associations shall fulfill the conditions mentioned in sections (d), (e), (g) and (h) of the conditions for the registration of natural persons. Public sector companies shall be exempted from conditions (e), (f) and second provision as long as the import is related to its activities.
- Limited liability companies are treated as partnerships in the field of enforcing this Law.

### **Article 3**

The executive regulation defines the following:

- (a) The procedures and documents for registration in the importers register, renewal of registration, amendment of data and division of commodity groups.
- (b) The system for issuing a periodic bulletin with data on importers issued by the competent authority in the Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade.
- (c) Amounts and fees paid upon registration, amendment of data, images, certificates, and publishing fees, not to exceed the following

## **EGP**

300	Insurance submitted with the registration request.
500	Registration fee for the first time and for re-registration with a maximum of ten commodity groups.
200	Registration fee for renewal.
50	Fee for each addition of a commodity group that exceeds the indicated maximum limit.
10	Fee for requesting amendment or recording of data except for the addition and modification of commodity groups.
10	Publication fee for registration, renewal or amendment.
5	Fee for extracting a copy of the record sheet or a negative certificate for the record. Extracts and certificates required by ministries, government departments, local government units and public organizations shall be exempted from paying this fee.

### **Article 4**

The importer shall notify the competent authority at the Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade of all changes or modifications to the data registered in the register within sixty days from the date of their occurrence, in accordance with the procedures specified by the executive regulations

### **Article 5**

The registration shall be renewed every five years from the date of registration or from the date of the last renewal, provided that the application shall be submitted during the ninety days preceding the expiration of the period. However, the application shall be accepted if it is submitted within the ninety days following the expiration of the period, if the applicant shall pay the fees doubled.

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

### **Article 6**

Without prejudice to the penalties stipulated in this law or any other laws, if the importer shall be subject to an irrevocable sentence in a felony, shall be subject to punishment in a crime of dishonesty or breaching of trust, or in a crime

provided within the Laws of Import or Export, fund, Customs, taxes, supply, companies, trade or under one of the crimes as provided within Article (8) and Article (9) of this law; the importer record shall be canceled from the importers record and his right to recover the registration insurance in the register is forfeited, and he shall not be able to re-register it in the importers register unless reconciliation of rehabilitation occurs.

#### **Article 7**

The importer registration shall be canceled if he no longer meets one of the conditions for registration in the register, as well as in the case of death or the expiration of the legal person licensed to import.

#### **Article 8**

Without prejudice to any more severe sanction, shall be punished with imprisonment for a period of no less than six months and a fine of no less than EGP 500 and not more than EGP 2000, or one of the two penalties. Confiscation of the goods subject of the crime shall be as the case:

1. import goods with the purpose of trading without being registered in the importers register.
2. Provide incorrect data related to registration in the importers register, renewal of registration in the register, or amendment of its data with malicious.
3. Write down incorrect information on one of the correspondences, publications, or papers related to the import business regarding registration in the register, and the penalty is doubled in the case of repetition.

#### **Article 9**

Without prejudice to any more severe sanction, collusion with a foreigner exploiting his registered name in the importers register with the intention of importing for the benefit of this foreigner shall be punished with imprisonment for a period of no less than one year and a fine of not less than EGP 1000 and not more than EGP 4000, or one of the two penalties, in all cases, the seized items shall be confiscated.

#### **Article 10**

Shall be punished with a fine of not less than EGP 50 and not more than EGP 200:

1. Whoever deliberately withholds one of the persons assigned to implement the provisions of this law from enabling to view the records and papers entitled to view in accordance with its provisions.

2. Whoever commits another violation of the provisions of this law or its implementing decrees.

#### **Article 11**

The general partner, the manager, the member of the board of directors, or the responsible head of the department shall be punished in case of violations committed of articles (8), (9) and (10), as mentioned herein in the law, by legal persons as in the case.

#### **Article 12**

The convictions of the crimes stipulated in Articles (8), (9) and (10) of this law shall be published at the expense of the convicted person in one of the daily newspapers and the bulletin issued by the competent authority at the Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade. Publication expenses may be collected through administrative seizure.

#### **Article 13**

Enforcement personnel of the provisions of this law, shall enjoy judicial control issued by a decree of the Minister of Justice after agreement with the Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade to prove the crimes that occur in violation of the provisions of this law and the decrees issued for its implementation, shall be entitled to view the records, notebooks and documents, and the concerned parties shall provide the data, extracts and copies of the documents that are required for this purpose.

#### **Article 14**

personnel assigned to implement 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 viewed in the application of the provisions of this law, violations shall be punished with the penalty stipulated in Article (310) of the Penal Code.

#### **Article 15**

The executive regulation of this law shall be issued by a decree of the Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade after 4 months of the day next to the publishing date in the official gazette.

#### **Article 16**

This law shall be published within the Official Gazette and shall be applicable as after 9 months of the day next to the publishing date.

This law shall be sealed by the seal of the Republic, and shall be enforced as one of the laws thereof.

Issued in the Presidency of Republic on 6th of Shawal 1402 H.  
(Corresponding to July 26th 1982)

Hosni Mubarak

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**Ministry of Trade and Industry**  
**Decree No. 846 of 2017**  
**of the Executive Regulations of Law No. 121 of 1982**  
**on the Register of Importers**

The Minister of Trade and Industry

After reviewing Law No. 137 of 1974, of certain provisions concerning import and export;

Law No. 118 of 1975 on import and export;

Law No. 34 of 1976 on the Commercial Registry;

Law No. 159 of 1981 promulgating the law on Shareholding Companies, Limited Shares Partnerships and Limited Liability Companies;

Law No. 121 of 1982 on the Importers Register;

Law No. 95 on The Financial Leasing;

Law No. 17 of 1999, promulgating the Law of Trade;

Law No. 91 of 2005 on The income Tax;

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

Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Decree No. 343 of 1982 of the Executive Regulation of Law No. 121 of 1982 on the Register of Importers;

Minister of Foreign Trade and Industry Decree No. 770 of 2005 promulgating the implementing Regulations of the provisions of Law No. 118 of 1975 on Import and Export;

On the basis of what the Council of State has established; Promulgated

**(Chapter I)**  
**Definitions**

**Article (1)**

In application of the provisions of these Regulations, the following words and Phrases are intended in their respective terms:

**Law:** Law No. 121 of 1982 on the Register of Importers.

**Organization:** The General Organization for Export and Import Control or one of its branches.

**The concerned party:** The individual merchant, who has the right to sign and manage the Partnerships, limited liability companies with limited liability, as well as the chairman, deputy or director in charge of the association of capital, as described in the registration

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**The concerned party:** The individual merchant, who has the right to sign and manage the Partnerships, limited liability companies with limited liability, as well as the chairman, deputy or director in charge of the association of capital, as described in the registration document in the commercial register, and the authorized representative shall be of Egyptian nationality and authorized under a power of attorney.

**Import for the purpose of trading:** Goods imported in a commercial capacity for sale on import or after filling without any conversion or complementary process, including those imported by financial leasing companies in accordance with the provisions of Act No. 95 of 1995.

**Import Certificate:** A certificate of passing the course or training courses qualifying for the import activity issued by the Foreign Trade Training Centre of the Ministry of Foreign Trade or other centres approved by the Minister for Foreign Trade Affairs; The centres shall be committed to the adoption of training courses and training hours and fees for certification from the Minister for Foreign Trade Affairs.

**Import Officer:** The employee or employees of the individual enterprise or company who is responsible for the import and who are permanently employed in the enterprise, and if non-company or board member shall be insured in social insurance, the documentary evidence shall be provided.

**Registry:** The importers register at the Organization in accordance with the provisions of the law.

## **(Chapter II)** **General Provisions**

### **Article (2)**

The Organization shall maintain the register of importers provided for by law.

### **Article (3)**

Any person who imports goods from abroad for the purpose of trading shall be registered in the importers Registry.

### **Article (4)**

The application for registration shall be submitted on the prepared form to the Organization, after payment of the fees established by law.

### **Article (5)**

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The organization shall deliver to the person registered in the registry evidence of his registration on the form prepared for this, including his registration number, and the registration shall be valid for a period of five years from the date of registration or renewal.

#### **Article (6)**

Whoever is registered in the registry must record his registration number in all his papers and correspondence.

### **(Chapter III) Documents of Registration**

#### **Article (7)**

The following documents shall be attached to the application submitted by the party concerned for registration in the aforementioned register:

#### **First: the registration of natural persons (individual trader)**

- (A) An official extract from the registration in the commercial register of the main store, provided that the import is included in the activity of the trader, provided that the capital proven in the commercial register when requesting registration is not less than five hundred thousand pounds.  
The person registered in the registry prior to the date of enforcement of this regulation shall regularize his position in relation to the capital within six months from the date on which the regulation came into effect.
- (B) A certificate from the relevant chamber of commerce certified by the General Federation of Chambers of Commerce proving the trader commercial business for at least two consecutive years prior to the registration application.
- (C) A copy of the trader identification documents.
- (D) An official extract of the birth certificate or the Egyptian nationality card for those of foreign origin
- (E) A copy of the tax card meeting all the terms.
- (F) An import practice certificate for the person concerned or responsible for import.
- (G) A copy of the tax return for the year preceding the date of submitting the registration, certified by the Tax Authority, provided that the volume of business confirmed in the tax return is not less than two million pounds, and exempt from presenting this document in

possession of an import card prior to the date of enforcement of the law.

- (H) A cash security deposit receipt or a letter of guarantee of fifty thousand pounds. The holders of an import card, prior to the implementation of this regulation, shall regularize their status in accordance with the provisions within six months from the date of enforcement.
- (I) A declaration by the party concerned that he shall not be subject to an irrevocable sentence in a felony, shall not be subject to punishment in a crime of dishonesty or breaching of trust, or in a crime provided within the Laws included in paragraph (D) of Clause First of Article (2) of the Law.
- (J) A declaration by the person concerned that he shall not be subject to an irrevocable sentence issued for committing a fraudulent bankruptcy or bankruptcy due to failure unless rehabilitation occurs.
- (K) Shall not be a member of people's assembly, or local councils, or in dedication to political work.  
If a member of these councils or dedicated to political work, shall provide documentation of the date of commencing the membership or his prior dedication to operate in commercial business.

## **Second: Registration of companies and limited liability companies**

- (A) An official extract of the company's registration in the commercial register, provided that the import of goods shall be for the purpose of trading and that at least one year has passed prior to registration.
- (B) An official extract of the articles of incorporation of the company and the amendments made, provided that the contract and the amendments are publicized and proven in the commercial registry.
- (C) A document proving that the paid-up capital is not less than two million pounds, by either submitting a certified copy of the Tax Authority of the company's last balance sheet, or submitting a certificate from one of the banks registered with the Central Bank of the paid capital.

The companies holding an import card, prior to the implementation of this regulation, shall regularize their status in accordance with their provisions within six months from the effective date of enforcement.

- (D) An official extract of the birth certificate of the director responsible for import or his Egyptian nationality card if of foreign nationality.

- (E) Import practice certificate for the manager in charge of import and the import personnel.
- (F) Certified copy of the Tax Authority of the last tax declaration of the previous year for submitting the registration application, stating that the volume of business is not less than five million pounds, companies that hold an import card at the time of this regulation shall be exempted from this condition.
- (G) The declarations clarified in paragraphs (i, j, k) referred to in clause (first), the joint partners, company directors, and import personnel.
- (H) A copy of the companies gazette in which the contract of incorporation and the articles of association of the limited liability company was published, and a copy of the volumes in which the amendments to the company contract were published.
- (I) Acknowledgment by the person enjoys the right to manage and sign, certified by the supervising authority of the company, that at least 51% of the shares of the company are owned by citizens of Egyptian nationality, and financial leasing companies shall be exempted from this condition.
- (J) A cash security deposit receipt or a letter of credit for an amount of two hundred thousand pounds.

The companies holding an import card, prior to the implementation of this regulation, shall regularize their positions in accordance with the provisions within six months from the effective date of its enforcement.

**Third: For the registration of joint stock companies and partnerships:**

- (A) Extract from the commercial registry of the company, provided that goods shall be imported for the purpose trade and the main headquarters shall be in the Arab Republic of Egypt.
- (B) A copy of the Official Gazette or the corporate gazette in which the founding contract and articles of association is published, as well as a copy of each volume in which any amendment to the contract or articles of association of the company was published, provided that the issued capital shall not be less than five million pounds. The companies that obtained an import card prior to the date of enforcement of this regulation shall regularize their status according to their provisions within six months from the date of enforcement.
- (C) A declaration from the chairman of the company's board of directors or whoever has the right to manage and sign, certified by the supervising authority of the company, that at least (51%) of the

company's quotes or shares are owned by Egyptians, and financial leasing companies are exempted from this condition.

- (D) A copy of the tax declaration approved by the Tax authority for the year prior to the registration request, stating that the volume of business is not less than five million pounds, companies that have an import card shall be exempted from this condition at the time this regulation is effective.
- (E) The declarations illustrated in paragraphs (i, j, and k) referred to in clause (first) of this article herein, in relation to the company's managers and the workers responsible for import.
- (F) Certificate of import practice for the manager responsible for the import and import personnel.
- (G) A cash security deposit receipt or letter of credit for an amount of two hundred thousand pounds. the companies holding an import card prior to this regulation shall regularize their status in accordance with their provisions within six months of date of enforcement.

## **Chapter 4**

### **Commodity Groups**

#### **Article 8**

Commodity groups are determined according to the sections of the customs import tariff as follows:

1. Livestock and products of the animal kingdom
2. Plant Products
3. Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their breakdown products, prepared edible fats, animal or vegetable waxes
4. Food industry products, beverages, alcoholic liquids and vinegar, tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes
5. Mineral products.
6. Products of the chemical industry or allied industries
7. Plastics and articles thereof, rubber and articles thereof
8. Raw hides and skins, tanned or prepared leather, leather with furs and articles of these materials, various kinds of animals and saddlery, travel supplies, handbags and containers suitable for them, articles of animal gut (except for silkworm gut).
9. Wood and articles thereof, wood charcoal, cork and articles thereof, articles of straw or allies or other plaiting materials, and articles of the mats and basket industries.

10. Pulp of wood or other fibrous cellulosic materials, paper or paperboard (waste and scraps) for the purpose of recycling, paper, paperboard and articles thereof.
11. Textile materials and articles thereof
12. Shoe varieties, headgear, rain umbrellas, sun umbrellas, walking canes, seat canes, equestrian whips, parts of these items, prepared feathers and articles made of them, artificial flowers, articles of human hair
13. Articles of stone, plaster, cement, asbestos (asbestos or amethyst), mica or similar materials, products of ceramics, glass and articles thereof.
14. Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, and base metals clad with precious metals and articles thereof, seduction jewelry (fake), money
15. Base metals and articles thereof
16. Machinery and automatic equipment, electrical equipment, parts thereof, sound recording and broadcasting equipment, television and audio-visual recording and broadcasting equipment, parts and accessories of these devices.
17. Transmission equipment
18. Tools and equipment for optics, photography, cinematography, measuring, checking and monitoring, or measuring and fine tuning, musical instruments, parts and accessories of these tools and devices
19. Weapons and ammunition, parts and accessories thereof
20. Various goods and products not mentioned or included in the previous groups
21. Masterpieces of art, collectors' pieces and antiques

## **Chapter 5**

### **Amending the registration data in the importers register**

#### **Article 9**

Those registered in the registry are obligated to notify the Organization of any change or amendment in the data registered in the Register within sixty days prior to the date of the change or amendment occurring.

#### **Article 10**

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If the data amendment request is not submitted during the time referred to in Article 9 of these regulations, the party concerned may not invoke it before a third party.

#### **Article 11**

The party concerned shall submit a request to amend the data on the form prepared for this at the Organization and shall attach to the request an official document proving that the amendment was made.

### **Chapter 6**

#### **Renewal of registration in the importers register**

#### **Article 12**

In the event of willingness to renew the registration in the registry, the party concerned shall submit a renewal request on the form prepared for this in the organization within the ninety days prior to the end of the validity period of the registration, after paying the prescribed fees in accordance with the law.

#### **Article 13**

In the event that an application is submitted to renew the registration after the end of its validity and within a maximum period of ninety days, the registration shall be renewed, provided that the prescribed fees shall be doubled.

#### **Article 14**

The following documents shall be attached to the renewal application:

- (A) A recent extract from the registration sheet in the commercial register.
- (B) A copy of the company's latest balance sheet approved by the Tax Authority for companies that adhere to a financial quorum for their registration
- (C) An import practice certificate for the party concerned or those responsible for import.

### **Chapter 7**

## **Fees**

### **Article 15**

Collecting fees for registration, re-registration, amendment of data, issuance of photos, certificates, and publishing fees as follows:

EGP 5000	The registration fee for the first time and for re-registration
EGP 2000	Registration renewal fee
EGP 1000	For each commodity group
EGP 500	Fee for requesting amendment or recording of data except for adding or amending commodity groups
EGP 500	Publication fee for registration, renewal or amendment
EGP 100	Fee for extracting a copy of the record sheet or a negative certificate. Extracts and certificates required by ministries, government departments, local units and public authorities are exempt from the payment of this fee.

## **Chapter 8**

### **Issuing bulletins**

#### **Article 16**

The Organization shall issue a periodic bulletin every three months with the importers' data, including registration, amendment, renewal, cancellation, or any other data related to importers' registration.

This bulletin shall also include the conviction provisions issued for the crimes stipulated in Articles (8 and 10) of the law.

#### **Article 17**



The Organization shall publish the provisions of the conviction referred to in Article (16) of these regulations at the expense of the convicted person in one of the daily newspapers. Publication expenses may be collected through administrative seizure.

## **Chapter 9**

### **Cancellation of the record**

#### **Article 18**

The delisting decision from the registry in the cases stipulated in Articles 6 and 7 of the Law shall be issued by the Chairman of the Board of Directors.

#### **Article 19**

The Organization shall notify the importer by registered letter with acknowledgment of receipt of the delisting decision and its reasons within two months prior to the date of the delisting

#### **Article 20**

The importer registration shall be canceled if the application for renewal of the record is not submitted within ninety days prior to the date of the expiration date of the validity of the record

## **Chapter 10**

### **Suspension of registration**

#### **Article 21**

The decision to suspend the registration from the registry for a period not exceeding two years in the cases stipulated 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 its reasons within two months from the date of the suspension.

### **Chapter 11**

#### **Final provisions**

#### **Article 23**

The right to recover the insurance stipulated in Article (3) bis of the law shall be forfeited in the event that the registration is removed from the of the law, and this) 6(registry in accordance with the provisions of Article insurance is returned in other cases.

#### **Article 24**

All bodies entrusted with implementing the provisions of the laws referred to in Article (6) of the law shall notify the Organization of the final judgments issued in violation of the provisions of these laws, and the Organization shall conduct its affairs to cancel the parties with final judgment from entry in the registry.