

CODE OF CIVIL AND COMMERCIAL AVIATION

BOOK I—AIRCRAFT

Article 1. Aircraft in the meaning of this law shall be any contrivance capable of rising and circulating in the air.

Article 2. Military aircraft and aircraft belonging to the State and used only in the public service shall be subject only to the rules concerning liability of the owner or the operator.

Title I—Registration, Nationality, and Ownership of Aircraft

Article 3. All aircraft must be registered in a register kept by the ministry in charge of civil and commercial aviation. It shall bear a name and an order number and the designation of the category to which it belongs.

However, an order shall determine the categories of aircraft which need not be registered.

Article 4. Aircraft registered in the French register shall have French nationality and must bear a visible sign of this nationality as provided by the regulations.

Article 5. Aircraft may be registered in France only if it belongs to French nationals.

A corporation may be registered as owner of an aircraft only if it has French nationality. Furthermore, in the case of an unincorporated association, all the associates or members, and in the case of a corporation, the chairman of the board, the president and at least two-thirds of the managing officers must be French nationals.

Article 6. Aircraft registered in France shall lose French nationality if the conditions set forth in the preceding article are no longer fulfilled or if its owner registers it in a foreign country.

Article 7. Aircraft registered abroad may be registered in France only upon proof that the foreign registration has been cancelled.

Article 8. Legal relations among persons aboard foreign aircraft in flight shall be governed by the law of the home State of such aircraft whenever the law of the country overflown would normally govern.

However, in the case of a crime or delict committed aboard a foreign aircraft, the French courts shall have jurisdiction if the person committing the crime or the victim is a French national or if the aircraft lands in France after the crime or delict.

The courts of jurisdiction shall be those of the place where the aircraft lands in the case an arrest is made at the time of landing, and those of the place of arrest in the case where the person committing the violation is later arrested in France.

Article 9. The register shall indicate the name and domicile of the owner of the aircraft, the category of the contrivance, its name and order number. The registration shall serve as title.

Article 10. Aircraft shall be considered personal property as concerns application of the Civil Code. However, any assignment of ownership must be by written instrument and shall be without effect in regard to third persons unless registration has been made.