

Such liability may be reduced or avoided only by proof of the negligence of the injured person.

Art. 56. Except with a special authorization, it shall be prohibited, other than in cases of *force majeure*, to throw from an aircraft in flight any goods or articles whatever, with the exception of regulation ballast.

In case of jettisoning by reason of *force majeure*, or jettisoning of regulation ballast, or of specially authorized jettisoning which causes damage to persons and property on the ground, the liability shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of the preceding article.

Art. 57. In the case of charter of an aircraft, the owner and the operator shall be jointly liable to third persons for any damage.

However, when the charter has been recorded in the register, the owner shall only be liable when the third person proves negligence on his part.

Art. 58. An action for damage liability shall be brought, at the choice of the plaintiff, in the court of the place where the damage was caused or in the court at the domicile of the defendant.

In the case of damage to an aircraft in flight, the court at the place where the aircraft had to land after the damage shall have jurisdiction.

Art. 59. The provisions of the Merchant Marine Code concerning aid and salvage at sea shall apply to aircraft in danger at sea and to pilots of aircraft who may render assistance to the persons in danger.

Art. 60. Any person who finds a wrecked aircraft must notify the nearest administrative authority within forty-eight hours after the discovery.

However, the rules concerning shipwrecks shall apply only to aircraft wrecked at sea or on the seashore.

Art. 61. In the case of disappearance of an aircraft without news, the aircraft shall be presumed lost three months after the date when the last news was sent.

The death of persons aboard an aircraft may, after expiration of such period, be declared by a judgment in accordance with the provisions of the Civil Code.

If necessary, the Minister of Civil Aviation may declare that there is a presumption of disappearance and he may send to the court of jurisdiction the requests necessary for a judicial declaration of the death of the persons who have disappeared.

The persons concerned may also proceed, in accordance with the provisions of the Civil Code, to obtain a judicial declaration of death. In that case, such request shall be transmitted by the Public Ministry to the Minister of Civil Aviation.

Art. 62. The manner of application of the preceding articles shall be determined by decree.

TITLE IV. ACCIDENT.

Art. 63. The flight commander shall submit a detailed report within forty-eight hours after any accident or event which may have serious consequences, whether it occurs on the ground, or in flight, or concerning any violation of flight rules.