

COSTA RICA

LAW ON CIVIL AVIATION ¹

PART I. PRINCIPLES OF AIR NAVIGATION

TITLE I. AIRSPACE AND LAND SURFACE

CHAPTER I. SOVEREIGNTY OVER AIRSPACE AND ITS EFFECTS

Article 1. Costa Rica owns and exercises full and exclusive sovereignty over the airspace above the continental and island territory of the Republic and its territorial waters, permitting in peacetime freedom of innocent passage to civil aviation in accordance with the law and international conventions. Military aircraft of foreign nations may not operate in this airspace without permission of the Ministry of Public Security.

Article 2. Foreign non-military aircraft may operate in the national airspace only in accordance with the provisions of this law and the regulations issued thereunder. No foreign aircraft may operate on air transport service between two points of the national territory.

Article 3. Costa Rican authorities and laws have absolute jurisdiction over aircraft on the national territory or in its airspace. Sole exception is made of foreign military aircraft, duly authorized to operate, or which are operating on diplomatic missions of foreign nations, in accordance with international standards governing in this respect in Costa Rica.

Article 4. The Executive Power may, by decree, establish restricted or prohibited zones for air navigation for reasons of defense or public security.

Article 5. The designation of airports for international services shall be made by the Executive Power. All foreign aircraft or aircraft on international flights entering the Republic, except in cases of emergency shall make their first landing at one of said airports, subject to the provisions of Article 147 *et seq.* of the Sanitary Code.

CHAPTER II. USE OF THE AIRSPACE

SECTION I. AIR ROUTES

Article 6. The Civil Aviation Board may designate and establish air routes, and within its available financial resources, for the same purpose may:

- a) Acquire, establish, operate and maintain all existing facilities for air navigation over the air routes.
- b) Publish maps and charts of such air routes, and make use of the facilities and assistance of other government departments.

¹ Decree-law 762 of October 18, 1949. Published in *La Gaceta*, October 26, 1950.