

The Department of Aviation shall make a declaration of abandonment, and, through the competent authorities, shall dispose of the aircraft and of equipment found on it.

Article 183. Assistance. In case of an air accident, any national or foreign aircraft may come to the aid of the victims without need of obtaining special permission, but it shall be under duty to communicate immediately with the Department of Aviation by the most rapid channel.

Article 184. Conveyance of messages. Radio, telegraphic and radio-telephonic messages concerning an air accident must be sent directly to the Department of Aviation, and shall be handled as official and urgent.

Article 185. Rescue parties. Civil and military authorities of the country are under duty to send rescue parties upon being notified of an air accident, offering first aid immediately to the victims and establishing military or civilian guards at the place of the accident until the arrival of the investigators appointed by the Department of Aviation.

Article 186. Protection of aircraft. If accidentally or by *force majeure* an aircraft is forced to land on Salvador territory, the commander or pilot of the aircraft, or in his absence any member of the crew, shall see that no merchandise or baggage is unloaded, and that the passengers do not leave the place of landing until they have permission to do so from the competent authorities, unless it is made necessary because of rescue operations.

Article 187. Protection of mail. The correspondence being transported by an aircraft which has suffered an accident, or which makes a forced landing, may be picked up; but in that event, it must be delivered as soon as possible to a responsible employee of the postal service of El Salvador, who shall sign a receipt for it.

TITLE II

CHAPTER I. AIR TRANSPORT CONTRACTS

Article 188. Definition of enterprise. An airline enterprise is any natural or corporate person who, in a permanent manner, engages in carriage by air for compensation, or is constituted for such a purpose.

Article 189. Carrier. For the purposes of this Law, a carrier shall be any natural or corporate person effecting air transportation for compensation.

Article 190. Definition of employee. An employee is any agent or subordinate of the carrier acting in his name or in his behalf in the performance of the functions corresponding to his employment, whether or not they fall within the field of his duties.

Article 191. Operator. For the purposes of this Law, an operator is any natural or corporate person who, in his own right or through its employees, uses an aircraft for the carriage of persons or cargo.

The term operator does not include the charterer, unless the charter contract expressly specifies that the charterer assumes all of the obligations of operator and all of the rights to issue orders to the crew of the aircraft as to operations of same during the entire period of the charter.