

limits and on the conditions specified; however, the operator who has paid a sum greater than that for which he is liable shall have the right to demand the excess amount.

FIFTH SECTION. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 261. Civil liability of national or foreign carriers in international air transportation shall be governed by Article 225 insofar as provided therein, and otherwise by the international agreements in force in the Republic. In the absence of such agreements such liability shall be governed by this law and by other applicable laws, when the accident or the damages and injuries have occurred in national territory.

Article 262. In all cases of contractual or extracontractual liability provided for in this law, the right to demand compensation shall terminate when no action is brought within two years from the date on which the event that caused the damages occurred or, otherwise, from the date on which the transportation began.

Article 263. In all cases of contractual liability covered by this law, a higher limit of compensation may be fixed by virtue of a special agreement between the company or carrier and the passenger or shipper, as the case may be.

Article 264. The guaranties supplied in conformity with this law to pay for damages arising from contractual or extracontractual liability must be used primarily or preferentially for the payment of any compensation established by this law.

Article 265. Every claim must be presented in writing to the carrier concerned.

Article 266. When a claim is not made within the terms previously provided for, no action may be brought against the carrier, unless it is proved that he is guilty of fraud.

Article 267. Damages caused by aircraft on land shall be regulated by the general laws.

Article 268. The provisions of the general laws shall be applicable in all cases not provided for in this law.

TITLE III. VIOLATIONS

Article 269. The General Direction of Civil Aeronautics shall organize and regulate the service of registration of civil aircraft in the entire country for the purpose of guaranteeing safe conditions of air navigation.

Article 270. The General Direction of Civil Aeronautics shall have the power to enforce strict compliance with the laws and regulations relating to civil aviation and to impose appropriate penalties.

To impose penalties the General Direction of Civil Aeronautics shall first hear the accused.

The appeals established in the Code of Administrative Procedure may be used against the decisions of the General Direction of Civil Aeronautics, unless this law provides otherwise.

Article 271. A fine of from L100.00 to L1,000.00 shall be imposed on any commander or pilot of any civil aircraft who, without having special authorization or without *force majeure*:

- a) Flies over cities or populated areas at a lower altitude than that prescribed in the flight regulations;