

in danger, and regarding the duty of private persons and enterprises to render the necessary assistance in rescue works, and he shall establish the compensation rights for such assistance.

The Minister of Aviation may impose a duty on the owner or operator of an aircraft to refund in whole or in part the expenses incurred by the State in connection with the search for a lost aircraft, provided this is not contrary to international agreements. The same shall apply to rescue expenses insofar as they are not covered by salvage money.

SALVAGE OF AIRCRAFT

Article 139. A person who salvages, or assists in salvaging an aircraft wrecked or in danger, including baggage or cargo aboard, or any part of an aircraft or cargo, shall have a right to salvage money in accordance with the provisions on salvage of ships and cargo aboard, whether the salvage is performed on sea, on land or in the air. Any person who rescues, or assists in rescuing a life under emergency conditions which led to the salvage of the aircraft, may claim a share of the salvage money.

Any person who has paid extraordinary and unavoidable expenses for preserving an aircraft shall have a right to repayment of such expenses unless such action was contrary to an explicit and justified order of the aircraft commander.

A claim to salvage money or repayment of expenses shall not exceed the value of the property salvaged, including the aircraft, passengers, baggage and cargo.

Article 140. The owner of salvage cargo shall be liable only for the value of the salvaged goods. A claim to salvage money shall be secured by a lien on aircraft, baggage and cargo with priority over all other security. Claims based on a later event shall have priority over those based on earlier events.

The lien shall cease when the goods are delivered. The lien on the aircraft ceases after 3 months, unless this right is entered on the register and the account approved, or a lawsuit concerning this right has been initiated. The lawsuit may be initiated in the court of the place where the salvage work was carried out, or of the place where the aircraft and goods are located.

INVESTIGATION OF FLIGHT ACCIDENTS

Article 141. If a flight accident occurs which causes death or serious injury to a person on or outside the aircraft, or serious damage to the aircraft or to property outside the aircraft, an investigation shall be made by the Aviation Board.

This shall apply also when the serious possibility of the danger of such an accident exists or when an essential defect has been noted in an aircraft or aviation ground installation or the operation thereof.

In the case of death the Minister of Aviation shall appoint a committee of experts to determine the cause of the accident.

Article 142. A person who has knowledge of the occurrence of a flight accident shall without delay inform the nearest police authority or the Aviation Board, unless he has good reason to assume that the authorities have already been informed of the accident. This shall