

Article 177. Freedom of the Carrier.

None of the stipulations in this Law shall prevent the carrier from refusing to enter a transportation contract, or to make rules, which are not in conflict with the provisions of the present Law.

Article 178. Liability of successive Carriers.

1) In cases of transportation performed by successive carriers, each carrier shall be considered as a party to the transportation contract, insofar as concerns the portion of the carrier effected under his control.

2) Any action for damages to passengers must be brought against the carrier who performed the transportation at the time the damage occurred, except in the case where the first carrier, by express stipulation, has assumed liability for the entire trip.

3) When baggage or cargo is involved, the passenger or the shipper has a right of recourse against the first carrier and the consignee against the last one; in addition, either may proceed against the carrier who performed the carriage during the course of which the destruction, loss, accident, or delay occurred. These carriers shall be jointly liable with respect to the shipper or passenger and the addressee or consignee.

Article 179. De Facto Carrier.

When a person other than the contract carrier, on the basis of authorization granted by the latter, performs all or part of the transportation contracted for, but is not a successive carrier in the sense of Article 118, both the contractual carrier and the *de facto* carrier shall be subject to the provisions of this Title of the Code, the former with respect to the entire carriage provided for in the contract, and the latter only with respect to the carriage performed by him.

Article 180. Combined Transportation.

In cases of combined transportation effected partially by air and partially by other means of transportation, the provisions of the present Title shall be applicable only to the transportation by air.

Article 181. Dangerous Animals

In the carriage of large or dangerous animals, the carrier may contract for a veterinarian to administer tranquilizers to the animals, in case they cannot be loaded and unloaded without danger by the normal methods; the carrier may also destroy such animals by use of drugs or other means if, after they are on the aircraft, they present a danger to it. In none of these cases shall the carrier incur any liability.

CHAPTER II. DAMAGES TO THIRD PERSONS ON THE GROUND

Article 182. Right of Redress.

1) Any person suffering damage on the ground under conditions specified in this Law, shall have a right of redress, by merely proving that the damage was caused by an aircraft in flight or by a person or thing falling therefrom. However, there shall be no right of redress if the damage was not the direct consequence of the occurrence originating it, or if it was due to the mere fact of passage of the aircraft through the airspace in conformity with the regulatory provisions on air traffic.