

institution duly authorized to cover these risks to the satisfaction of the General Bureau of Civil Aeronautics, according to international provisions in force in this field.

2) An exception of the duty to contract insurance is made in favor of those foreign companies exclusively employing light planes or other types of small craft, if they prove to the satisfaction of the General Bureau of Civil Aeronautics that it is not possible to obtain insurance, or that if obtainable, the cost would be prohibitive.

Article 196. Special Liens.

Payment of the corresponding compensations established in this Law shall constitute a special and preferred lien on the insurance and other guarantees defined in this Law for reparation of damages arising from contractual or extracontractual liabilities.

Article 197. Control.

The General Bureau of Civil Aeronautics shall see that the insurance for damages to passengers remains valid for the duration of the permit or certificate of operation, and as long as the registration of the aircraft is valid, under penalty of suspension or permanent cancellation of the operating license.

CHAPTER V. PROVISIONS IN COMMON

Article 198. Applicable Law to Liability in International Transport.

Civil liability of national or foreign companies in international air transport shall be governed by international conventions to which the Republic is a party. In the absence of such conventions, liability shall be governed by this Law and other applicable legislation of the Republic.

Article 199. Procedure.

1) The owner, operator, or person in possession of an aircraft who wishes to protect himself under the limitations on liability in this Title, may make this known to the court by means of an original complaint or counterclaim, at the same time posting a bond, which may be issued by an insurance company for an amount up to the maximum of his liability; and he shall request the court to summon all persons having claims with respect to the damages which are the subject matter of the action. If the interested parties are known, their names and addresses shall be stated; and if there is more than one action pending, the parties in the others should be indicated. After the bond has been posted, the court shall order the joinder of all actions, if any, pursuant to the petition, and shall order notice of the action to be served personally on the known interested parties, summoning by edict those unknown, to come and assert their rights.

2) The action or joinder of actions shall be prosecuted at a single trial, and at the time of rendering judgment, the compensation to be paid to each claimant shall be fixed, as well as the reductions which are proper, so that the total will remain within the limits of the liability specified in this Law.

3) If any interested party fails to appear at the above trial, he will not lose his rights thereby; but he may not obtain a higher compensation than the difference between the total of the indemnities fixed at