

The Minister of Public Works and Communications shall have the right to issue decisions and communiques specifying the procedures in accordance with which these special or temporary permits are granted.

*Article 20.* No scheduled international air services can be established and operated except in accordance with duly ratified international agreements. The Council of Ministers, however, may grant temporary permission for the establishment and operation of scheduled international services upon the proposal of the Minister of Public Works and Communications.

*Article 21.* Commercial transportation by air of passengers or goods between two points within the territory of the Republic of Syria can only be undertaken by persons or establishments bearing Syrian Nationality.

No internal air services can be established and operated unless authorization is granted by a decree issued by the Council of Ministers and in accordance with its terms.

*Article 22.* Legal relations between passengers on board a foreign aircraft during its flight shall be governed by the laws in force in the aircraft in question provided that the provisions of Article 18 of the Syrian Penal Code are taken into consideration.

*Article 23.* If a foreign aircraft is involved in an accident and crashes on Syrian territory, the competent authorities in the Republic of Syria shall conduct the inquiry and investigation into the causes of the accident. The government to which the aircraft belongs, however, shall have the right to appoint observers to follow the course of the inquiry provided that reciprocal treatment is accorded.

*Article 24.* The right of an aircraft to fly over private property shall not be exercised in such a way as to hinder the owner of the property in question from exercising his rights of ownership.

International air services shall follow the routes specified in Article 38 of this Law unless otherwise authorized and in cases of emergency.

*Article 25.* Flights over certain areas of Syrian territory may be prohibited for military reasons or for reasons relating to public security. These areas shall be specified by a decision issued by the Minister of Public Works and Communications, in accordance with the requests of the Minister of Interior or of National Defence. Under special circumstances or in the interest of public security, flight over the whole or any part of Syrian territory may be temporarily and immediately suspended by a decree issued by the Council of Ministers.

An aircraft which enters a prohibited area shall transmit the regular signal immediately after it becomes aware of its transgression and shall land at the nearest aerodrome outside the prohibited area.

If an area is declared in a state of siege and overflying is prohibited, every aircraft which violates the prohibition shall be seized immediately on landing at any point in Syrian territory and its occupants shall be brought before military courts on charges of espionage if the pilot fails to explain satisfactorily the reasons which compelled him to fly over this area.

An aircraft observed flying over a prohibited area, shall, upon the first warning by shots in the air, land at the nearest aerodrome, and, when warning for landing is given, shall immediately reduce speed and fly at a low level: otherwise it may be compelled to do so by force.