

damage were due to intent on their part or on the part of their agents or employees.

Article 51. Carriers shall be exempt from liability: in all cases in which they prove that the damage was due to the acts or conditions of the victim or to unlawful acts of a third person: in cases of temporary partial disability and destruction of, or damage to hand baggage, if they prove that they took reasonable precautions to avoid such damage, and complied with technical measures required by the law and the regulations issued thereunder, or that it was impossible for them to take such measures: and for delay in the delivery of cargo when it has been caused by adverse weather conditions, by considerations of flight safety, by salvage maneuvers or for reasons of protecting human life or property.

Article 52. The owner as well as the operator of an aircraft shall further be exempt from liability for damages caused to third persons on the ground, when such damages arise from the victim's own fault, when they are the result of acts committed by third persons with the intent of causing damage to an aircraft, to the victim or property or when the person who operates the aircraft does so without the consent of the owner or of the operator who, in this last event must show that it was impossible for him to avoid the unlawful use, although he has taken all necessary preventive measures. Noncompliance with this requirement shall make them jointly liable with the person causing the damage.

Article 53. In the case of a collision of two or more aircraft the damages caused to a third person on the ground must be paid proportionately by each of the owners or operators of the aircraft. Such owners or operators shall be jointly liable for the payment of the compensation.

Article 54. An action for payment of compensation for damages to passengers and their hand baggage, or to third persons on the ground must be brought within one year counting from the date of the events which gave rise to them or, if there are none, from the date of the beginning of the trip as stipulated in the carriage contract.

Article 55. Claims in cases of loss of, damage to, or delay in delivery of the cargo or checked luggage must be presented to the carrier within ten days after the date of delivery or the date on which it should have been delivered. Failure to make such claim shall prevent the bringing of such action.

An action for payment of such compensation must be brought within a period of one hundred and eighty days from the date on which the cargo or the checked luggage should have been delivered.

Article 56. In all cases not provided for in this law, an action for damages to persons or property and the right to compensation shall be determined by the provisions of the Civil Code.

Article 57. The person in charge of the operation of any civil aircraft must insure the crew thereof against the risks of the services rendered by its members.

CHAPTER X. ACCIDENTS. SEARCH AND RESCUE

Article 58. For exclusively administrative purposes of this law, investigation and determination of liability for accidents of civil aircraft shall be the responsibility of aviation authorities.