

[Translation from Icelandic]

(Text as of 1 January 2023)

The Crafts and Trades Act

No. 42/1978 with subsequent amendments

Article 1

The present Act applies to the operation of any kind of crafts and trades for professional purposes. Domestic crafts shall be exempted from the provisions of the Act.

Article 2

Nobody may operate crafts and trades for professional purposes in Iceland or within Icelandic territorial waters without having obtained permission to do so in accordance with the present Act.

The provisions of the present Act notwithstanding, citizens or legal parties of Member States of the Agreement on the European Economic Area are entitled to work in crafts and trades on the basis of Iceland's undertakings concerning recognition of work and vocational training in crafts and trades professions in another EEA State and also citizens or legal parties of Member States of the Convention of the European Free Trade Association or Faroese or legal parties in the Faroe Islands. The Minister can stipulate this right further in regulations.

District Commissioners shall confirm the adequacy of documentation concerning work and vocational training after the trade union concerned, i.e. national federations of masters and journeymen, have been afforded an opportunity of expressing their opinion. Chiefs of Police supervise the implementation of the present provisions. A dispute concerning rights may be referred to the Minister and a decision by Courts of Law may furthermore be sought.

Articles 3 – 7. [deleted]

Article 8

Crafts and trades professions which are operated as manual trades and which have been regulated in a regulation issued by the Minister shall at all times be operated under the management of a master. As it pertains to authorisation the Minister responsible for Education and the national federations of masters and journeymen shall be consulted.

A master shall be responsible for all work being properly and well discharged.

The right to engage in crafts and trades work in such branches of industry belongs to masters, journeymen and apprentices in the trade. Specialised associations, journeymen's and masters' organisations in the same trade are authorised to conclude a mutual agreement permitting the engagement of unskilled labourers for industrial work under the management of a qualified tradesman for a specific brief period at a time when special circumstances apply and there is an urgent need for added manpower in the trade. Anyone can also discharge trades work for himself and his home and furthermore for an official establishment or concern with which he works in case of minor maintenance of the property of these parties.

In the country, small market towns and villages having less than 100 inhabitants, unskilled people may engage in trades work.

Article 9

The right to connect one's title to a regulated crafts profession belongs exclusively to those holding journeymen's or masters' certificates in the respective profession.

Article 10

Anyone can obtain a master's certificate if he meets the following conditions:

1. Is an Icelandic citizen or a citizen of another Member State to the Agreement of the European Economic Area or the Convention of the European Free Trade Association or Faroese. Foreign citizens with legal domicile in this country of at least one year shall be exempt from requirements of Icelandic citizenship.
2. Is of legal age and has control over his estate.
3. Has completed a journeyman's examination, has since been working under the management of a master in his trade for no less than a year and has also completed a master's examination in the trade from a masters' school. In case a journeyman does not have the choice of work under the management of a master in his new trade during the first five years following upon the regulation thereof, his two years' work in the trade is considered to be the equivalent of work with a master, but a District Commissioner shall afford the association of tradesmen concerned, i.e. the national federations of masters and journeymen, an opportunity of expressing their opinion as to whether there be a choice of such work. The same applies in trades in which no master is working or where a journeyman does for other reasons verifiably have no choice of working under a master.

A master's certificate grants a master permission to operate the profession of the craft to which his master's certificate applies.

Article 11

A person who no longer meets some of the conditions which must be met to obtain a master's certificate has forfeited his master's certificate.

Article 12

A District Commissioner where a party has legal domicile delivers master certificates. A District Commissioner who receives an application from a party without a legal domicile in Iceland, issues the master certificate notwithstanding the provision of the first paragraph, given that the said person fulfils other legal requirements.

In case a District Commissioner refuses to issue a master's certificate..., or if a dispute arises as to whether a party has forfeited its right, the party is entitled to refer the matter to the Minister. He may furthermore seek a decision from Courts of Law.

The Minister issues journeymen's certificates. He can charge others with issuing the licences provided that other legal conditions are fulfilled.

A charge in accordance with the Act respecting the Treasury's Supplementary Revenue shall be paid for... masters' certificates and Journeymen's certificates.

Article 13

The District Commissioner shall keep a register of masters' certificates granted under the present Act.

...[deleted]

The Minister lays down further instructions regarding these matters.

Article 14

Article 15

The following is subject to fines:

1. If a person operates a crafts profession without having obtained a licence or permits others to operate a crafts profession under his licence.
2. If a person undertakes the work of a master without having obtained a master's certificate.

3. If a person operates a regulated crafts profession without having a master as manager.
4. If a person uses the name of a regulated crafts profession without being entitled to do so according to Article 9.
5. If a person or a firm takes apprentices for practical training although he be not entitled to do so or takes apprentices for studying another trade than the one in which he is master or keeps apprentices without a lawful contract.
6. If a citizen or a legal party of a Member State of the Agreement on the European Economic Area or the Convention of the European Free Trade Association or a Faroese or a legal party in the Faroe Islands operates here without confirmation under paragraph 3 of Article 2 being at hand.

Fines accrue to the State Treasury.

Article 16

A person who repeatedly violates the present Act may be ordered to forfeit ..., a master's certificate and a journeyman's certificate temporarily or even for life in case of a very serious violation.

Article 17

The professional rights of persons who have obtained these in accordance with the provisions of previous Acts shall remain unabridged.