

# Law No. 14 of 1999 concerning Weapons, Ammunition and Explosives 14 / 1999

Number of Articles: 68

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We, Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Emir of State of Qatar,

Having perused the Amended Provisional Constitution; in particular Articles 23, 34 and 51 thereof;

Decree Law No. 12 of 1968 concerning Weapons, Ammunition and Explosives;

Law No. 5 of 1970 specifying the powers of Ministers, the jurisdictions of the Ministries and other Governmental Bodies, and the amending laws thereof;

The Penal Code of Qatar as issued by Law No. 14 of 1971, and the amending laws thereof;

The Criminal Procedure Law as issued by Law No. 15 of 1971, and the amending laws thereof;

Law No. 23 of 1993 concerning the police force, and the amending laws thereof;

Resolution No. 13 of 1994 by the Minister of Interior concerning regulation of the use of firearms;

Acting upon the proposal of the Minister of Interior and the draft Law submitted by the Council of Ministers (Cabinet);

And having consulted the Shura Council;

Hereby promulgate the following Law:

## **Chapter one**

### **Weapons, Ammunition and Licensing Conditions)**

#### Article 1

In the application of the provisions of this Law, the following words and expressions shall have the meanings assigned to each, unless the context requires otherwise:

“The Minister” meansthe Minister of Interior.

“Licensing Authority” meansthe Minister of Interior or any authority commissioned by the Minister to implement this Law and itsimplementing resolutions.

## Article 2

1. No license shall be permitted for the possession, acquisition, trade, import or manufacture of the weapons stipulated in Section 2 of Schedule 2 annexed to this Law or otherwise any part, ammunition, silencers, mufflers or telescopic sights thereof.
1. The above prohibition shall not apply to contracts concluded by the Ministries of Defence and Interior for the purpose of arming the State's defence forces. The prohibition shall also not apply to the bodies or companies with which the government contracts to establish factories for manufacturing such weapons or ammunition.

## Article 3

The possession or acquisition of the firearms listed in Schedule 1 and Section 1 of Schedule 2 annexed to this Law shall be prohibited without first obtaining a license from the Minister or his deputy.

## Article 3 - BIS

Added in Accordance with: Law No. 26 of 2010

Subject to the provisions of Articles 7 and 9 hereof, the Minister or his deputy may issue a permit to the categories of persons specified in Article 16 hereof for the possession or acquisition of the firearms listed in Schedule 2, Section 2, clauses (1 and 2) annexed to this Law.

## Article 3 - BIS 1

Added in Accordance with: Law No. 26 of 2010

1. The possession or acquisition of the firearms or ammunition listed in Schedule 5 annexed to this Law shall be prohibited without obtaining a license from the Minister or his deputy. Licensing in this case shall be subject to the provisions of Articles 7 and 9 hereof.
2. The Minister shall issue a resolution specifying the licensing period and the conditions for cancellation. The person licensed to possess or acquire the firearms or ammunition indicated in the preceding paragraph may hand them over to a third party for use in accordance with the conditions and controls issued in the Minister's resolution.

## Article 4

A license shall be issued to the licensee only and no licensed weapon may be handed over to a third party prior to such third party's obtaining a license in accordance with the provisions hereof.

Article 5 (Amended By Law 2/2001)

Date of entry into force: 10/02/2001

The licensing period shall be five years starting from the date of issuance. The license may be extended for further similar periods upon the licensee's request two months before the expiry date.

## Article 6

The Minister or his deputy may, *inter alia*, reject an application for a licence, reduce the period of validity of the licence, restrict it to certain types of weapons, or otherwise temporarily withdraw or cancel the application for a licence.

## Article 7

No person shall be granted a license for more than four of the firearms referred to in Article 3 hereof. As an exemption from this prohibition, the Minister may grant a license for more than four such firearms where there is sufficient justification. In all cases, an individual applicant may not obtain more than one license for all firearms licensed thereto.

## Article 8

Possession or acquisition of ammunition shall be prohibited except by those who are licensed to possess or acquire the weapons, provided that such ammunition is related to the weapons licensed in accordance with the provisions hereof.

## Article 9

No licence for the possession or acquisition of weapons and ammunition stipulated in Article 3 hereof shall be granted to the following categories:

1. Persons under twenty-one (21) years of age.
2. Persons whose good character and conduct have not been established.
3. Persons convicted of a felony or sentenced to imprisonment for assault or attempted assault, or damage to property, or an offence involving moral turpitude.
4. Persons sentenced to imprisonment for an offence against the State or its military forces.
5. Persons sentenced to imprisonment for offences involving drugs and narcotics.
6. Persons sentenced according to the provisions of this Law or those previously convicted in accordance with the provisions of the aforementioned Decree-Law No. 12 of 1968.
7. Persons against whom a competent court ordered a precautionary or preventive measure.
8. Persons proven to suffer from a mental or psychological illness or from an illness or handicap that prevents them from safely handling a weapon.

In all cases, where a person repeats any of the acts, or fails to meet any of the conditions, stipulated in paragraphs (2) to (8) above, his licence shall be revoked.

## Article 10

Where the Minister revokes or cancels a license, the licensee shall deliver his weapon to the respective police jurisdiction where he carried out the licensing procedures. The licensee may, within two weeks from the date on which he was notified of the withdrawal or cancellation, dispose of the weapon by sale or other means to a person licensed to possess, trade or manufacture weapons, unless the Minister orders immediate delivery to the police station. The depositor may dispose of the weapon he deposited at the police station within one year of the deposit date, otherwise he shall be deemed to have surrendered ownership of the weapon to the Ministry of Interior.

## Article 11

The license shall be deemed cancelled in the following cases:

1. Loss of the weapon.
2. Disposal of the weapon to another person in accordance with the provisions hereof.
3. Death of the licensee.
4. Failure of the licensee to apply for renewal within the prescribed period, unless he presents an excuse acceptable to the Licensing Authority.
5. Issuance of a final judgment to confiscate the weapon.

## Article 12

No weapons licensed for possession or acquisition shall be carried at official celebrations, public and private events, conferences and processions, nor shall weapons be carried in markets and public places except under license by the Licensing Authority and in accordance with the specified conditions.

## Article 13

In case of loss or theft of a licensed weapon, its owner shall notify the police not later than three days from the date on which he knew of such loss or theft.

## Article 14

In case of death or incapacitation of the licensee for any reason, his heirs, guardian or any family member who have or has knowledge of the existence of the licensee's weapon shall notify the police not later than one month from the date on which they knew of such existence.

## Article 15

Alteration to a firearm licensed for possession shall be permitted only by special permit from the Licensing Authority.

## Article 16

The following categories shall be exempted from obtaining a license for the possession or acquisition of a weapon and its ammunition:

1. Members of the diplomatic and consular corps of other countries, on condition of reciprocity.
2. Members of international organisations and those of similar status.
3. Guards and escorts of official delegations.

## Article 17

1. Persons referred to in Article 16 (1 and 2) above shall notify the Protocol Department of the Foreign Affairs Ministry not later than one month from the date of their entry into the State or acquisition of weapons, and the Department in turn shall refer them to the Licensing Authority to take necessary action concerning the weapons.
1. Where a change occurs regarding their posts or their weapons, such persons shall follow the same procedures indicated in the preceding paragraph not later than one month of the occurrence of the change.

## Article 18

Exemption certificates for persons referred to in Article 16 (1 and 2) above shall be issued free of charge and their serial numbers and any changes shall be recorded in a register.

## Article 19

The body responsible for guards and escorts of official delegations shall notify the Protocol Department of the Foreign Affairs Ministry about the weapons

and ammunition they carry. This Department shall convey such notification to the Licensing Authority to take the necessary action in this regard. Foreigners who enter the State carrying weapons shall deposit such weapon with the concerned security authorities at the entry point until the weapons are licensed.

## Article 3 - BIS 2 (Added By: Law 11 / 2013)

Notwithstanding the provisions of Articles (2), (3) and (4) of this Law, the Minister may allow security personnel onboard ships to possess or acquire firearms and their ammunition as listed in Schedule 2, section 2, items (1 and 2) attached herein. The controls of use and carriage of such weapons and their inspection shall be issued by a decision of the minister. The captain of the ship shall be responsible for keeping such firearms and their ammunition inside the ship.

## Chapter Two

### Import, Export, Trade, Manufacture and Repair of W

## Article 20 (Amended By Law 26/2010)

Date of entry into force: 27/12/2010

1. The import, export, trade, manufacture or repair of the weapons or ammunition listed in Schedules 1, 2 (Section 1) and 5 annexed to this Law shall be prohibited without a license from the Licensing Authority. Entry into or departure from the State with these weapons or ammunition without a license shall also be prohibited.
2. The license shall be valid for two years and may be renewed for a similar period or periods, provided that the renewal request is submitted during the two months preceding the expiry of the licensing period.

## Article 21

Subject to the provisions of Article 28 hereof, an applicant for a license to import, export, trade, manufacture or repair weapons or ammunition shall meet the following conditions:

1. The applicant shall not be younger than thirty five (35) years of age.
2. The applicant shall be fully literate and proficient in reading and writing in the English language.
3. The applicant shall not have been declared insolvent.
4. The applicant shall have obtained, from the concerned authorities, other licenses necessary for the practice of his activities.
5. The applicant shall deposit into the Ministry of Interior's treasury a bond guarantee of fifty thousand Qatari (QR 50,000) Riyals in the case of import, export or trade, and twenty five thousand Qatari (QR 25,000) Riyals in the case of repairs.
6. The applicant shall have passed a special test, its subjects and conditions shall be specified by the Minister.

## Article 22 (Amended By Law 26/2010)

A resolution by the Licensing Authority shall specify the annual permitted number and amount for an importer or trader of the weapons and ammunition listed in Schedules (1), (3) and (5) and Section 1 of Schedule 2 annexed to this Law.

## Article 23

Licensing of the amounts permitted for import shall be in effect for six (6) months and may be extended for an additional term of similar duration. Weapons or ammunition imported without a license from the Ministry of Interior shall be administratively confiscated.

## Article 24

The Licensing Authority shall specify the locations where, and conditions under which store owners may trade in, repair and manufacture weapons and ammunition.

## Article 25 (Amended By Law 26/2010)

Store owners shall be permitted to combine trading and repair of weapons and ammunition in one facility provided that they practice no other activity in the same facility

## Article 26

1. The Licensing Authority may reject, shorten the duration of, deny the renewal of, or cancel a licence for the import, export, trade, manufacture or repair of weapons and ammunition for reasons as may be required by the public interest or for general security.
1. Where a licence is cancelled, the security body in whose jurisdiction a store is situated shall administratively close such store after taking an inventory of the weapons and ammunition. Store owners whose license has been revoked shall be notified to dispose of their stock of weapons and ammunition within one year of notification, otherwise their ownership shall be transferred to the Ministry of Interior against reasonable compensation.

## Article 27

No weapons or ammunition may be transported from one destination to another without a license from the Licensing Authority. Such license shall indicate the number of weapons or ammunition to be transported, their source location, destination, the sender, the addressee, the route, the date of transport, and any other conditions specified by the Licensing Authority for the purpose of safeguarding the general security of such weapons or ammunition.

## Article 28

Any person licensed to import, export, trade or repair weapons and ammunition shall keep records specified by the Licensing Authority pertaining to regulation of the circulation of weapons and ammunition.

## Article 29

Any person licensed to repair weapons shall verify that such weapons are properly licensed. It is prohibited to deal in unlicensed weapons.

## Article 30

Foreigners, referred to in Article 11 herein, are not permitted to be outside Qatar for continuous period exceeding six months, unless they have obtained, prior to their departure, or before the end of this period, a permission from the Directorate of Immigration, Passports and Nationality, for reasons it considers satisfactory. Breach of these provisions entails cancellation of the right of residence, licensed to the foreigner.

## Chapter Three

### Explosives

#### Article 31

In the application of the provisions hereof, any substance listed in Schedule 4 annexed to this Law shall be deemed an explosive.

#### Article 32

No licence shall be granted for the trade or manufacture of explosives. Notwithstanding this prohibition, the government, or bodies or companies contracting with it, may establish factories for the manufacture of explosives, the licence for which shall be issued by the Council of Ministers (Cabinet) upon a recommendation from the competent body.

#### Article 33

1. No explosives or similar material that can produce an explosion shall be imported without a license from the Minister or his deputy. The license shall specify the quantity licensed for import, the types of explosives, and the period during which importation is permitted.

1. A resolution issued by the Minister shall specify the procedures, rules and conditions for the transportation, use and storage of explosives.

#### Article 34

1. No explosives may be possessed, acquired or carried without a license from the Licensing Authority specifying the procedures, rules and conditions.

1. The license to import referred to in the preceding Article shall under no circumstances be considered by an importer or his employees as the license stipulated in subparagraph 1 of this article.

#### Article 35

A granted license may be revoked before its expiry where the Minister deems it necessary in the interests of security.

#### Article 36

The Licensing Authority may issue a resolution establishing a central store for explosives and specifying the conditions for its operation and management.

#### Article 37

1. The provisions of this Chapter shall be applicable to every person who *inter alia* uses, deals in, or legally possesses explosives. This shall apply in particular to trading and contracting companies, import and supply agencies, as well as individuals or groups conducting activities related to explosives.

1. Authorities and the Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Interior, Qatar General Petroleum Corporation (Qatar Petroleum) and its subsidiaries, as well as companies in which the Corporation is a shareholder, shall be exempted from the provisions of this Chapter.

## Chapter Four

### Sanctions

#### Article 38

Any person convicted of intentionally using or attempting to use explosives to commit the following acts shall be sentenced to death or to life imprisonment:

1. Killing one or more persons; or
2. Causing panic among the public; or
3. Destroying buildings or facilities of the State or public corporations and authorities;
4. Destroying buildings or facilities of companies in which the government is a shareholder; or
5. Destroying buildings or facilities of public benefit associations; or
6. Destroying other constructions, premises and factories; or
7. Destroying houses of worship; or
8. Destroying places intended for public meetings or frequented by the public; or
9. Any residential or frequently habituated areas even if not specified for residence.

#### Article 39

1. Any person convicted of using or attempting to use explosives in a manner that endangers life or property shall be sentenced to imprisonment for a term not less than three (3) years and not more than ten (10) years.
1. Where such use or attempted use causes damage to property, the sentence shall be imprisonment for a term of not less than (7) seven years and not more than (14) fourteen years.
2. Where such use or attempted use causes injury to a person, the sentence shall be imprisonment for a term of not less than ten (10) years and not more than twenty (20) years. Where such use or attempted use causes death, the sentence shall be life imprisonment:

In all cases the defendant shall reimburse the value of any property damaged by his use or attempted use of explosives.

#### Article 40

1. Any person convicted of acquiring, possessing, manufacturing, delivering, importing, transporting or trafficking in explosives, or otherwise attempting to do so, without obtaining a license from the Licensing Authority shall be sentenced to imprisonment for a term not less than seven (7) years and not more than fourteen (14) years.
1. Where such person is convicted of intentionally acquiring, possessing, manufacturing, delivering, importing, transporting or trafficking in explosives, or attempting to do so, in order to commit a crime or to assist another person to do so, he shall be sentenced to imprisonment for a term not less than ten (10) years and not more than (20) twenty years.

#### Article 41

1. Any person convicted of training or attempting to train another person(s) in the manufacture or use of explosives with the intention of seeking their assistance to achieve an illegal purpose shall be sentenced to imprisonment for a term of not less than ten (10) years and not more than twenty (20) years.
1. The same sentence shall be imposed on the person who knowingly receives such training for illegal purpose.

#### Article 42

Any person convicted of having knowledge of the commission of any of the offences stipulated in the preceding articles, or of a plan to commit such offence, but fails to inform the Licensing Authority thereof, or otherwise assists the perpetrator to escape from justice by hiding him or any materials used or intended to be used in the commission of the offence, or any proceeds therefrom, or destroys any evidence thereof, shall be sentenced to imprisonment for a term of not more than three (3) years and not more than five (5) years, or to a fine of not less than five thousand Qatari (QR 5,000) Riyals and not more than fifteen thousand Qatari Riyals (QR 15,000), or to both.



## Article 43

1. Any defendant who opts to inform the authorities in advance of the commission of an offence, or about an agreement to commit such offence, or identifies the accomplices thereto prior to a search and inspection by the authorities, shall be exempted from the sanctions prescribed for the offences referred to in the preceding articles.
1. Where the defendant informs the authorities after the commencement of the search or inspection, such information must lead to the arrest of the accomplices in the same offence or another offence similar in type and seriousness.

## Article 44

1. Any person convicted of carrying a white weapon without personal or professional justifying necessity shall be sentenced to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or to a fine not exceeding five thousand Qatari (QR 5,000) Riyals, or to both.
1. The sentence shall be doubled where such a weapon is carried in or on public areas, public transport or places of worship.

## Article 45

Any person convicted of possessing or acquiring without a license any of the weapons or ammunition listed in Schedule 1 annexed to this Law shall be sentenced to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year or to a fine not exceeding five thousand Qatari (QR 5,000) Riyals, or to both.

## Article 46

1. Any person convicted of possessing or acquiring without a license any of the weapons or ammunition listed in Section 1 of Schedule 2 annexed to this Law shall be sentenced to imprisonment for a term not exceeding seven (7) years or to a fine not exceeding fifty thousand Qatari (QR 50,000) Riyals, or to both.
1. The sentence shall be doubled where the weapon or ammunition is one listed in Section 2 of Schedule 2 annexed to this Law.

## Article 46 - BIS

Any person convicted of possessing or acquiring without a license any of the weapons or ammunition listed in Schedule 5 annexed to this Law shall be sentenced to a fine of not less than one thousand Qatari (QR 1,000) Riyals, and not more than three thousand Qatari (QR 3,000) Riyals.

## Article 47

1. Any person convicted of smuggling with the intent to traffic in any of the weapons or ammunition listed in Schedule 1 and Section 1 of Schedule 2 annexed to this Law shall be sentenced to imprisonment for a term of not less than three (3) years and not more than ten (10) years, or to a fine of not less than fifty thousand Qatari (QR 50,000) Riyals, and not more than one hundred fifty thousand Qatari (QR 150,000) Riyals, or to both.
1. The sentence shall be doubled for both the minimum and maximum limits where the weapon or ammunition was one listed in Section 2 of Schedule 2 annexed to this Law. The same sentence shall be imposed on any person who manufactures the weapons for the purpose of smuggling with the intent to traffic therein.

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## Article 48

1. Any person convicted of trafficking, importing or exporting without a license one of the weapons listed in Schedule 1 and Section 1 of Schedule 2 annexed to this Law shall be sentenced to imprisonment for a term of not less than six (6) months and not more than five(5) years, or to a fine of not less than ten thousand Qatari (QR 10,000) Riyals, and not more than fifty thousand Qatari (QR 50,000) Riyals, or to both.
1. The sentence shall be doubled for both the minimum and maximum limits where the weapon or ammunition was one listed in Section 2 of Schedule 2 annexed to this Law.

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## Article 48 - BIS

Any person convicted of trafficking, importing or exporting without a license one of the weapons listed in Schedule 5 annexed to this Law shall be sentenced to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six (6) months, or to a fine of not less than one thousand Qatari (QR 1,000) Riyals, and not more than ten thousand Qatari (QR 10,000) Riyals, or to both.

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## Article 49

Any person convicted of repairing a weapon without a licence, or of attempting to bring into the State a weapon or ammunition for personal use without a licence, shall be sentenced to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years, or to a fine not exceeding ten thousand Qatari Riyals (QR 10,000), or to both.

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## Article 50

Any person convicted of any of the following acts shall be sentenced to a fine of not less than one thousand Qatari (QR 1,000) Riyals and not more than five thousand Qatari (QR 5,000) Riyals:

1. Carrying a weapon after its licence has expired and failing to apply for its renewal in good time without a reasonable excuse; or
2. Failing to surrender weapons and ammunition in his possession in good time after the revocation or termination of the issued license.

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## Article 51

1. Any person convicted of possessing or acquiring without a license the main components of firearms stipulated in Schedules 1 and 2 annexed to this Law, as well as silencers and telescopic sights mounted on such weapon, shall be sentenced to imprisonment for a term of not less than six (6) months and not more than one (1) year, or to a fine of not less than ten thousand Qatari (QR 10,000) Riyals and not more than fifty thousand Qatari (QR 50,000) Riyals, or to both.
1. The sentence shall be doubled for both the minimum and maximum limits where the defendant possessed or acquired the aforesaid components with the intention of trafficking, importing or repairing them without a licence.

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## Article 52

Any person convicted of any of the following acts shall be sentenced to a fine of not less than one thousand Qatari (QR 1,000) Riyals and not more than three thousand Qatari (QR 3,000) Riyals:

1. Firing gunshots or setting off fireworks in residential areas or on public roads without a license from the competent authorities; or

2. Possessing, using, importing, selling or purchasing pistols or ammunition used in fixing building material without a license from the competent authorities;

## Article 53

In all cases, any weapons or their components or ammunition, and any explosives seized by the authorities shall be confiscated.

## Article 54

Save as otherwise stipulated in this law, any person convicted of an offence in contravention of the provisions of this Law shall be sentenced to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three (3) months, or to a fine of not less than one thousand Qatari (QR 1,000) Riyals, and not more than five thousand Qatari (QR 5,000) Riyals, or to both.

## Chapter Five

### General Provisions

## Article 55

The provisions stipulated in this Law pertaining to the carrying, acquisition or possession of weapons shall not apply to weapons delivered by the State to armed forces personnel permitted to carry, acquire or possess such weapons by applicable laws, bylaws and resolutions.

## Article 56

1. Any person in possession of weapons that exceed the limits permitted by this Law shall, within three (3) months of the entry into force of this Law, submit a request to the Minister to license such weapons that exceed such limits.
1. Where request to license such weapons or parts thereof is rejected, such person shall surrender the weapons to the nearest police station to his residence within one week of being notified of the rejection, otherwise he shall be deemed to have acquired weapons without a license.
2. Such person shall have the right to dispose of the weapons deposited at the police station within one year of the delivery date. Where such person does not dispose of the weapons during this period, he shall be deemed to have relinquished his ownership thereof to the Ministry of Interior.

## Article 57

Where the Licensing Authority finds that the license for, *inter alia*, the import, export, trade, repair or manufacture of weapons, ammunition and explosives has been granted on the basis of deception or false statements or documents, the license shall be revoked, the weapons, ammunition and explosives seized and confiscated, and the store administratively closed.

## Article 58

1. Persons acquiring the weapons or ammunition listed in Schedule 1 and Section 1 of Schedule 2 annexed to this Law shall be exempt from any sanctions where they had requested a license within six (6) months from the date of entry into force of this Law, or where they had surrendered, during such period, the weapons or ammunition in their possession to the respective local police jurisdiction.

The period of grace stipulated in this article has been extended to 28 May 2001 in accordance with Law No. 2 of 2001.

**Article 59**

The Licensing Authority may offer a financial reward not exceeding the value of the imposed fine to any person who reports a violation of the provisions of this Law and which leads to the arrest and conviction of the perpetrator of such violation and the confiscation of the weapons, ammunition or explosives in his possession.

**Article 60**

Members of the police force assigned by virtue of a resolution issued by the Minister may monitor the implementation of the provisions of this Law. In this capacity, they may at any time enter those premises licensed to deal in explosives or to import, export, trade, repair or manufacture weapons, and may carry out an inspection of such places to verify their compliance with the provisions of this Law and its implementing bylaws and resolutions. Such members of the police force may also review the records specified by the Licensing Authority, prepare official reports on any acts that contravene the provisions of this Law, and refer the perpetrators to the competent authorities.

**Article 60 - BIS** (Added By: Law 1 / 2005)

A resolution shall be issued by the Minister to specify the procedures to be followed in the disposal of weapons, ammunition and explosives obtained in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

**Article 61**

The aforementioned Decree Law No. 12 of 1968 and any provisions which contradict the provisions of this Law are hereby repealed.

**Article 62** (Amended By Law 2/2001)

The Minister shall issue the bylaws and resolutions necessary for implementing the provisions of this Law, including specification of the fees for licensing. Until the issuance of such bylaws and resolutions, the existing Ministerial resolutions and regulations shall continue to be applied where they are not contrary to the provisions of this Law.

**Article 63**

All competent authorities, each within their jurisdiction, shall enforce this Law three (3) months after the date of its publication in the *Official Gazette*.