



SAMOA

MERCANTILE LAW ACT 1975

Arrangement of Provisions

PART 1 PRELIMINARY

1. Short title

PART 1A MERCANTILE AGENTS

Division 1 Interpretation

2. Interpretation

Division 2 Disposition By Mercantile Agents

3. Powers of mercantile agent with respect to disposition of goods
4. Effect of pledges of document of title
5. Pledge for antecedent debt
6. Rights acquired by exchange of goods or document
7. Agreements through clerks or other authorised person
8. Provisions as to consignors and consignees
9. Effect of transfer of document of title to goods on vendor's lien, and right of stoppage *in transitu*

Division 3 Miscellaneous

10. Mode of transferring documents
11. Saving of rights of true owner
12. Saving for common law powers of mercantile agent

PART 2 BILLS OF LADING

13. Rights of action and liabilities to vest in consignees and endorsees
14. Right of stoppage *in transitu*, or claims for freight, not affected
15. Bill of lading in hands of consignee, shipper or endorsee conclusive evidence as against master or other person signing
16. Special provisions as to "received for shipment bills of lading"
17. When master may be exonerated from liability

PART 3 DELIVERY OF GOODS, AND LIEN FOR FREIGHT

18. Interpretation
19. Power to ship owner to enter and land goods in default of entry and landing by owner of goods
20. Continuation of lien for freight if ship owner gives notice
21. Lien to be discharged on deposit with warehouse owner

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 22. Right of warehouse owner, if no notice is given, to pay deposit to ship owner 23. Course to be taken if notice to retain is given 24. After 90 days warehouse owner may sell goods by public auction 25. Notices of sale to be given 26. Money arising from sale, how to be applied 27. Warehouse owner's rent and expenses 28. Warehouse owner's protection | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 33. Registered holder of warrant deemed to be owner 34. Lien of registered transferee of warrant determined on delivery of warrant <i>bona fide</i> and for value 35. Warrants for free goods put on the same footing as bond warrants 36. Provisions same in respect of bonded and free warehouses 37. Vendor's lien not prejudiced save as against bona fide sub-purchaser or pledgee for value or to the rights of a bankrupt trustee 38. Goods not to be transferred in books of warehouseperson except on production of warrant 39. Special contracts restraining negotiability of warrants 40. Warehouseperson's lien not prejudiced by sale or transfer of goods 41. Repeal |
|--|--|

PART 4
UNPAID VENDORS OF
WAREHOUSED GOODS

- 29. Interpretation
- 30. Unpaid vendor's lien determined on delivery of bond warrants to bona fide holder for value
- 31. Possession of warrants *prima facie* evidence of ownership
- 32. Holder of warrant entitled to delivery

1975, No.10

AN ACT to amend and consolidate the law relating to trade and commerce and for related purposes.

[Assent date and commencement Date: 23 December 1975]

PART 1
PRELIMINARY

- 1. Short title** – This Act may be cited as the Mercantile Law Act 1975.

PART 1A
MERCANTILE AGENTS

Division 1 – Interpretation

2. Interpretation – (1) In this Part, if not inconsistent with the context:

“document of title” includes any bill of lading, dock warrant, warehouse keeper's certificate, and warrant or order for the delivery of goods, and any other document used in the ordinary course of business as proof of the possession or control of goods, or authorising or purporting to authorise, either by endorsement or by delivery, the possessor of the document to transfer or receive goods thereby represented;

“goods” includes wares and merchandise;

“mercantile agent” means an agent having in the customary course of his or her business as such agent authority either to sell goods, or to consign goods for the purpose of sale, or to buy goods, or to raise money on the security of goods;

“pledge” includes any contract pledging or giving a lien or security on goods, whether in consideration of an original advance, or of any further or continuing advance, or of any pecuniary liability.

(2) A person is taken to be in possession of goods, or of the documents of title to goods, where the goods or documents are in his or her actual custody, or are held by any other person subject to his or her control or for him or her or on his or her behalf.

Division 2 – Disposition by Mercantile Agents

3. Powers of mercantile agent with respect to disposition of goods – (1) Where a mercantile agent is, with the consent of the owner, in possession of goods or of the documents of title to goods, any sale, pledge, or other disposition of the goods made by him or her when acting in the ordinary course of business of a mercantile agent shall, subject to the provisions of this Part of this Act, be as valid as if he or she were expressly authorised by the owner of the goods to make the same:

PROVIDED THAT the person taking under the disposition acts in good faith, and has not at the time of the disposition notice that the person making the disposition has no authority to make the same.

(2) Where a mercantile agent has, with the consent of the owner, been in possession of goods or of the documents of title to goods, any sale, pledge, or other disposition which would have been valid if the consent had continued shall be valid despite the determination of the consent:

PROVIDED THAT the person taking under the disposition has not at the time thereof notice that the consent has been determined.

(3) Where a mercantile agent has obtained possession of any documents of title to goods by reason of his or her being or having been, with the consent of the owner, in possession of the goods represented thereby, or of any other documents of title to the goods, his or her possession of the first-mentioned documents shall, for the purposes of this Part, be deemed to be with the consent of the owner.

(4) For the purposes of this Part, the consent of the owner is presumed in the absence of evidence to the contrary.

4. Effect of pledges of documents of title – A pledge of the documents of title to goods is deemed to be a pledge of the goods.

5. Pledge for antecedent debt – Where a mercantile agent pledges goods as security for a debt or liability due from the pledgor to the pledgee before the time of the pledge, the pledgee shall acquire no further right to the goods than could have been enforced by the pledgor at the time of the pledge.

6. Rights acquired by exchange of goods or documents – The consideration necessary for the validity of a sale, pledge, or other disposition of goods in pursuance of this Part may be either a payment in cash, or the delivery or transfer of other goods, or of a document of title to goods, or of a negotiable security, or any other valuable consideration; but where goods are pledged by a mercantile agent in consideration of the delivery or transfer of other goods, or of a document of title to goods, or of a negotiable security, the pledgee shall acquire no right or interest in the goods so pledged in excess of the value of the goods, documents, or security when so delivered or transferred in exchange.

7. Agreements through clerks or other authorised person – For the purposes of this Part an agreement made with a mercantile agent through a clerk or other person authorised in the ordinary course of business to make contracts of sale or pledge on his or her behalf is taken to be an agreement with the agent.

8. Provisions as to consignors and consignees – (1) Where the owner of goods has given possession of the goods to another person for the purpose of consignment or sale, or has shipped the goods in the name

of another person, and the consignee of the goods has not had notice that such person is not the owner of the goods, the consignee shall, in respect of advances made to or for the use of such person, have the same lien on the goods as if such person were the owner of the goods, and may transfer any such lien to another person.

(2) Nothing in this section limits or affects the validity of any sale, pledge, or disposition by a mercantile agent.

9. Effect of transfer of document of title to goods on vendor's lien, and right of stoppage *in transitu* – Where a document of title to goods has been lawfully transferred to a person as a buyer or owner of the goods, and that person transfers the document to a person who takes the documents in good faith and for valuable consideration, the last-mentioned transfer shall have the same effect for defeating any vendor's lien or right of stoppage *in transitu* as the transfer of a bill of lading has for defeating the right of stoppage *in transitu*:

PROVIDED THAT this section is to be construed subject to section 46 of the Sale of Goods Act 1975.

Division 3 – Miscellaneous

10. Mode of transferring documents – For the purposes of this Part, the transfer of a document may be by endorsement, or where the document is by custom or by its express terms transferable by delivery, or makes the goods deliverable to the bearer, then by delivery.

11. Saving of rights of true owner – Nothing in this Part:

- (a) authorises a mercantile agent to exceed or depart from his or her authority as between himself and herself and his or her principal, or exempts him or her from any liability, civil or criminal, for so doing; or
- (b) prevents the owner of goods from recovering the goods from a mercantile agent or his or her trustee in bankruptcy at any time before the sale or pledge thereof; or
- (c) prevents the owner of goods pledged by a mercantile agent from having the right to redeem the goods at any time before the sale thereof, on satisfying the claim for which the goods were pledged and paying to the mercantile agent, if by him or her required, any money in respect of

which such agent would by law be entitled to retain the goods or the documents of title thereto, or any of them, by way of lien as against the owner, or from recovering from any person with whom the goods have been pledged any balance of money remaining in his or her hands as the produce of the sale of the goods after deducting the amount of his or her lien; or

- (d) prevents the owner of goods sold by a mercantile agent from recovering from the buyer the price agreed to be paid for the same, or any part of that price, subject to any right of set-off on the part of the buyer against such agent.

12. Saving for common law powers of mercantile agent – This Part is to be construed in amplification and not in derogation of the powers exercisable by a mercantile agent independently of this Part.

PART 2 BILLS OF LADING

13. Rights of action and liabilities to vest in consignees and endorsees – A consignee of goods named in a bill of lading, or an endorsee of a bill of lading, to whom the property in the goods therein mentioned passes on or by reason of such consignment or endorsement, shall have transferred to and vested in him or her all rights of action, and be subject to the same liabilities, in respect of such goods as if the contract contained in the bill of lading had been made with himself or herself.

14. Right of stoppage *in transitu*, or claims for freight, not affected – Nothing in this Act prejudices or affects any right of stoppage *in transitu*, or any right to claim freight against the original shipper or owner, or any liability of the consignee or endorsee by reason or in consequence of his or her being such consignee or endorsee or of his or her receipt of the goods by reason or in consequence of such consignment or endorsement.

15. Bill of lading in hands of consignee, shipper or endorsee conclusive evidence as against master or other person signing – A bill of lading in the hands of the shipper or of a consignee or endorsee for valuable consideration, representing goods to have been shipped on board

a vessel, is conclusive evidence of such shipment as against the master or other person signing the same, notwithstanding that such goods or some part thereof may not have been so shipped, unless the holder of the bill of lading has had actual notice at the time of receiving the same that the goods were not in fact laden on board.

16. Special provisions as to “received for shipment bills of lading”

– (1) In this section, “received for shipment bill of lading” means a shipping document issued in accordance with the provisions of this section, signed by a person purporting to be authorised to sign the same, and acknowledging that the goods to which the document relates have been received for shipment.

(2) No “received for shipment bill of lading” is to be issued:

- (a) until the goods are in possession of the owner of the ship or of some person duly authorised on his or her behalf;
- (b) except for a named ship in which space has been actually reserved;
- (c) earlier than 21 days before the time when the ship is expected to be in port in readiness to load, –
but the issue of a “received for shipment bill of lading” is sufficient evidence until the contrary is proved that the requirements of this subsection have been complied with.

(3) A “received for shipment bill of lading” shall contain a provision that, in the event of the goods being unavoidably shut out from the named ship, the ship owner shall forward the goods by his or her next available ship, or, at his or her option, by a ship of some other owner, or by a ship sailing within a specified number of days, but otherwise on the same terms and conditions, *mutatis mutandis*, as if the goods were actually shipped by the named ship.

(4) A “received for shipment bill of lading” is, for all purposes, taken to be a valid bill of lading with the same effect and capable of negotiation in all respects and with the same consequences as if it were a bill of lading acknowledging that the goods to which it relates had been actually shipped on board.

17. When master may be exonerated from liability – The master or other person so signing any bill of lading may exonerate himself or herself in respect of such misrepresentation by showing that it was caused without any default on his or her part, and wholly by the fraud

of the shipper or of the holder, or some person under whom the holder claims.

**PART 3
DELIVERY OF GOODS, AND
LIEN FOR FREIGHT**

18. Interpretation – In this Part, unless the context otherwise requires:

“entry” means the entry required by the Customs laws to be made for the landing or discharge of goods from an importing ship;

“goods” includes every description of wares and merchandise;

“owner of goods” includes every person who is for the time being entitled, either as owner or agent for the owner, to the possession of the goods, subject in the case of a lien to such lien;

“report” means the report required by the Customs laws to be made by the master of any importing ship;

“ship owner” includes the master of the ship and every other person authorised to act as agent for the owner or entitled to receive the freight, demurrage, or other charges payable in respect of such ship;

“warehouse” includes all warehouses, buildings, and premises in which goods when landed from ships may be lawfully placed;

“warehouse owner” means the occupier of a warehouse as hereinbefore defined;

“wharf” includes all wharves, quays, docks, and premises in or upon which any goods when landed from ships may be lawfully placed;

“wharf owner” means the occupier of a wharf as hereinbefore defined.

19. Power to ship owner to enter and land goods in default of entry and landing by owner of goods – Where the owner of goods imported from foreign parts into Samoa fails to make entry thereof, or, having made entry thereof, to land the same or take delivery thereof, and to proceed therewith with all convenient speed by the times severally hereinafter mentioned, the ship owner may make entry of and land or unship the said goods at the times, in the manner, and subject to the conditions following, that is to say:

- (a) if a time for the delivery of the goods is expressed in the charter party, bill of lading, or agreement, then at any time after the time so expressed;
- (b) if no time for the delivery of the goods is expressed in the charter party, bill of lading, or agreement, then at any time after the expiration of 72 hours, exclusive of a Sunday or holiday, after the report of the ship;
- (c) if any wharf or warehouse is named in the charter party, bill of lading, or agreement as the wharf for warehouse where the goods are to be placed, and if they can be conveniently there received, the ship owner in landing them by virtue of this enactment shall cause them to be placed on such wharf or in such warehouse;
- (d) in other cases the ship owner, in landing goods by virtue of this enactment, shall place them on or in some wharf or warehouse on or in which goods of a like nature are usually placed, such wharf or warehouse being, if the goods are dutiable, a wharf or warehouse duly approved by the Minister of Customs for the landing of dutiable goods;
- (e) if at any time before the goods are landed or unshipped the owner of the goods is ready and offers to land or take delivery of the same, he or she shall be allowed so to do, and his or her entry shall in such case be preferred to any entry made by the ship owner;
- (f) if any goods are for the purpose of convenience in assorting the same landed at the wharf where the ship is discharged, and the owner of the goods at the time of such landing has made entry and is ready and offers to take delivery thereof and to convey the same to some other wharf or warehouse, such goods shall be assorted at landing; and shall, if demanded, be delivered to the owner thereof within 24 hours after assortment, and the expense of and consequent on such landing and assortment shall be borne by the ship owner;
- (g) if at any time before the goods are landed or unshipped the owner thereof has made entry for the landing and warehousing thereof at any particular wharf or warehouse other than that at which the ship is discharging, and has offered and been ready to take

delivery thereof, and the ship owner has failed to make such delivery, and has also failed at the time of such offer to give the owner of the goods correct information of the time at which such goods can be delivered, then the ship owner shall, before landing or unshipping such goods under the power hereby given to him or her, to give to the owner of the goods or of such wharf or warehouse as last aforesaid 24 hours' notice in writing of his or her readiness to deliver the goods, and shall, if he or she lands or unships the same without such notice, do so at his or her own risk and expense.

20. Continuation of lien for freight if ship owner gives notice –

(1) If at any time when any goods are landed from any ship and placed in the custody of a person as a wharf or warehouse owner the ship owner gives to the wharf or warehouse owner notice in writing that the goods are to remain subject to a lien for freight or other charges payable to the ship owner to an amount to be mentioned in such notice, the goods so landed shall in the hands of the wharf or warehouse owner continue liable to the same lien, if any, for such charges as they were subject to before the landing thereof.

(2) The wharf or warehouse owner receiving such goods shall retain them until the lien is discharged as hereinafter mentioned, and if he or she fails so to do shall make good to the ship owner any loss thereby occasioned to him or her.

(3) On production to the wharf or warehouse owner of a receipt for the amount claimed as due, and delivery to the wharf or warehouse owner of a copy thereof or of a release of freight from the ship owner, the lien shall be discharged.

21. Lien to be discharged on deposit with warehouse owner –

The owner of the goods may deposit with the wharf or warehouse owner a sum of money equal in amount to the sum so claimed as aforesaid by the ship owner, and thereupon the lien shall be discharged, but without prejudice to any other remedy which the ship owner may have for the recovery of the freight.

22. Right of warehouse owner, if no notice is given, to pay deposit to ship owner – If such deposit is made with the wharf or warehouse owner, and the person making the same does not within 15

days after making it give to the wharf or warehouse owner notice in writing to retain it, stating in such notice the sum, if any, which he or she admits to be payable to the ship owner, or that he or she does not admit any sum to be so payable, the wharf or warehouse owner may, at the expiration of such 15 days, pay the sum so deposited over to the ship owner, and shall by such payment be discharged from all liability in respect thereof.

23. Course to be taken if notice to retain is given – If such deposit is made with the wharf or warehouse owner, and the person making the same does within 15 days after making it give to the wharf or warehouse owner notice as aforesaid:

- (a) the wharf or warehouse owner shall immediately apprise the ship owner of such notice, and shall pay or tender to him or her out of the sum deposited the sum admitted by such notice to be payable, and shall retain the balance or, if no sum is admitted to be payable, the whole of the sum deposited for 30 days from the date of the said notice;
- (b) at the expiration of such 30 days, unless legal proceedings have in the meantime been instituted by the ship owner against the owner of the goods to recover the said balance or sum, or otherwise for the settlement of any disputes between them concerning such freight or other charges as aforesaid, and notice in writing of such proceedings has been served on him or her, the wharf or warehouse owner shall pay the said balance or sum over to the owner of the goods, and shall by such payment be discharged from all liability in respect thereof.

24. After 90 days warehouse owner may sell goods by public auction – If the lien is not discharged and no deposit is made as hereinbefore mentioned, the wharf or warehouse owner may, and if required by the ship owner shall, at the expiry of 90 days from the time when the goods were placed in his or her custody, or, if the goods are of a perishable nature, at such earlier period as may be fixed by Lloyd's Agent or any surveyor to be appointed by such wharf or warehouse owner, sell by public auction either for home use or exportation the said goods, or so much thereof as may be necessary to satisfy the charges hereinafter mentioned.

25. Notices of sale to be given – (1) Before making such sale, the wharf or warehouse owner shall give notice thereof by advertisement in one newspaper circulating in the neighbourhood, a copy whereof shall be kept posted up in some conspicuous part of the wharf or warehouse.

(2) If the address of the owner of the goods has been stated on the manifest of the cargo, or on any of the documents in the possession of the wharf or warehouse owner, or is otherwise known to him or her, such wharf or warehouse owner shall give notice of the sale to the owner of the goods by letter sent by post.

(3) But the title of a *bona fide* purchaser of such goods shall not be invalidated by reason of the omission to send notice as hereinbefore mentioned, nor shall any such purchaser be bound to inquire whether such notice has been sent.

26. Money arising from sale, how to be applied – In every case of any such sale as aforesaid, the wharf or warehouse owner shall apply the money received from the sale in the following order:

- (a) if the goods are sold for home use, in payment of any Customs or excise duties owing in respect thereof;
- (b) in payment of the expenses of the sale;
- (c) in the absence of an agreement between the wharf or warehouse owner and the ship owner concerning the priority of their respective charges, in payment of the rent, rates, and other charges due to the wharf or warehouse owner in respect of the goods;
- (d) in payment of the amount claimed by the ship owner as due for freight or other charges in respect of the goods;
- (e) but in the case of any agreement between the wharf or warehouse owner and the ship owner concerning the priority of their respective charges, then such charges shall have priority according to the terms of such agreement; and
- (f) the surplus, if any, shall be paid to the owner of the goods.

27. Warehouse owner's rent and expenses – Where goods are placed in the custody of a wharf or warehouse owner under the authority of this Part, the owner is entitled to rent in respect of the same, and also has the power at the expense of the owner of the goods to do all any

reasonable acts as in the judgment of the wharf or warehouse owner are necessary for the proper custody and preservation of the goods, and shall have a lien thereon for the rent and expenses.

28. Warehouse owner's protection – Nothing in this Part compels any wharf or warehouse owner to take charge of any goods which he or she would not be liable to take charge of if this Part of this Act had not passed, nor shall he or she be bound to see to the validity of any lien claimed by any ship owner under this Part.

PART 4

UNPAID VENDORS OF WAREHOUSED GOODS

29. Interpretation– In this Part, unless the context otherwise requires:

- “bonded warehouse” means a building approved and appointed by the Minister of Revenue for the warehousing of goods without payment of duty on the first entry thereof;
- “free warehouse” means a building licensed by the Minister of Revenue to be used exclusively for the storage of any goods not liable to the payment of Customs duties, or whereon such duties have been paid previously to storage;
- “goods” includes wares and merchandise of every description;
- “pledge” means any deposit and delivery of warrants or certificates with intent that the holder thereof may dispose of the goods to which such warrants or certificates relate in the event of the terms of the deposit not being fulfilled by the persons making the same;
- “pledgee” means the person in whose favour the deposit of the warrants or certificates is made;
- “sale” means any absolute disposition of goods, whether for payment to be made in cash or upon credit;
- “sub-purchaser” means a person purchasing from or under the person to whom the original bonder or storer of goods in a bonded or free warehouse sold the same and delivered the warrants or certificates relating thereto;
- “warehouse keeper” means the person having the management of any bonded or free warehouse, whether the warehouseperson himself or herself or a person employed by him or her;

“warehouse keeper’s book” means the book wherein the warehouse keeper enters a list of all goods received in and delivered out of the warehouse managed by him or her;

“warehouseperson” means the person for whose immediate benefit and under whose control the storage of goods in a bonded or free warehouse is carried on;

“warrants” or “certificates” means any receipt or undertaking issued by or on behalf of the warehouseperson, and signed by him or her or on his or her behalf, acknowledging the receipt in a specified warehouse of goods to be held on behalf of a person named and described, giving the particulars of the goods stored, the marks or brands (if any) thereon, the terms upon which the goods are stored, and containing an undertaking on the part of the warehouseperson to deliver the same to the endorsee, holder, or bearer of the warrant or certificate.

30. Unpaid vendor’s lien determined on delivery of bond warrants to *bona fide* holder for value – In all cases where warrants or certificates for goods liable to the payment of Customs duties are issued, importing a receipt of such goods by or on behalf of any bonded warehouseperson and an undertaking to deliver the same to the holder of the warrants or certificates on presentation and demand, and on payment of the duties, rent, and charges lawfully demandable, and such warrants or certificates are delivered over on a sale of the goods by the person to whom the warrants or certificates are issued by or on behalf of the warehouseperson, the rights, legal and equitable, of such person, as an unpaid vendor, to stop the actual delivery of the goods comprised in and affected by such warrants or certificates shall be deemed at an end when such warrants or certificates are delivered over *bona fide* and for value, on either a sale or pledge of the goods by a person purchasing from the original bonder thereof.

31. Possession of warrants *prima facie* evidence of ownership – On a sale or pledge of goods stored in any bonded warehouse, the possession of warrants or certificates importing a receipt and undertaking to deliver as aforesaid is *prima facie* evidence of the ownership of the holder of the warrants or certificates in the goods and merchandise affected thereby.

32. Holder of warrant entitled to delivery – A holder of a warrant or certificate importing the obligations aforesaid shall be entitled, on request and on compliance with the terms of the contract implied by the warrants or certificates between the warehouseperson and the original bonder of the goods, to have delivery thereof, or to have his or her name entered upon the books of the warehouse keeper as the owner of the said goods.

33. Registered holder of warrant deemed to be owner – Save in the event of fraud being proved in the procurement of the entry of the name of the holder of the certificates or warrants in the warehouse keeper's books, the person whose name is so entered shall be conclusively deemed the then owner in possession of the said goods, subject to the provisions hereinafter contained.

34. Lien of registered transferee of warrant determined on delivery of warrant bona fide and for value – In the event of any transfer being entered in the books of the warehouse keeper, and the then owner of bonded goods delivers over the warrants or certificates relating to or affecting the same to any other person on a sale or pledge of the said goods, and such warrants or certificates are afterwards delivered over *bona fide* and for value to any subpurchaser or pledgee by the person receiving the same from the owner whose name is entered as aforesaid, the rights, legal and equitable, of the said owner as an unpaid vendor to stop the actual delivery of the goods comprised in and affected by such warrants or certificates shall be deemed at an end as from the time of the *bona fide* delivery of the warrants or certificates to the first sub-purchaser or pledgee for value.

35. Warrants of free goods put on the same footing as bond warrants – Where goods are stored in any free warehouse, and warrants or certificates, importing on behalf of the warehouseperson a receipt of the goods and an undertaking to deliver the same on presentation and demand and on payment of the rents and charges lawfully demandable, are delivered to and accepted by the person originally warehousing such goods, the respective rights and liabilities of the warehouseperson and warehouse keeper, and of the persons to whom the said warrants or certificates were originally issued, or are afterwards delivered or redelivered upon a resale or pledge *bona fide* and for value of the goods, or in whose name the ownership may be

transferred in the books of the warehouse keeper, or who afterwards acquires possession *bona fide* and for value of the warrants or certificates, shall be the same in all respects as is hereinbefore provided with regard to goods liable to the payment of Customs duties and stored in a bonded warehouse.

36. Provisions same in respect of bonded and free warehouses –

The provisions herein relative to the rights of or incident to the ownership of goods stored in a bonded warehouse shall be as applicable to the ownership of goods stored in a free warehouse as if such provisions had been respectively repeated and expressly applied thereto.

37. Vendor's lien not prejudiced save as against *bona fide* sub-purchaser or pledgee for value or to the rights of a bankrupt trustee– Nothing herein prejudices the rights of an unpaid vendor of goods to stop delivery thereof until payment of the price payable to him or her whenever such rights may be lawfully exercised without detriment or injury to any sub-purchaser or pledgee *bona fide* and for value, or to the rights of any trustee in bankruptcy claiming under the purchaser from the unpaid vendor.

38. Goods not to be transferred in books of warehouseperson except on production of warrant – (1) No entry is to be made in the books of any warehouseperson or keeper of any bonded or free warehouse transferring the ownership or possession of any goods, unless the person applying for such entry to be made produces and delivers up the warrants or certificates originally issued.

(2) Thereupon the warehouseperson or the keeper of his or her warehouse may cancel the warrants or certificates and issue others in lieu thereof, and such new warrants or certificates may in like manner be cancelled and others issued in substitution thereof.

39. Special contracts restraining negotiability of warrants – (1) Despite anything herein, the person originally storing goods in any bonded or free warehouse, and the warehouseperson thereof, may enter into a special contract restraining the negotiability of the warrants or certificates issued in respect of the goods, or providing some special method of transfer of the property in and possession of such goods.

(2) In every such case the terms of such special contract shall be incorporated in and made to appear upon the face of the warrants or certificates, so that the holder thereof may have his or her attention expressly directed thereto.

40. Warehouseperson's lien not prejudiced by sale or transfer of goods – No transfer of the ownership or possession of the goods stored in any bonded or free warehouse shall in any way prejudicially affect the lien or rights of the warehouseperson in respect of any rent or charges previously incurred or become payable on account of the goods the ownership or possession whereof may be so transferred as aforesaid.

41. Repeal – The Mercantile Law Act 1908 (NZ) is repealed as part of the law of Samoa.

REVISION NOTES 2008 – 2022

This is the official version of this Act as at 31 December 2022.

This Act has been revised by the Legislative Drafting Division from 2008 – 2022 respectively under the authority of the Attorney General given under the *Revision and Publication of Laws Act 2008*.

The following general revisions have been made:

- (a) Amendments have been made to conform to modern drafting styles and to use modern language as applied in the laws of Samoa.
- (b) Amendments have been made to up-date references to offices, officers and statutes.
- (c) Insertion of the commencement date
- (d) Other minor editing has been done in accordance with the lawful powers of the Attorney General.
 - (i) “Every” and “any” changed to “a”
 - (ii) “shall be” changed to “is” and “shall be deemed” changed to “is taken”
 - (iii) “shall have” changed to “has”
 - (iv) “shall be guilty” changed to “commits”
 - (v) “notwithstanding” changed to “despite”
 - (vi) “pursuant to” changed to “under”
 - (vii) “it shall be lawful” changed to “may”
 - (viii) “it shall be the duty” changed to “shall”
 - (ix) Numbers in words changed to figures
 - (x) “hereby” and “from time to time” (or “at any time” or “at all times”) removed
 - (xi) “under the hand of” changed to “signed by”

- (xii) Part numbers changed to decimal.

There were no amendments made to this Act since the publication of the *Consolidated and Revised Statutes of Samoa 2007*.



Su'a Hellene Wallwork
Attorney General of Samoa

*This Act is administered by
the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour.*