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The *Saeima*<sup>1</sup> has adopted and  
the President has proclaimed the following law:

# Civil Protection and Disaster Management Law

## Chapter I General Provisions

### Section 1. Terms Used in this Law

The following terms are used in this Law:

- 1) **civil protection** - a set of organisational, engineering, economic, financial, social, educational and scientific measures implemented by the State and local government authorities and the society to ensure the safety of people, the environment and property, and also implement corresponding actions in case of a disaster or threats thereof;
- 2) **disaster** - an accident which has caused human casualties or endangers human life or health, caused damage or threat to people, the environment or property, and also inflicted or inflicts significant material and financial losses and exceeds the daily capacity of the responsible State and local government authorities to prevent the devastating conditions;
- 3) **threats of a disaster** - a situation when risk assessment, forecasts, information or other circumstances reasonably indicate to the likelihood of a disaster;
- 4) **disaster management** - a set of managed and coordinated preventive, preparedness, response, elimination of consequences measures, and also recovery measures conducted to ensure the implementation of civil protection tasks;
- 5) **preventive measures** - a set of measures performed to prevent or reduce the threats of a disaster;
- 6) **preparedness measures** - a set of measures performed to prepare for the required action in case of a disaster;
- 7) **early warning** - targeted and immediate provision of information to persons and responsible authorities on a disaster or threats of a disaster and the required action;
- 8) **national early warning system** - a technological system functioning autonomously or a set of such systems which ensures early warning;
- 9) **response measures** - a set of the measures which are performed in order to reduce or eliminate devastating conditions and the consequences caused thereby, to prevent or reduce harm to people, the environment and property;
- 10) **rescue operations** - response measures and the measures in the set of measures for the elimination of consequences which are planned, managed and performed by the State Fire and Rescue Service, except for the rescue operations in the sea and internal waters from the baseline to shoreline which are planned, managed and performed by the National Armed Forces;
- 11) **measures for the elimination of consequences** - a set of measures which are performed in order to ensure at least the minimum basic needs of inhabitants related to the survival of people and to stop or reduce threat to human health, the environment and property;
- 12) **recovery measures** - a set of measures which are performed in order to help victims in a timely and proportional manner and to the extent possible to restore the environment and property to the state it was before the disaster;
- 13) **international assistance** - a set of measures which, in applying this Law, is performed to respond to the

disaster and eliminate the consequences of the disaster;

14) **basic needs** - food, housing, health care, medical assistance, electricity supply, water supply, heating supply, waste and wastewater collection, communication provision;

15) **coordination** - coordination of the action of the State and local government authorities in the implementation of preventive, preparedness, response, elimination of consequences measures, and also recovery measures.

## **Section 2. Purpose of the Law**

The purpose of this Law is to determine the competence of the system of civil protection and disaster management subjects in order to ensure, to the extent possible, the safety and protection of people, the environment and property in case of a disaster or threats thereof.

## **Section 3. System and Tasks of Civil Protection**

(1) The system of civil protection is a component of the national security system which is formed by the State and local government authorities, legal and natural persons whose rights, tasks and responsibility in the field of civil protection are laid down in the law.

(2) The principle of co-operation of territories shall form the basis for the organisation of the system of civil protection, and municipalities and republic cities shall be the territorial basic units of the structure of the system of civil protection.

(3) The system of civil protection shall have the following tasks:

- 1) to ensure the safety of people, the environment and property;
- 2) to ensure, to the extent possible, the minimal basic needs for the public in case of a disaster or threats thereof;
- 3) to forecast in a timely manner the threats of a disaster;
- 4) to plan and perform preventive measures in a timely manner;
- 5) to provide assistance to victims of disasters and reduce damage that has been or may be caused by the disaster to people, the environment and property;
- 6) to plan and perform recovery measures;
- 7) to provide and receive international assistance in accordance with the procedures laid down in the laws and regulations;
- 8) to support the national defence system if a military invasion or war has begun.

# **Chapter II**

## **Disaster, Risk Assessment and Disaster Management**

## **Section 4. Disaster Types and Scale**

(1) The following disasters shall be distinguished in conformity with the disaster cause:

1) natural disasters:

- a) geophysical - earthquakes, landslides,
- b) hydrological - fluvial flood, floods, ice jams,
- c) meteorological - heavy rainfalls, hail, snow-drifts, storms, whirlwinds,
- d) climatological - intense cold or heat, icing, drought, fires in forests and peat bogs,
- e) biological - epidemics, epizootics and epiphytotics,
- f) cosmic - fall of meteorites, geomagnetic storms;

2) man-made disasters or anthropogenic disasters:

a) technogenic disasters caused by a release of chemical, radioactive and biological substances, fires in buildings and structures, explosions, ruptures in dams and other hydrotechnic structures, damages to energy networks, accidents in utility networks, collapse of buildings and structures or vehicle accidents,

b) public disorders, terrorist attacks and internal conflicts.

(2) Disasters shall be divided in conformity with the scale of damage caused:

1) local disasters - the scale of damage caused by a disaster does not exceed the borders of the administrative territory of one local government;

2) regional disasters - the scale of damage caused by a disaster exceeds the borders of the administrative territory of one local government;

3) State disasters - the scale of damage caused by a disaster affects the entire territory of the State or a significant part thereof.

## **Section 5. Risk Assessment**

(1) Risk assessment shall be a process involving risk identification, risk analysis and risk evaluation.

(2) Risk identification shall be a process involving risk detection, recognition and description.

(3) Risk analysis shall be a process that is carried out in order to understand the essence of the risk and determine the level thereof.

(4) Risk assessment shall be a process during which the results of risk analysis are compared to risk criteria in order to determine whether the risk and the level thereof is acceptable or satisfactory.

(5) Risk criteria shall be reference points used in order to assess the likelihood and consequences of the risk.

## **Section 6. Disaster Management**

(1) The disaster management shall be coordinated by:

1) the Ministry of Defence - disasters at sea in accordance with that laid down in the Maritime Administration and Marine Safety Law, and also in the on-shore military buildings or engineering structures that are under the ownership or possession thereof;

2) the Ministry of Foreign Affairs - disasters in the buildings and engineering structures of the representations and embassies of the Republic of Latvia in other countries;

3) the Ministry of Economics - disasters related to energy generation or transport infrastructure of energy and energy resources (a gas leak in main gas pipelines, an accident in gas and fuel supply systems, an accident in energy generation equipment or infrastructure of hydrotechnic structures of hydroelectric power stations, damages to energy networks);

4) the Ministry of the Interior - disasters related to fires, earthquakes, landslides, terrorist attacks, public disorders, internal conflicts or transport accidents in internal waters to the shoreline;

5) the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development - disasters related to release of hazardous chemical substances or mixtures, except release at sea and internal waters from the baseline to the shoreline, including cases of sea shore contamination, radiation accidents, and also storms, whirlwinds, heavy rainfalls, fluvial flood, floods, hail, intense cold, icing, snow-drifts, ice jams or intense heat;

6) the Ministry of Transport - disasters related to accidents of carriage by rail, road or air and relevant engineering structures, accidents of pipelines for oil and oil product transit, and also accidents of hydrotechnical engineering structures of ports and sea;

7) the Ministry of Health - disasters related to epidemics of human infectious diseases;

8) the Ministry of Agriculture - disasters related to fires in forests and peat bogs, drought, accidents of polders, hydrotechnical engineering structures, except accidents of hydroelectric power stations, hydrotechnical engineering structures of ports and sea; epizootics and epiphytoticies related to mass animal illness or the outbreak of an infectious disease dangerous to animals, or multiplying of organisms harmful to plants;

9) local governments - disasters within the administrative territory of a local government related to the collapse of buildings and structures, accidents in heating supply, water supply, wastewater or collecting system.

(2) The ministry referred to in Paragraph one of this Section involving the authorities that are subordinate to the Ministry or local government (hereinafter - the disaster management subject) in co-operation with other ministries, State and local government authorities shall perform the following disaster management coordination tasks:

1) to assess the risk;

2) based on risk assessment, to determine the preventive, preparedness, response and elimination of consequences measures, draw up planning documents for the development of the respective field, laws and regulations and other documents;

3) based on risk assessment, to identify and plan resources for disaster management.

(3) The incident commander of response and elimination of consequences operations shall be determined in the State civil protection plan or the civil protection plans of the co-operation territories depending on the type of disaster.

(4) The incident commander of response and elimination of consequences operations has the right to involve State and local government authorities, legal and natural persons, and also resources at their disposal in response and elimination of consequences measures.

(5) After the disaster, the disaster management subject in co-operation with other ministries, State and local government authorities shall determine and perform recovery measures in the sequence of priorities.

(6) Ministries, State and local government authorities shall provide the necessary support for the implementation of disaster management coordination tasks to the disaster management subject.

### **Section 7. Evacuation**

(1) Evacuation shall be an independent movement to the specified safe direction or moving to a safe location before or during a disaster from the territory or room where the circumstances pose a threat to human life and health.

(2) The decision to evacuate inhabitants shall be taken by the disaster management subject, the incident commander of response and elimination of consequences operations or the owner or lawful possessor of the object based on the following:

1) the information on the threat of a disaster;

2) the information on the consequences of a disaster that can pose a threat to human life and health.

## **Chapter III Duties, Tasks and Rights of the System of Civil Protection and Disaster Management Subjects**

### **Section 8. Tasks of Prime Minister and the Cabinet**

(1) The Prime Minister shall:

1) supervise the operation of the system of civil protection and implementation of the tasks thereof;

2) decide on the proposal of local government to take over the coordination of a local disaster management.

(2) The Cabinet shall:

1) decide on the financing that the State authorities require for the implementation of the tasks laid down for them in the field of civil protection and disaster management;

2) determine the procedures for establishment of the civil protection commission, tasks, rights, work organisation thereof and the co-operation territory of local governments present in the civil protection commission;

3) regulate the procedures for identifying and determining the objects of increased danger, planning and implementation of civil protection and disaster management, and approve the list of objects of increased danger;

4) determine the procedures by which the State and local government authorities involve the resources at the disposal of a legal or natural person in response and elimination of consequences measures;

5) determine the procedures for compensating expenses or losses to a legal or natural person which have incurred due to the involvement of resources thereof in the response and elimination of consequences measures, and also the procedures for calculating the amount of compensation;

6) determine the procedures for establishing the national contact point for civil protection and tasks and rights thereof, and also procedures for its co-operation with the Emergency Response Coordination Centre, the Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre and other international organisations and foreign countries;

7) determine the procedures for establishing, operating and financing the national early warning system.

### **Section 9. Tasks and Rights of Ministries, State Authorities and Heads Thereof**

(1) The Ministry shall ensure the implementation of civil protection tasks, development of draft laws and regulations necessary in the field and disaster management coordination at a national, regional and local level.

(2) The Ministry of the Interior shall coordinate the development planning and operation of the system of civil protection.

(3) The administrative head of a State authority shall ensure and manage the implementation of civil protection tasks within the State authority.

(4) The head of the State authority shall have the following tasks:

1) to plan and implement the necessary action to ensure uninterrupted operation of the State authority in case of a disaster or threats thereof;

2) to develop the civil protection plan for the object or object of increased danger that is under the ownership or possession of the State authority, coordinate it with the State Fire and Rescue Service, and approve it;

3) to ensure accurate and timely fulfilment of the measures determined for the State authority in the State civil protection plan and civil protection plan of the co-operation territory;

4) to ensure the safety of employees and visitors of the State authority in the objects or objects of increased danger under the ownership or possession thereof;

5) upon request of the disaster management subject, to provide information on the resources available to the State authority to be used in disaster management.

(5) The Ministry and the State authority, in accordance with the field of activity thereof, shall develop and provide recommendations to the State and local government authorities, owners and lawful possessors of objects or objects of increased danger and also provide recommendations to inhabitants regarding action in case of a disaster or threats thereof.

(6) The Ministry and the State authority, within the scope of their competence, have the right to request and receive free of charge information from the State and local government authorities, legal and natural persons that is necessary for civil protection and disaster management.

(7) The Ministry and the State institution have the right to enter into written service and co-operation agreements with other State or local government authorities, legal and natural persons in the field of civil protection and disaster management.

(8) The Ministry have the right to impose an obligation on the authority subordinated to the Ministry to develop a civil protection plan of the relevant object which is to be coordinated with the State Fire and Rescue Service.

## **Section 10. Tasks and Rights of the State Fire and Rescue Service**

(1) The State Fire and Rescue Service shall have the following tasks:

1) to manage, coordinate and control the operation of the system of civil protection;

2) to revise and coordinate draft civil protection plans for objects and objects of increased danger;

3) to establish and maintain the list of resources to be used in fire service activities and rescue operations at their own disposal and also under the ownership or possession of legal and natural persons;

4) to perform inspections on the compliance with the civil protection requirements;

5) to plan and organise training for the civil protection commission of the co-operation territories;

6) to appoint an official from the State Fire and Rescue Service to work in the civil protection commission of the co-operation territory. This official shall be the vice-chair of the relevant commission.

(2) The State Fire and Rescue Service has the rights:

1) to request and receive free of charge the information necessary for the operational control of the system of civil protection from the State and local government authorities, legal and natural persons;

2) to supervise compliance with the requirements of the laws and regulations governing the field of civil protection, prepare reports regarding the infringements and drawbacks determined during the inspections, and also provide recommendations to the State and local government authorities, owners or lawful possessors of objects or objects of increased danger regarding the elimination of infringements and drawbacks and improvement of the civil protection measures;

3) in performing rescue operations, to give instructions to the involved authorities, and also to legal and natural persons regarding the necessary action at the scene;

4) to involve in rescue operations State and local government authorities, legal and natural persons, and also the resources at the disposal thereof.

#### **Section 11. Tasks and Rights of Local Government Council, Chairperson Thereof, Local Government Authority and Head Thereof**

(1) The local government council shall have the following tasks:

1) to provide financing that the local government authorities require for the implementation of the tasks determined in the field of civil protection and disaster management;

2) to approve the by-law and composition of the civil protection commission of the co-operation territory;

3) to approve the civil protection plan of the co-operation territory;

4) upon request of the disaster management subject, to provide information on the resources available to the local government council and local government authorities to be used in disaster management;

5) to ensure evacuation of inhabitants from the territories endangered or affected by a disaster, and also to keep a record of these inhabitants, ensure temporary accommodation, feeding and social care;

6) to the best of its ability, to ensure appropriate work and living conditions for the officials of State and local government authorities, and legal and natural persons involved in the disaster management;

7) to participate in civil protection exercise and to organise civil protection exercise of a local government.

(2) The local government council have the following rights:

1) within the scope of the competence of local governments laid down in this Law, to request and receive free of charge the information necessary for civil protection and disaster management from the State and local government authorities, legal and natural persons;

2) to propose that the Prime Minister takes over the coordination of a local disaster management;

3) to involve State and local government authorities, legal and natural persons and also the resources at the disposal thereof in the coordination of a local disaster management;

4) in case of a disaster or threats thereof, to limit the assembly and movement of persons in the respective administrative territory or a part thereof for a time period of up to two weeks informing the Cabinet and the near-by local governments on the restrictions and revocation thereof, and also publishing relevant announcements in mass media;

5) to impose an obligation on the institution that is subordinate thereto to develop the civil protection plan of the relevant object which is to be coordinated with the State Fire and Rescue Service.

(3) The chairperson of the local government council shall manage the implementation of the civil protection tasks in the local government and ensure the coordination of the local disaster management referred to in Section 6, Paragraph one, Clause 9 of this Law.

(4) If the chairperson of the local government council is appointed as the chairperson of the civil protection commission of the co-operation territory, he or she shall ensure the following in co-operation with the State and local government authorities, legal and natural persons:

1) development of the by-law of the civil protection commission of the co-operation territory that is coordinated with the State Fire and Rescue Service and submitted for approval to every local government council;

2) determination of the composition of the civil protection commission of the co-operation territory that is submitted for approval to every local government council;

3) development of the draft civil protection plan of the co-operation territory including the disasters referred to in Section 6, Paragraph one, Clause 9 of this Law and tasks referred to in Paragraph one, Clause 5 of this Section that is submitted for approval to every local government council.

(5) The head of the local government authority shall ensure and manage the implementation of civil protection tasks within the local government authority.

(6) The head of the local government authority shall have the following tasks:

1) to plan and implement the necessary action to ensure uninterrupted operation of the local government authority in case of a disaster or threats thereof;

2) to develop the civil protection plan for the object of increased danger that is under the ownership or possession of the local government authority, coordinate it with the State Fire and Rescue Service, and approve it;

3) to ensure the fulfilment of measures determined for the local government authority in the civil protection plan of the co-operation territory;

4) to ensure the safety of employees and visitors of the local government authority in the objects or objects of increased danger under the ownership or possession thereof;

5) upon request of the local government council, to provide information on the resources available to the local government authority to be used in disaster management.

(7) The local government council and local government authorities, in accordance with the field of activity thereof, shall develop and provide recommendations to the State and local government authorities, owners and lawful possessors of objects or objects of increased danger, and also provide recommendations to inhabitants regarding action in case of a disaster or threats thereof.

(8) The local government council and local government authority, in accordance with the field of activity thereof, have the right to enter into written service and co-operation agreements with other State or local government authorities, legal or natural persons in the field of civil protection and disaster management.

(9) If the co-operation territory is formed by several local governments, the chairperson of the largest local government council according to the number of inhabitants thereof or the chairperson of the local government council who has been elected by other chairpersons of local government councils with a simple majority shall be the chairperson of the civil protection commission of the co-operation territory, whereas other chairpersons of local government councils and the official of the State Fire and Rescue Service referred to in Section 10, Paragraph one, Clause 6 of this Law shall be the vice-chairs thereof.

(10) The civil protection plan of the co-operation territory shall be approved by every local government council separately.

## **Section 12. Duties and Rights of Legal and Natural Persons**

(1) Legal and natural persons shall have the following duties in the field of civil protection:

1) in accordance with this Law and other laws and regulations, to ensure the maintenance and exploitation of the property at the disposal or under the ownership thereof in a way to prevent harm to the safety of people, the environment and property;

2) to notify immediately the relevant State or local government authorities regarding a disaster or threats thereof;

3) in case of a disaster or threats thereof, to act in accordance with the information provided by the responsible State or local government authorities and instructions given by the officials thereof;

4) to ensure accurate and timely fulfilment of measures determined for the legal person in the State civil protection plan and civil protection plans of the co-operation territories.

(2) Legal and natural persons have the following rights in the field of civil protection:

1) to receive an early warning and recommendations regarding action in case of a disaster or threats thereof;

2) in case of a disaster or threats thereof, to receive assistance from the State and local government authorities.

## **Chapter IV Objects and Objects of Increased Danger**

### **Section 13. Object, Duties and Rights of the Owner or Lawful Possessor of the Object**

(1) An object shall be a building or an engineering structure, or part of an engineering structure connected with a particular plot of land.

(2) The owner or lawful possessor of the object shall be responsible for and ensure the following:

1) the safety of the object, and also the maintenance and exploitation thereof in accordance with the requirements laid down in the laws and regulations and in a way to prevent harm to the safety of people, the environment and property;

2) the possibility to perform the inspection on the compliance with the civil protection requirements at the object.



(3) The owner or lawful possessor of the object shall be responsible for and in case of a threat ensure the following:

1) timely early warning and informing of people on the required action and evacuation from the object;

2) immediate informing of the respective State or local government authorities on the threat and the performed measures for the prevention thereof;

3) evacuation of property from the object under condition it is possible and does not endanger human life and health;

4) provision of all the necessary support upon request of officials of the respective State or local government authorities.

(4) In order to fulfil the requirements laid down in Paragraphs two and three of this Section, the owner or lawful possessor of the object shall ensure the following:

1) the development of the floor-plan of the object indicating the layout of the buildings, rooms and engineering structures, the power line cut-out switches and water, gas or fuel cut-off valves, locations of dangerous equipment;

2) the development of the internal regulatory instruments of the object;

3) the familiarisation of the persons employed at the object with the internal regulatory instruments and the floor-plan of the object and also the storage of copies thereof and the controlling of compliance with the requirements laid down in internal regulatory instruments.

(5) The owner or lawful possessor of the object, by transferring the object for use or management to the State or local government authority, legal or natural person, has the right to agree in writing on the transfer of their competence regarding civil protection and disaster management to the administrative head of the relevant State and local government authority or the respective legal or natural person in compliance with the requirements laid down in the laws and regulations governing other fields.

(6) The owner or lawful possessor of the object shall develop, coordinate with the State Fire and Rescue Service and approve the civil protection plan of the object if the object has been included in the aggregate of critical infrastructures and it has the capacity of over 100 people.

#### **Section 14. Object of Increased Danger, Duties and Rights of the Owner or Lawful Possessor of the Object of Increased Danger**

(1) An object of increased danger shall be a building or an engineering structure used in an economic or any other way which is connected to the generation and accumulation of energy, electromagnetic radiation, processing, treatment, production, use, storage and transportation of flammable, explosive, dangerous chemical substances and mixtures, hazardous waste, plant quarantine organisms, biological and radioactive substances, nuclear materials and waste thereof.

(2) The objects of increased danger shall be classified in the following categories:

1) Category A object of increased danger - an object, which due to effects of different factors, can cause a national disaster or significant harm to the safety of people, the environment and property;

2) Category B object of increased danger - an object, which due to effects of different factors, can cause a regional disaster or harm to the safety of people, the environment and property;

3) Category C object of increased danger - an object, which due to effects of different factors, can cause a local disaster or harm to the safety of people, the environment and property.

(3) The owner or lawful possessor of the object of increased danger shall be responsible for and ensure the following:

1) the safety of the object of increased danger and also the maintenance and exploitation in accordance with the requirements laid down in the laws and regulations and in a way to prevent harm to the safety of people, the environment and property;

2) the possibility to perform the inspection on the compliance with the civil protection requirements at the object of increased danger;

3) the planning and implementation of civil protection measures;

4) familiarisation of the persons employed at the object of increased danger with the civil protection plan for the object of increased danger, and also the storage of the copy thereof and the controlling of compliance with the plan;

5) the training of the persons employed in the field of civil protection and disaster management.



(4) The owner or lawful possessor of the object of increased danger shall develop, coordinate with the State Fire and Rescue Service, and approve the civil protection plan of the object of increased danger.

(5) The owner or lawful possessor of the object of increased danger shall submit the approved and coordinated civil protection plan of the object of increased danger to the relevant local government.

(6) The owner or lawful possessor of the object of increased danger by transferring the object of increased danger for use or management to a State or local government authority, legal or natural person, has the right to agree in writing on the transfer of their competence regarding civil protection and disaster management to the administrative head of the relevant State and local government authority or the relevant legal or natural person in compliance with the requirements laid down in the laws and regulations governing other fields.

## **Chapter V**

### **Planning of Civil Protection**

#### **Section 15. Procedures for Planning Civil Protection**

(1) The State civil protection plan, civil protection plan of the co-operation territory, civil protection plan of the object of increased danger and civil protection plan of the object shall be documents which are drawn up by taking into account risk assessment and wherein measures for disaster management and implementers thereof are determined.

(2) The Cabinet shall determine the structure of the State civil protection plan, civil protection plan of the co-operation territory, civil protection plan of the object of increased danger and civil protection plan of the object and information to be included therein.

(3) The Ministry of the Interior shall ensure that the up-to-date version of the State civil protection plan and civil protection plans of the co-operation territories are placed on the website of the Ministry of the Interior and the State Fire and Rescue Service.

(4) The local government shall ensure that the up-to-date version of the civil protection plan of the respective co-operation territory and the civil protection plan of the objects of increased danger located in the administrative territory of the respective local government are available on the website of the local government.

#### **Section 16. The State Civil Protection Plan**

(1) The State Fire and Rescue Service shall develop the State civil protection plan in co-operation with other authorities.

(2) The Ministry of the Interior shall evaluate the fulfilment of the State civil protection plan, submit the respective informative report to the Cabinet until 1 May each year and, if necessary, draft amendments to the State civil protection plan.

#### **Section 17. The Civil Protection Plan of Local Government or Co-operation Territory**

(1) The local government council shall approve the civil protection plan of the local government or co-operation territory at least once every four years.

(2) The civil protection commission of the local government or co-operation territory shall submit proposals to the relevant local government council regarding the necessary amendments to the civil protection plan of the local government or co-operation territory.

#### **Section 18. The Civil Protection Plan of the Object of Increased Danger**

The owner or lawful possessor of the object of increased danger shall approve the civil protection plan of the object of increased danger at least once every four years.

## **Chapter VI**

### **Inspections on the Operation and Conformity of the System of Civil Protection**

#### **Section 19. Inspections on the Operation of the System of Civil Protection**

(1) The head of the State or local government authority shall control the implementation of civil protection tasks of this authority, and also the implementation of civil protection tasks of the authorities that are subordinate to this authority.

(2) The State and local government authorities shall organise civil protection and disaster management exercise in

order to ensure the preparedness inspection for the system of civil protection.

(3) The Ministry of the Interior shall coordinate the planning of the civil protection and disaster management exercise and organisation thereof at a national and regional level in accordance with the tasks laid down for the State and local government authorities in the State civil protection plan.

(4) The types of civil protection and disaster management exercise and procedures for organising thereof shall be determined by the Cabinet.

## **Section 20. Inspections on the Compliance with the Civil Protection Requirements**

(1) The inspections on the compliance with the civil protection requirements at the objects and objects of increased danger shall be performed by an official with special service rank of the State Fire and Rescue Service (hereinafter - the official with special service rank).

(2) The inspections on the compliance with the civil protection requirements at the objects and objects of increased danger of the Ministry of Defence, the National Armed Forces and national security agencies shall be performed by the person responsible for civil protection or the official with special service rank in accordance with a memorandum of understanding concluded between the Ministry of Defence, the National Armed Forces or national security agencies and the State Fire and Rescue Service. The official with special service rank shall perform the inspections on the compliance with the civil protection requirements at the objects and objects of increased danger of foreign diplomatic and consular missions on the basis of a written submission of the relevant foreign diplomatic or consular mission.

(3) The official with special service rank shall perform planned and occasional inspections on the compliance with the civil protection requirements. The planned inspection on the compliance with the civil protection requirements (hereinafter - the planned inspection) shall be performed in accordance with the plan of the inspection on the compliance with the civil protection requirements approved by the State Fire and Rescue Service. The occasional inspection on the compliance with the civil protection requirements (hereinafter - the occasional inspection) shall be performed on the basis of a written decision by the State Fire and Rescue Service.

(4) The official with special service rank who performs the inspections on the compliance with the civil protection requirements shall have the following duties:

1) to inform in advance the owner or lawful possessor of the object or object of increased danger on the planned inspection;

2) prior to commencement of the inspection on the compliance with the civil protection requirements, to introduce oneself by providing his or her surname, position and present his or her service identification document to the owner or lawful possessor of the object or object of increased danger, or to their authorised person;

3) prior to commencement of the occasional inspection, to hand over the written decision of the State Fire and Rescue Service to the owner or lawful possessor of the object or object of increased danger, or to their authorised person;

4) to inform the owner or lawful possessor of the object or object of increased danger, or authorised person thereof on the results of the inspection on the compliance with the civil protection requirements;

5) to instruct the owner or lawful possessor of the object or object of increased danger, or authorised person thereof to eliminate the infringements of the civil protection requirements laid down in the laws and regulations.

(5) In the process of performing the inspection on the compliance with the civil protection requirements, the official with special service rank has the following rights:

1) to inspect the compliance of the object or object of increased danger with the civil protection requirements laid down in the laws and regulations;

2) by taking photos and making video recordings, to record the infringements of civil protection requirements laid down in the laws and regulations;

3) to request that an identity document or other personal identification document is presented;

4) to suspend or restrict the exploitation of the object or object of increased danger;

5) to issue a statement on the compliance of the object or object of increased danger with the civil protection requirements laid down in the laws and regulations;

6) to draw up statements of administrative infringements, to examine cases of administrative infringements and impose administrative penalties for the infringements the examination of which is under the jurisdiction of the State Fire and Rescue Service;

7) to request and receive free of charge information related to the civil protection issues.

## **Chapter VII**

### **Scientific Research, Education and Training in the Field of Civil Protection and Disaster Management**

#### **Section 21. Scientific Research**

In order to facilitate the development of the system of civil protection, the State and local government authorities, legal and natural persons may implement scientific research work in the field of civil protection and disaster management.

#### **Section 22. Training of Specialists**

The training of civil protection specialists shall be performed by the State accredited institutions of higher education and vocational secondary education institutions.

#### **Section 23. Educating Inhabitants**

(1) An educational institution shall ensure the provision of a mandatory course in civil protection to educatees of higher, general and vocational education institutions. The minimum requirements for the content of the mandatory course in civil protection shall be determined by the Cabinet.

(2) The educating of inhabitants in civil protection matters by using mass media and electronic mass media and also by distributing informative materials shall be performed by the State and local government authorities and also legal and natural persons in accordance with the field of activity thereof.

(3) Training of employees in civil protection matters shall be organised by the employer. The minimum requirements for the training of employees in civil protection matters shall be determined by the Cabinet.

## **Chapter VIII**

### **International Assistance in Case of Disaster or Threats of Disaster, Financing of the System of Civil Protection**

#### **Section 24. Request for and Provision of International Assistance**

(1) In case of a disaster or threats thereof, the decision on the request for or provision of international assistance shall be taken by the Cabinet, upon the proposal of the disaster management subject or the Cabinet's own initiative.

(2) In case of a disaster or threats thereof, the disaster management subject shall, if there is a justified necessity, make a proposal to the Cabinet to decide on the request for international assistance in disaster management and indicate the grounds for the necessary international assistance, the type, scope and the estimated costs thereof and also the responsible State authorities and co-authorities providing host nation support.

(3) If information with a request for international assistance has been received from a state affected by a disaster or a state in crisis, or an international organisation, the disaster management subject, coordinating it with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, shall submit to the Cabinet a proposal to evaluate the specified information and take a decision on the provision of international assistance, and indicate the requester of the international assistance, the grounds for the necessity of the assistance, the type, scope and estimated costs thereof.

(4) The Cabinet shall determine the procedures for receipt and provision of humanitarian aid.

(5) The Cabinet shall determine the procedures by which the State and local government authorities submit proposals to the Cabinet in relation to taking a decision to request international assistance in case of a disaster or threats thereof to ensure disaster management.

(6) Once a year until 20 January, the disaster management subject shall evaluate the capacity thereof to provide international assistance, if necessary, to a state affected by a disaster or a state in crisis and submit the relevant information together with the information on the fulfilment of the State civil protection plan and proposals regarding the amendments necessary to the State civil protection plan to the Ministry of the Interior.

#### **Section 25. Financing of the System of Civil Protection**

The State authority shall finance the implementation of the civil protection tasks within the field of activity thereof from the State budget resources intended for this purpose in its budget, whereas local government authorities - from the resources intended for this purpose in their budgets, and legal and natural persons - from their own resources.

## Transitional Provisions

1. With the coming into force of this Law, the Civil Protection Law (*Latvijas Republikas Saeimas un Ministru Kabineta Ziņotājs*, 2006, No. 22; 2008, No. 16; 2009, No. 7, No. 17; *Latvijas Vēstnesis*, 2009, No. 182; 2013, No. 61) is repealed.

2. Until 1 February 2017, the Cabinet shall issue the Cabinet regulations provided for in Section 8, Paragraph two, Clauses 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7, Section 15, Paragraph two, Section 19, Paragraph four, Section 23, Paragraphs one and three, and Section 24, Paragraphs four and five of this Law. Until the date of the coming into force of the relevant Cabinet regulations, but no longer than until 1 December 2017, the following Cabinet regulations shall be applicable, insofar as they are not in contradiction with this Law:

1) Cabinet Regulation No. 423 of 26 June 2007, Structure of the Civil Protection Plan of a Local Government, Merchant and Institution, Procedures for the Development and Approval Thereof;

2) Cabinet Regulation No. 530 of 7 August 2007, Procedures for the Establishment, Use and Financing of the Civil Alarm and Notification System;

3) Cabinet Regulation No. 612 of 11 September 2007, Minimum Requirements for the Content of the Course in Civil Protection and Content of the Training of Employees in Civil Protection;

4) Cabinet Regulation No. 626 of 18 September 2007, Regulations Regarding Criteria for the Specification of Objects of Increased Danger and the Duties of the Owners (Possessors, Managers) of Such Objects for Ensuring Measures for Reduction of Risk;

5) Cabinet Regulation No. 842 of 11 December 2007, Procedures by which Expenses and Losses Caused by Involving Resources of Persons in Response Measures, Suppression of Fire or Rescue Operations are to be Compensated to Legal and Natural Persons, and the Procedures by which the Amount of Compensation is to be Calculated;

6) Cabinet Regulation No. 772 of 22 September 2008, Regulations Regarding the Types and Organising Procedures of Civil Protection Exercise;

7) Cabinet Regulation No. 659 of 30 June 2009, Procedures for the Receipt and Provision of Humanitarian Assistance;

8) Cabinet Regulation No. 1072 of 22 September 2009, Regulations Regarding the List of the Civil Protection Commissions of Local Governments, the Territory of Operation of the Commissions and the Procedures for the Establishing thereof;

9) Cabinet Regulation No. 1078 of 22 September 2009, Model Regulations of the Civil Protection Commission of a Local Government;

10) Cabinet Regulation No. 1260 of 3 November 2009, Regulations Regarding the Competence of Persons Responsible for the State Supervision of Fire Safety and the Procedures by which the State Supervision of Fire Safety and the Controlling of Compliance with the Civil Protection Requirements are to be Carried Out;

11) Cabinet Regulation No. 910 of 28 September 2010, Regulations Regarding the Establishment, Maintenance, Training, Financing, the Determining of Social Guarantees and Involvement in the International Assistance Provision of the Quick Response Units and Medical Support Units.

3. Until 1 May 2017, the Cabinet shall approve the list of objects of increased danger provided for in Section 8, Paragraph two, Clause 3 of this Law.

4. The State civil protection plan approved before the date of the coming into force of this Law shall be in effect until 1 August 2017. The Cabinet shall approve the State civil protection plan until 2 August 2017.

5. The local government councils shall approve the by-law and composition of the civil protection commission of co-operation territory provided for in Section 11, Paragraph one, Clause 2 of this Law until 1 August 2017.

6. The civil protection plans of co-operation territories approved before the date of the coming into force of this Law shall be in force until 30 December 2017. The local government councils shall approve the civil protection plan of co-operation territory provided for in Section 11, Paragraph one, Clause 3 of this Law until 31 December 2017.

7. The owners or lawful possessors of the objects or objects of increased danger shall approve the civil protection plan of the object or object of increased danger provided for in Section 9, Paragraph eight, Section 13, Paragraph six and Section 14, Paragraph four of this Law until 31 December 2017.

This Law shall come into force on 1 October 2016.

The Law has been adopted by the *Saeima* on 5 May 2016.

President R. Vējonis

Adopted 25 May 2016

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<sup>1</sup> The Parliament of the Republic of Latvia

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