

AERODROMES

(LICENSING AND CONTROL) ACT

*A summary Examination of
Cap, 92 in the R. E 2023*



INTRODUCTION



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Tanzania's Aerodromes (Licensing and Control) Act often called the "Aerodrome Licensing Act." The Act is Chapter 92 in the revised laws of 2023.

1.1. Enactment History.

The chapter consolidates earlier law from 13 August 1948 and the 1974 Act.

Historically the Aerodromes Act in Tanzania was enacted in 1951 during the colonial period as Cap. 80 of the Laws of Tanganyika. Its main purpose was to provide for the establishment, management, control, and regulation of aerodromes in the territory.

After independence in 1961, the law continued in force and was later incorporated into the Revised Laws of Tanzania. Over time, parts of its functions were overtaken by newer aviation laws such as the Civil Aviation Act (2006, as amended), which transferred much of the regulatory authority to the Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority (TCAA).



Briefly in 1951 Aerodromes Act enacted (Cap. 80). Then post-1961 has always been retained in Tanzania's legal framework later on as Cap 92. The change from Cap. 80 to Cap. 92 did not mean that the Aerodromes Act itself was substantially amended. Instead, it was mainly a matter of law revision and re-numbering.

From 2006 onwards much of its role subsumed by the Civil Aviation Act, though it remains a historical foundation for airfield regulation in Tanzania.

AERODROMES (LICENSING AND CONTROL) ACT

1.2. Long Title (what the Act is for)

The Statute is long titled as;

“An Act to control the construction and use of aerodromes and the removal of obstructions on land adjacent to and in the vicinity of aerodromes.”

In short: safety of aircraft operations and orderly licensing/control of aerodromes and nearby obstacles.

1.3. Arrangement Structure of the Act

Part I – Preliminary (ss.1–2): Short title and definitions.

Part II – Control and removal of obstructions (ss.3–15):

Minister may declare aerodromes and aerodrome control areas;

Power to prohibit tall structures, require removal/reduction of structures/trees/boats;

Compensation rules, disputes to a Judge, and inspection powers.

1.4. Part III – Construction and use of airports (ss.16–26)

Establishes a Director of Aerodromes;

Licensing regime (applications, conditions, validity, publication of licensed aerodromes);

Cancellation/suspension, appeals to the Minister;

Offence to land/take off outside a licensed aerodrome (with emergency exceptions);

Regulation-making powers;

1.5. Amendments, Revisions, and Related Changes

The statute indicates amendments by Act No. 1 of 1981 (details consolidated in the Revised Edition).

Repeals effected by this Act: It repealed the Aerodromes Control Act, 1965 (R.L. Cap. 581), with savings.

Incorporated in Revised Edition 2002 and later consolidated by the AG's office as at 30 Nov 2019.

1.6. Current framework of the Act

The Civil Aviation Act, Cap. 80 is the overarching aviation statute and expressly provides for licensing, inspection and regulation of aerodromes (i.e., the broader legal umbrella).

The operative technical rules are in Regulations under Cap. 80. Notably, the older Civil Aviation (Aerodromes) Regulations, 2017 were revoked and replaced on 5 Jan 2024 by the Civil Aviation (Certification, Licensing and Registration of Aerodromes) Regulations, 2024 (GN No. 5 of 2024).

AERODROMES (LICENSING AND CONTROL) ACT

1.7. Sanctions under the Aerodromes Act of Tanzania

Fines and penalties for operating or maintaining an aerodrome without proper licensing or in breach of safety requirements.

Suspension or cancellation of licenses where an aerodrome operator fails to comply with prescribed standards.

Closure orders for aerodromes deemed unsafe or non-compliant with the law.

1.8. Enforcement authority:

The Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority (TCAA) is the body empowered to regulate, license, inspect, and enforce compliance under the Act.



1.9. Conclusion

The Aerodromes Act of Tanzania provides the legal backbone for the establishment, regulation, and safety oversight of aerodromes across the country. By setting clear standards for construction, operation, and management, it ensures that aviation facilities meet international requirements while safeguarding the interests of passengers, operators, and the public. The Act not only promotes safety and efficiency in air transport but also supports economic growth, tourism, and connectivity within Tanzania and beyond. Ultimately, it reflects the government's commitment to maintaining modern, safe, and reliable aviation infrastructure as a driver of national development.

REFERENCES

- Aerodromes (Licensing and Control) Act Cap, 92 in the R.E,2023
- Civil Aviation (Certification, Licensing and Registration of Aerodromes) Regulations, 2024 (G.N No. 5 of 2024).

