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**Published on the website on April 2025**

**Law No. (33) of 2006 regarding Sewage Disposal and Surface Water Drainage**

We, Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Having reviewed the Constitution,

Law No. (3) of 1975 regarding Public Health, as amended,

Legislative Decree No. (11) of 1991 regarding Sewage Disposal and Surface Water Drainage,

Legislative Decree No. (21) of 1996 regarding the Environment, amended by Legislative Decree No. (8) of 1997,

And the Municipalities Law promulgated by Legislative Decree No. (35) of 2001,

The Shura Council and the Council of Representatives have approved the following Law, which we have ratified and enacted:

Article (1)

Definitions

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

- Ministry: Ministry of Works and Housing.

- Minister: Minister of Works and Housing.

- Executing Authority: The department within the Ministry responsible for sewage disposal and surface water drainage, or any public entity assigned with any of the functions stipulated in this Law.

- Sewage Disposal Facilities: The installations and works related to the disposal of sewage water and the accompanying suspended materials, including pipe networks and auxiliary devices and fittings.

- Surface Water: Rainwater and water that emerges above the ground due to natural factors.

- Surface Water Drainage Facilities: The installations and works related to the disposal of surface water, including pipe networks, auxiliary devices and fittings.

- Public Drainage Facilities: Sewage disposal facilities and surface water drainage facilities.

- Grievance Committee: The committee stipulated in Article (8) of this Law.

Notification: The notification of the concerned party by means of a registered letter with acknowledgement of receipt regarding any decision or action taken in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

Article (2)

Scope of Application of the Law

a. The provisions of this Law shall apply to the disposal of sewage water and surface water to any of the public drainage facilities that the Executing Authority is responsible for establishing, operating, or maintaining.

b. Facilities for Sewage Disposal and Surface Water Drainage established with private funds on a public road, or on a private road open to public passage and connected to one of the public drainage facilities shall be deemed Public Drainage Facilities, and the provisions of this Law shall apply to them.

Article (3)

Licensing

a. It is prohibited to make connections to Public Drainage Facilities subject to the provisions of this Law or to dispose of Surface Water into Sewage Disposal Facilities without obtaining a licence from the Executing Authority.

b. The licence shall specify the conditions applicable to it, including the specifications of the works, the type and quantity of materials permitted for disposal, the locations, times, and duration during which disposal into the Public Drainage Facilities is allowed.

Article (4)

Licensing Procedures

a. A licence application shall be submitted by the property owner or occupant to the Executing Authority, accompanied by the documents and information specified by that Authority, along with proof of payment of the fee stipulated in Article (17) of this Law.

b. The Executing Authority must decide on the licence application and notify the applicant of the decision issued regarding it within thirty days from the date the complete application is submitted with all required documents and information.

The Executing Authority may reject the licence application if it is proven that the disposal does not conform to any of the systems and Public Drainage Facilities. The rejection decision must be in writing and reasoned.

Article (5)

Amendment of Licence Conditions

a. The Executing Authority may, on its own initiative or at the request of the concerned party, amend the conditions set forth in the granted licences in order to maintain the efficiency and protection of Public Drainage Facilities, public or private properties, public health, or the environment if any actual harm to any of these is evident.

The licensee must comply with the amended licence conditions immediately upon notification by the Executing Authority.

b. The licensee may request in writing from the Executing Authority to amend the licence conditions, whether by changing the quantity or type of water designated for disposal, the timing of the disposal, or the manner in which it is carried out, in accordance with modifications made to the property subject to the licence.

The amendment request must be accompanied by the documents and information specified by the Executing Authority, along with proof of payment of the fee stipulated in Article (17) of this Law.

The Executing Authority must decide on the amendment request and notify the applicant of the decision issued regarding it within fifteen days from the date the application is submitted.

Article (6)

Revocation of Licence

The Executing Authority may revoke the licence in any of the following cases:

1- The licensee's violation of any of the conditions of the licence.

2- The issuance of the licence based on fraud, misrepresentation, or documents or information proven to be false by the Executing Authority.

3- The licensee's disposal in a manner that causes damage to public or private facilities, public health, or the environment.

Article (7)

Prevention of Damages

The licensee must take the necessary precautions to prevent any damages to public or private facilities, public health, or the environment resulting from disposal.

Subject to the provisions of Articles (15) Paragraph (d) and (16) of this Law, the Executing Authority may, when necessary, request the relevant authority to cut off water supply to the property in violation, and the supply shall not be restored until the reasons for the violation are removed.

Article (8)

Grievances and Requests for Compensation

a. The Grievance Committee shall consider grievances against decisions made by the Executing Authority and examine requests for compensation for damages arising from defects or malfunctions in Public Drainage Facilities. The Minister shall issue a decision regarding the formation of this committee and the procedures governing its work.

b. The property owner or occupant may submit a written grievance to the Grievance Committee against any decision issued by the Executing Authority in accordance with the provisions of this Law, within thirty days from the date they became aware of the decision. The committee shall examine the grievance and submit a report on it to the Minister within thirty days from the date the grievance is submitted, provided that all required documents and information are included. The Minister shall issue a decision regarding the grievance and notify the complainant within sixty days from the date of submission. No appeal may be made to the competent court against decisions issued by the Executing Authority unless a grievance has first been submitted to the Grievance Committee.

c. The concerned party may submit a request to the Grievance Committee for compensation for damages arising from defects or malfunctions in any of the Public Drainage Facilities within thirty days from the date of the damage occurring. The Committee shall submit a report regarding the request to the Minister within sixty days from the date of submission. The Minister shall issue a decision regarding the compensation request and notify the applicant within ninety days from the date of submission.

Article (9)

Effect of Submitting a Grievance

a. Submitting a grievance against the decision to reject a licence application, in accordance with the provisions of Article (4) Paragraph (c) of this Law, shall not entail suspension of the implementation of this decision.

b. Submitting a grievance against the following decisions shall entail their temporary suspension until the grievance is resolved:

1- A decision to amend the conditions of the licence in accordance with the provisions of Article (5) of this Law.

2- A decision to revoke the licence in accordance with the provisions of Article (6) of this Law.

3- A decision to impose additional restrictions and conditions on the licensee in accordance with the regulations issued in implementation of the provisions of this Law.

Article (10)

Prohibited Disposal

a. No person shall dispose of, throw, discharge, cause, or permit the disposal or passage of the following materials into any of the Public Drainage Facilities or any public or private tributary connected to them:

1- Any material whose nature or quantity may cause damage to those facilities or their branches.

2- Strong decolourants, petroleum alcohol, calcium carbide, yeast, refined molasses, radioactive materials, insecticides, fungicides, herbicides, rodenticides, or smoke disinfectants.

3- Industrial detergents, cyanide compounds, sulfide compounds, tar, tar oils, greases, and other materials whose concentration exceeds the ratios specified by a decision issued by the Minister.

4- Highly acidic or highly alkaline materials.

5- Any other materials specified by a decision issued by the Minister.

b. Disposing of Sewage Water into Surface Water Drainage Facilities is strictly prohibited.

Article (11)

Inspection Chambers

Opening the covers of inspection chambers of Public Drainage Facilities located on public roads or private roads open to public passage, and connected to any of the mentioned facilities is prohibited without obtaining prior authorisation from the Executing Authority.

In all cases, the conditions specified in the authorisation must be adhered to, and precautions must be taken to prevent endangering the lives or safety of individuals or causing damage to public or private property.

Article (12)

Treatment of Sewage Water

a. Sewage water must be treated according to the assessment of the Ministry and in accordance with health and environmental standards.

b. The treated sewage water and materials deposited (sludge) shall be utilised, to the extent possible, for agricultural purposes and other suitable uses.

The Minister shall issue, in coordination with the relevant authorities, a decision specifying the controls and standards for treating sewage water and utilising the treated sewage water and materials deposited (sludge) in accordance with international standards.

Article (13)

Register and Maps

a. The Executing Authority shall maintain a register to record the following:

1- The conditions necessary for granting licences in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

2- The licences granted in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

3- The decisions issued regarding grievances and compensation requests submitted in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

4- The amendments and additions made to licences, decisions to revoke licences, and notifications issued in this regard to property owners or occupants.

5- The final rulings issued regarding decisions and compensation requests in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

b. The Executing Authority shall retain detailed maps that it has approved regarding Public Drainage Facilities and records that specify the locations of each of these facilities, including networks and drainage operations that have been transferred to public ownership in accordance with the provisions of the Law.

Concerned parties may access the aforementioned register and maps free of charge.

Article (14)

Challenging Decisions

Subject to the provisions of Article (8) Paragraph (b) of this Law, decisions issued in accordance with the provisions of this Law may be challenged before the competent court within sixty days from the date the concerned party became aware of them.

Article (15)

General Provisions

a. Employees appointed by the Minister to ensure compliance with the provisions of this Law and the decisions issued in its implementation shall have the authority to enter relevant locations, and they shall carry out the following:

1- Inspection activities to verify compliance with the provisions of this Law and the decisions and regulations issued in implementation thereof.

2- Inspection of the facilities and connections of Sewage Disposal to verify their compliance with the prescribed technical specifications.

3- Conducting inspections, measurements, and tests related to the execution of their responsibilities in accordance with the provisions of this Law, whether above or below ground or on the property.

b. The Minister shall issue a decision specifying the controls and conditions for conducting inspections and taking and examining samples of various materials permitted for disposal into Sewage Disposal Facilities.

c. Employees authorised by the Minister of Justice in agreement with the Minister shall have the status of judicial officers regarding crimes that occur within their jurisdiction and are related to their functions.

Reports prepared regarding these crimes shall be referred to the Public Prosecution by a decision issued by the Minister or by a delegate.

d. Without prejudice to the provisions of Article (7) of this Law, the Minister or his delegate shall issue a decision to cease the causes of any violation of the provisions of this Law or the decisions or regulations issued in its execution, and shall instruct the violator to remove them at their own expense and to remedy any resulting damage within a period not exceeding one month, notifying the violator of this decision.

The Executing Authority may remove the causes of the violation and remedy any resulting damage administratively at the violator's expense in cases of necessity that do not allow for delay or if the violator fails to implement the decision issued to remove the causes of the violation within the specified time frame in the notification directed thereto.

e. The Executing Authority may obtain an order from the High Civil Court based on a petition to compel any person to provide any documents or specific data necessary for the execution of any of the tasks assigned thereto under this Law.

Article (16)

Penalties

a. A penalty of imprisonment for a period not exceeding one month, and a fine not exceeding three thousand dinars, or either of these penalties, shall be imposed on anyone who violates, causes, or allows a violation of any provision of Articles (3) and (10) of this Law.

b. A fine not exceeding one thousand dinars shall be imposed on anyone who violates the conditions of the licence granted to them in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

c. A fine not exceeding five hundred dinars shall be imposed on anyone who violates any provision of Articles (6) and (11) of this Law.

Article (17)

Fees

A fee shall be levied for submitting a licence application and for requesting amendments to its conditions in accordance with the provisions of Articles (4) and (5), Paragraph (b) of this Law. The Minister shall issue a decision to determine the categories of this fee, after obtaining the approval of the Cabinet.

Article (18)

Authority to Issue Decisions

The Minister shall issue the necessary decisions and regulations to implement the provisions of this Law.

Article (19)

Repealment

Legislative Decree No. (11) of 1991 regarding Sewage Disposal and Surface Water Drainage shall be repealed.

Article (20)

Entry into Force

The Ministers—each within their jurisdiction—shall implement the provisions of this Law, and it shall come into force one month after the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

King of the Kingdom of Bahrain

Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa

Issued at Riffa Palace:

On:

24 Jumada al-Akhir 1427 AH

Corresponding to:

20 July 2006