

**Law No. 32/76 of 5 December 1976 relating to the navigation and
passage by foreign ships and aircrafts through the airspace,
Territorial Waters and the Economic Zone
of the Republic of Maldives**

1. Ships of All States shall enjoy the right of innocent passage through the territorial waters and other Exclusive Economic Zone of the Republic of Maldives. Passage shall be considered innocent only if such passage is not prejudicial to the peace good order and security of the Republic of Maldives.

However, no foreign warship shall enter the Territorial Sea of the Republic of Maldives, nor a foreign fishing vessel shall enter its Economic Zone without prior consent of the Government of the Republic of Maldives. While navigating in the Territorial Waters of Maldives foreign warships shall fly their national flag. Submarines shall navigate on the surface and show their flag.

2. No foreign aircraft shall enter or pass through the airspace of the territory of the Republic of Maldives except in conformity with the international norms and in accordance with the laws and regulations in force in the Republic of Maldives without prior consent of the Government of the Republic of Maldives.

Salvage and rescue operations of foreign ships within the territorial waters of the Republic of Maldives shall be carried out in accordance with the regulations and practices in effect in the Republic of Maldives.

3. Any foreign ship which runs aground on an island, a reef or a sandbank within the territory of the Republic of Maldives, if abandoned, without notifying the incident to the Government of the Republic of Maldives, shall be property of the Government.

4. All ships shall bear responsibility for any damage caused within the Territory or Economic Zone to any other party by the negligence or deliberate action of those ships.

5. Any person or persons who act in contravention of the provisions of this Law shall be guilty of an offence and shall upon conviction be penalised in accordance with the Laws and regulations of the Republic of Maldives.

6. In this law, unless the context otherwise requires:

"Ship" means any description of ship or vessel or boat or craft of any other description of vessel used in navigation on or below the waters.

"Warship" means a ship belonging to the armed forces of a State, or a ship which by reason of the equipment contained therein could be used for any warlike purpose.

"Military aircraft" means an aircraft belonging to the armed forces of a State or an aircraft which by reason of the equipment contained therein could be used for any warlike purpose.