

**LAW**  
**OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA**

Adopted on 17 January 2023

**ON GEODETIC AND CARTOGRAPHIC ACTIVITIES**

**CHAPTER 1**

***GENERAL PROVISIONS***

**Article 1. Subject matter and objective of the Law**

1. This Law shall regulate the relations pertaining to the implementation of geodetic and cartographic activities in the Republic of Armenia. All cartographic and geodetic works in the Republic of Armenia shall be carried out in accordance with this Law and other legal acts.
2. The objective of this Law shall be to regulate geodetic and cartographic activities, prescribe the competences of state administration bodies, local self-government bodies and other entities, the procedure for international co-operation, as well as settlement of disputes in the field of geodesy and cartography and liability for violation of this Law.

**Article 2. Main concepts used in the Law**

1. The following main concepts shall be used in this Law:

- (1) **geodesy** — a field of relations that arise during scientific, technical, industrial and other activities for determining the changes of the Earth's gravimetric field, the co-ordinates and elevation points of the surface and spatial objects of the Earth, as well as the co-ordinates and elevation points indicated over time;
- (2) **cartography** — a field of relations that arise during scientific, technical, industrial and other activities for the study, creation, use, transformation and display of spatial data (including information systems);
- (3) **geodetic and cartographic activities** — scientific-technical, production activities, activities for provision of services, use of information systems and managerial activities in the field of geodesy and cartography;
- (4) **fundamental geodetic points** — an engineering structure which is attached to the physical surface of the Earth in the locality, with determined co-ordinates and at an absolute altitude;
- (5) **geodetic network** — integrity of fundamental geodetic points attached in the locality, the location whereof is determined in the general geodetic co-ordinate system for those points;
- (6) **reference stations network** — a balanced network composed of two or more GPS stations, which is used exclusively for the needs of the creator thereof;
- (7) **state reference stations network** — a balanced network composed of two or more GPS stations, created in the territory of the Republic of Armenia and managed by the State;
- (8) **geodetic and cartographic works** — a process of creating geodetic, cartographic materials and spatial data;

- (9) **remote sensing of the Earth** — a process of obtaining data on the surface of the Earth through footage made from space;
- (10) **co-ordinates system** — numerical values through which the location of a point is determined on a plane or surface or in space;
- (11) **local co-ordinates system** — a conditional co-ordinates system established for a restricted space not exceeding the administrative-territorial unit of the Republic of Armenia, the origin of co-ordinates whereof and orientation of the co-ordinates axes are deviated with respect to the unified co-ordinates system, and which is applied during implementation of geodetic and cartographic works;
- (12) **scale** — a proportion which lays down (confirms) the ratio of the linear dimensions of an object expressed in the cartographic image to the real dimensions of the object in nature;
- (13) **succeeding scales** — a specific system of certain scales of topographical maps and layouts of the state succeeding scales accepted for the Republic of Armenia;
- (14) **map** — the downsized natural image of the surface of the Earth, other celestial bodies or the parts thereof on a plane, which complies with the requirements provided for by this Law, is expressed with conditional points on a certain scale and projection.

### **Article 3. Geodetic and cartographic works**

- 1. Geodetic and cartographic works shall be classified according to significance as:
  - (1) state works;
  - (2) local works.

2. The following shall be state geodetic works:
- (1) determination of the parameters of the shape and the gravimetric field of the globe;
  - (2) establishment of the state (national), planimetric and elevation systems for the territory of the Republic of Armenia;
  - (3) creation, update and development of the state geodetic network (planimetric, elevation and permanently operating in real time);
  - (4) creation and development of the state gravimetric network;
  - (5) creation, update and development of the state geodynamic network;
  - (6) geodetic works with respect to demarcation and delimitation of the state border of the Republic of Armenia;
  - (7) geodetic works with respect to demarcation and delimitation of the border of the administrative-territorial units of the Republic of Armenia;
  - (8) record-registration of geodetic tools and equipment;
  - (9) creation, storage, update of materials obtained based on the results of geodetic and gravimetric measurements and data funds (databank), and provision of information;
  - (10) performance of scientific and research and experimental design works related to the field of geodesy, introduction of modern equipment and technologies in that field;
  - (11) oversight of geodetic works;
  - (12) protection of the fundamental points of the state geodetic network;
  - (13) development, operation of networks of state reference stations permanently operating in real time and supply of data.

3. The following shall be local geodetic works:
  - (1) creation of condensation networks and special geodetic networks within various (local and conditional) co-ordinates systems with respect to the implementation of sector-specific, territorial and local programmes (geodynamics, urban development, nature protection, exploitation of mineral deposits, cadastre and other land construction works);
  - (2) creation and maintenance of card catalogues of the points of condensation networks and special geodetic networks.
  
4. The following shall be state cartographic works:
  - (1) establishment of state succeeding scales of topographical and cadastral maps, and layouts;
  - (2) creation, update and multiplication of topographical, cadastral, special and navigation maps of the state succeeding scale;
  - (3) remote sensing of the Earth and processing, decoding of materials obtained based on the results thereof, photogrammetric processing of aerospace photos in order to obtain maps;
  - (4) cartographic works with respect to demarcation and delimitation of the state border of the Republic of Armenia;
  - (5) cartographic works with respect to demarcation and delimitation of the border of the administrative-territorial units of the Republic of Armenia;
  - (6) implementation of state registration of geographic names, creation and maintenance of a state card catalogue of geographic names, creation and publication of official directories, general and thematic dictionaries and lists on the basis of the data thereof;
  - (7) creation and publication of fundamental cartographic pieces (including the National Atlas of the Republic of Armenia, the Great Atlas of the World,

training and official, thematic maps and atlases for the educational system, tourist atlases);

- (8) record-registration of the equipment used for carrying out cartographic works;
- (9) creation and maintenance of basic state geographic information systems;
- (10) creation, storage, update of maps, layouts, spatial data of the state succeeding scales and the fund of fundamental cartographic pieces (data bank), and provision of information;
- (11) performance of scientific and research and experimental design works related to the field of cartography, including introduction of modern equipment and technologies in that field;
- (12) oversight of cartographic works;
- (13) creation, maintenance of national spatial data infrastructure and ensuring of interoperability thereof;
- (14) creation of spatial data necessary for state administration bodies, local self-government bodies and the public, ensuring of availability of, access to and continuity of the spatial data;
- (15) ensuring of availability of national spatial data and services through a National Geoportal;
- (16) preparation of regulatory and technical documents on the exchange and management of spatial data in the field of cartography;
- (17) maintenance of the cadastral map provided for by point 2 of part 1 of Article 12 of the Law "On state registration of rights over property".

5. The following shall be local cartographic works:

- (1) creation and publication of topographic and thematic layouts, maps and atlases for the purpose of implementing sector-specific, territorial and local programmes;
- (2) creation and maintenance of state (state bodies) and local (community) geographic information systems, thematic spatial data and thematic cartographic layers, infrastructure for sector-specific spatial data;
- (3) implementation of cadastral cartographic works.

#### **Article 4. Entities and objects of geodetic and cartographic activities**

1. Entities of geodetic and cartographic activities shall be state administration bodies, local self-government bodies, officials, citizens and legal persons of the Republic of Armenia and foreign states, stateless persons, and international organisations.
2. Entities of geodetic and cartographic activities may act as contracting authorities for geodetic and cartographic works, users of materials and spatial data created through geodetic and cartographic activities.
3. Objects of geodesy and cartography shall be the territory of the Republic of Armenia and separate parts thereof, the remaining areas of the Earth and the natural celestial bodies in space.

#### **Article 5. Types of results of geodetic and cartographic activities**

1. The following shall be created through geodetic and cartographic activities:
  - (1) geodetic and cartographic materials;
  - (2) fundamental geodetic points and networks;

- (3) spatial data;
- (4) geographic information systems;
- (5) spatial data infrastructures;
- (6) results of scientific and technical and expert activities.

## CHAPTER 2

### *COMPETENCES OF THE GOVERNMENT, STATE ADMINISTRATION BODIES, LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT BODIES AND OFFICIALS IN THE FIELD OF GEODESY AND CARTOGRAPHY*

#### **Article 6. Powers of the Government in the field of geodesy and cartography**

1. The Government shall:
  - (1) approve the concept papers on and programmes for state geodetic and cartographic works;
  - (2) define the unified state systems for co-ordination, elevation and gravimetric measurements, the succeeding scales of state topographic maps and layouts;
  - (3) establish the procedure for creating, storing the state cartographic-geodetic fund and providing information;
  - (4) approve the regulatory and technical documents for the field of geodesy and cartography;
  - (5) exercise other powers provided for by this Law.



**Article 7. Competences of the authorised state administration body in the field of geodesy and cartography**

1. The authorised state administration body in the field of geodesy and cartography shall be the Cadastre Committee (hereinafter referred to as "the Committee"), which:
  - (1) shall ensure the implementation of state administration in the sphere of geodesy and cartography;
  - (2) shall carry out the management of the geodetic, topographic, cartographic and spatial data bank of the territories of the Republic of Armenia and the remaining areas of the Earth;
  - (3) shall provide, as established thereby, to the entities of geodetic and cartographic activities complete information about whether the areas related thereto have been studied in terms of geodesy and cartography;
  - (4) may act as a contracting authority for state geodetic and cartographic works within the borders of the Republic of Armenia;
  - (5) shall carry out works for record-registration of the border marks of the fundamental geodetic points and administrative-territorial units of the territory of the Republic of Armenia;
  - (6) may carry out state geodetic and cartographic works within the scope of its powers;
  - (7) shall maintain the cadastral map provided for by point 2 of part 1 of Article 12 of the Law "On state registration of rights over property";
  - (8) shall support the works provided for by Article 15 of this Law;
  - (9) shall approve and provide the conditional marks of maps;
  - (10) shall exercise other powers provided for by this Law.

**Article 8. Powers of other state administration bodies, officials in the sphere of geodesy and cartography**

1. A state administration body, as well as an official shall:
  - (1) carry out local geodetic and cartographic works for the purpose of implementing sector-specific and territorial programmes;
  - (2) create and maintain the funds of card catalogues of condensation points and points of special networks established through the implementation of sector-specific and territorial programmes;
  - (3) create and maintain the funds of topographic and thematic layouts, maps and atlases established through the implementation of sector-specific and territorial programmes;
  - (4) observe the border marks of the geodetic points and administrative-territorial units placed in the areas that are under the disposal of the state administration body concerned;
  - (5) carry out, within the limits of their competence, geodetic and cartographic works concerning state security issues and state borders;
  - (6) exercise other powers provided for by this Law.

**Article 9. Powers of local self-government bodies in the sphere of geodesy and cartography**

1. In the sphere of geodesy and cartography, the head of community shall:
  - (1) carry out local geodetic and cartographic works in order to implement the local programmes;
  - (2) create and maintain the funds of card catalogues of condensation points and points of special networks established through the implementation of

- local programmes;
- (3) create and maintain the funds of card catalogues of topographic and thematic layouts, maps and atlases created through the implementation of local programmes;
  - (4) ensure the observance of the border marks of the points of the state geodetic network and administrative-territorial units in the territory of the community;
  - (5) exercise other powers provided for by this Law.

### CHAPTER 3

#### *REGULATION OF GEODETIC AND CARTOGRAPHIC ACTIVITIES*

**Article 10. System of regulatory legal acts for regulation of geodetic and cartographic activities, regulatory and technical and geodetic and cartographic programme documents**

1. The system of regulatory legal acts regulating geodetic and cartographic activities and the relations pertaining thereto shall consist of this Law, other laws and other regulatory legal acts.
2. The system of regulatory and technical documents in the sphere of geodesy and cartography shall be a means of state regulation of geodetic and cartographic activities, which shall define the technical requirements for those works.
3. Fulfilment of the requirements of the regulatory and technical documents shall be mandatory for all entities carrying out geodetic and cartographic works.
4. Geodetic and cartographic programme documents shall be a means of state

regulation of geodetic and cartographic activities.

5. Geodetic and cartographic programme documents shall be the concept papers on and programmes for state geodetic and cartographic works.

**Article 11. Defining the procedure for record-registration of geodetic and cartographic tools**

1. The procedure for record-registration of geodetic and cartographic tools and equipment shall be defined by the Committee.

**Article 12. Financing of geodetic and cartographic activities**

1. Financing of the geodetic and cartographic activities carried out for state needs shall be carried out at the expense of the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia and other funds not prohibited by law, based on the approved programmes for state and local geodetic and cartographic works.
2. Geodetic and cartographic activities carried out for other purposes shall be financed at the expense of the funds of the contracting authority for geodetic and cartographic activities, unless otherwise provided for by international treaties.
3. Financing of local geodetic and cartographic works for implementation of community programmes shall be carried out at the expense of the funds of the community budget and other funds not prohibited by law.
4. Entities of geodetic and cartographic activities acting as requesting contracting authority for or executing authority of geodetic and cartographic works financed at the expense of the funds of the State Budget must mandatorily use the geodetic and cartographic materials and spatial data created in the past, if they meet the regulatory requirements defined for the works concerned.

5. Entities of geodetic and cartographic activities acting as requesting contracting authority for geodetic and cartographic works financed at the expense of the funds of the State Budget must mandatorily submit the terms of reference for the required works to the Committee for an opinion before approving them, except for works related to security and border issues of the Republic of Armenia, as well as scientific or educational works.
6. The Committee shall, within 15 days upon receipt of the terms of reference referred to in part 5 of this Article, study and provide to the body having submitted the terms of reference for agreement a positive or negative opinion on compliance with this Law, the Law "On spatial data", other legal acts and standards adopted on the basis thereof, and guidelines for standardisation. In case an opinion is not provided within 15 days, the opinion of the Committee shall be deemed to be positive.
7. A negative opinion must be properly reasoned and shall contain all the grounds for the negative opinion, with relevant references.
8. Where there is a negative opinion, the terms of reference may not be approved.
9. Where a negative opinion is provided, the entities referred to in part 5 of this Article may eliminate the inconsistencies indicated in the opinion and submit to the Committee for agreement, in which case parts 5-8 of this Article shall apply.
10. Information on the availability of state geodetic and cartographic materials and spatial data and on whether the territories have been studied shall be provided by the Committee.

### **Article 13. State oversight of geodetic and cartographic activities**

1. State inspection oversight of geodetic and cartographic activities shall be exercised by the inspection body exercising oversight in the field of geodetic and

cartographic works (hereinafter referred to as "the inspection body").

2. The state inspection objectives of geodetic and cartographic activities shall be:

- (1) oversight of the observance — by all entities of geodetic and cartographic activities — of the requirements of the legal acts and regulatory and technical documents in the sphere of geodesy and cartography;
- (2) oversight of the measures for record-registration, periodic survey and protection of the border marks of geodetic points and administrative-territorial units of the territory of the Republic of Armenia;
- (3) oversight of the observance of the norms and standards of geodetic works;
- (4) oversight of the works for demarcation and delimitation of the state border and administrative-territorial units of the Republic of Armenia;
- (5) oversight of the correct expression of the geographic names on maps and layouts;
- (6) oversight of the maintenance of the state and local (departmental) cartographic-geodetic funds, multiplication and use of materials and data, and provision of information;
- (7) oversight of the implementation of state and local geodetic and cartographic works.

3. The inspection body shall have the right to:

- (1) receive information from the entities of geodetic and cartographic activities for the implementation of the functions provided for by this Law, as well as become familiar with other necessary documents concerning the sphere of geodesy and cartography;
- (2) terminate the performance of state geodetic and cartographic works, if they are carried out without an appropriate permit or in violation of the

requirements of the regulatory documents, draw up relevant acts, submit to the Committee a recommendation on termination or suspension of the qualified activities for carrying out topographic mapping and land construction works;

- (3) provide qualified natural and legal persons involved in geodetic and cartographic works with the necessary instructions regarding the procedure for completion of the works and the technology used, as well as the collection, record-registration, storage, multiplication and use of the data and materials obtained based on the results of those works, and regarding the elimination of shortcomings.
4. The peculiarities of oversight of geodetic and cartographic activities shall be prescribed by the Law "On oversight of land use and protection".

**Article 14. Relations arising with regard to state and official secret in the sphere of geodesy and cartography**

1. The legal grounds for classifying information on the sphere of geodesy and cartography among the ranks of state and official secret, storing (protecting), decoding and using them, the rights, responsibilities and powers of the entities of geodetic and cartographic activities shall be regulated by the Law "On state and official secret".

**Article 15. Implementation of geodetic and cartographic activities for ensuring defence and security of the Republic of Armenia**

1. Geodetic and cartographic activities for the purpose of ensuring defence and security of the Republic of Armenia shall be carried out by the authorised state bodies in the field of defence or security.

2. The legal relations pertaining to mutual assistance between the authorised state bodies in the field of defence or security on the one hand, and between state administration bodies and local self-government bodies on the other hand, in the field referred to in part 1 of this Article, shall be regulated by Articles 15-18 of the Law "On fundamentals of administration and administrative proceedings".

**Article 16. Protection of the points of networks of state geodetic reference stations and permanently operating reference stations, provision of services through the networks of reference (including state) stations**

1. The points of state geodetic networks (planimetric, elevation and permanently operating in real time) and gravimetric networks, the overground signs and centres of those points shall be deemed to be state ownership.
2. Demolition of external signs of geodetic points and points permanently operating in real time or re-establishment of centres shall only be carried out upon permission of the Committee.
3. Issues of creation, protection and service of geodetic points and points permanently operating in real time shall be regulated by the Civil Code of the Republic of Armenia and other legal acts.
4. Protection of geodetic points and points permanently operating in real time within the administrative boundaries of a community shall be carried out by the head of community, who shall be obliged to keep the Committee informed on all cases of destruction of or damage to geodetic points.
5. The procedure for protection of geodetic points and points operating in real time shall be approved by the Government.
6. Services through the network of state reference stations shall be provided



exclusively by the Committee, in exchange of the fee prescribed by point 16 of part 1 of Article 19 of the Law "On spatial data".

7. Provision of services through the network of reference stations shall be prohibited, except for the cases provided for by part 6 of this Article.

## CHAPTER 4

### *SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES RELATED TO GEODETIC AND CARTOGRAPHIC ACTIVITIES, LIABILITY FOR VIOLATION OF THIS LAW, INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF GEODESY AND CARTOGRAPHY*

#### **Article 17. Settlement of disputes related to geodetic and cartographic activities**

1. Disputes related to geodetic and cartographic activities shall be settled through judicial procedure.

#### **Article 18. Liability for violation of this Law**

1. Entities of geodetic and cartographic activities shall bear liability for violation of this Law, as prescribed by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia.

#### **Article 19. Compensation for damage caused as a result of violation of this Law**

1. Legal and natural persons having caused damage as a result of violation of this

Law shall bear liability as prescribed by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia.

2. The damage caused by legal and natural persons as a result of geodetic and cartographic activities shall be compensated by the person having caused the damage, as prescribed by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia.

**Article 20. International co-operation in the field of geodesy and cartography**

1. International co-operation in the field of geodesy and cartography shall be implemented in compliance with this Law, the legislation of the Republic of Armenia and international treaties of the Republic of Armenia.
2. The activities of foreign citizens, stateless persons and foreign legal persons and international organisations in the field of geodesy and cartography in the territory of the Republic of Armenia shall be regulated by this Law, other legal acts, as well as the international treaties of the Republic of Armenia.
3. Where international treaties of the Republic of Armenia define norms other than those provided for by this Law, the norms of the international treaties shall apply.

**Article 21. Final part and transitional provisions**

1. This Law shall enter into force on the tenth day following the day of its official promulgation, except for part 1 of Article 11 and part 5 of Article 16 of this Law, which shall enter into force from the moment of entry into force of the legal acts arising from part 1 of Article 11 and part 5 of Article 16, respectively.
2. The legal acts arising from points 2 and 3 of part 1 of Article 6, as well as part 1

of Article 11 and part 5 of Article 16 of this Law shall be adopted within a period of 6 month following the entry into force of this Law.

3. To repeal Law of the Republic of Armenia HO-179 of 2 May 2001 "On geodesy, cartography and spatial data infrastructure " shall be repealed.

**President of the Republic**

**V. Khachatryan**

8 February 2023

Yerevan

HO-20-N

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