

## LEGAL REGULATION OF INLAND WATERWAY TRANSPORTATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

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This topic is relevant, because the Republic of Belarus in addition to a developed road system has a network of waterways. Thus, the emphasis should be made on multi-modal transportation, such as a combination of road and river transport. However, to organize high-quality transportation by inland vessels it is necessary to be competent in matters of legal regulation.

In some cases and disputable situations if there are no specific international agreements, or in such agreements the matter is not resolved, the national legislation of one of the countries can be used.

In The Republic of Belarus, the main regulation in the sphere of inland water transport is a Code of inland waterway transport. It regulates the relations during the navigation on the inland waterways. The code describes the authorities in the area of inland water transport; operating rules of ports and facilities, issues relating to ownership, leasing and registration of the vessel; crew; the captain permissions.

Particular focus is paid to the fulfillment of goods' and passengers' transportation; registration of required documents, formation of the freight, the carrier's liability and the safety of navigation.

However, the rules of this Code aren't applied if international agreements of the Republic of Belarus establish different rules. That's why a logical development of regulations governing inland water transport would be the unification of international and national legislation.

In spite of a developed enough river system in Belarus and in other countries, the high-quality implementation of the carriage is impossible only with this type of transport. It means that we should pay more attention to multi-modal transport, the basic component of which is road transport, as the most mobile.

Another significant problem, which needs to be resolved, is a discrepancy between form and content of the transport documents used in international inland waterway transport and in the carriage of goods on the territory of the Republic of Belarus. Moreover, the development of a uniform waybill for sea freight and inland water transport would be a considerable step forward to facilitation and development of international transport by inland waterways and multi-modal transportation in Europe.