

Storage Liens Act 1935 No 19

[1935-19]



New South Wales

Status Information

Currency of version

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Legislation on this site is usually updated within 3 working days after a change to the legislation.

Provisions in force

The provisions displayed in this version of the legislation have all commenced.

Notes—

- **Previously named**
Warehousemen's Liens Act 1935
- **See also**
[Better Regulation, Fair Trading and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024](#)

Authorisation

This version of the legislation is compiled and maintained in a database of legislation by the Parliamentary Counsel's Office and published on the NSW legislation website, and is certified as the form of that legislation that is correct under section 45C of the [Interpretation Act 1987](#).

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Storage Liens Act 1935 No 19



New South Wales

An Act to amend the law respecting certain possessory liens; and for other purposes.

1 Name of Act

This Act may be cited as the *Storage Liens Act 1935*.

2 Definitions

In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires—

Goods shall include personal property of every description that may be deposited with a storer as bailee.

Storer means a person lawfully engaged in the business of storing goods as a bailee for hire.

3 Declaration of storer's lien

- (1) Subject to the provisions of section 5, every storer shall have a lien on goods deposited with him or her for storage, whether deposited by the owner of the goods or by his or her authority, or by any person entrusted with the possession of the goods by the owner or by his or her authority.
- (2) A storer's lien over property has priority over any other interest in the property and may be enforced accordingly.
- (3) Section 73 (2) of the *Personal Property Securities Act 2009* of the Commonwealth is declared to apply to a storer's lien.

4 Charges covered by lien

The lien shall be for the amount of the storer's charges, that is to say—

- (a) all lawful charges for storage and preservation of the goods, and
- (b) all lawful claims for money advanced, interest, insurance, transportation, labour, weighing, cooping, and other expenses in relation to the goods, and
- (c) all reasonable charges for any notice required to be given under the provisions of this

Act, and for notice and advertisement of sale, and for sale of the goods where default is made in satisfying the storer's lien.

5 Notice of lien—goods deposited by person entrusted with possession

- (1) Where the goods on which a lien exists were deposited not by the owner or by his or her authority, but by a person entrusted by the owner or by his or her authority with the possession of the goods, the storer shall, within two months after the date of the deposit, give notice of the lien—
 - (a) to the owner of the goods, and
 - (b) to any other person of whose interest in the goods the storer has actual knowledge.
- (2) The notice shall be in writing and contain—
 - (a) a brief description of the goods, and
 - (b) a statement showing the location where the goods are stored, the date of their deposit with the storer, and the name of the person by whom they were deposited, and
 - (c) a statement that a lien is claimed by the storer in respect of the goods under this Act, and
 - (d) such other particulars as are prescribed.
- (3) The notice may be given—
 - (a) personally or by post, or
 - (b) by email to an email address specified by the owner or person for being given notices of that kind, or
 - (c) by any other method authorised by the regulations for giving documents of that kind.
- (4) Where the storer fails to give the notice required by this section, his or her lien, as against the person to whom he or she has failed to give notice, shall be void as from the expiration of the period of two months from the date of the deposit of the goods.
- (5) In this section—

owner of goods includes a person who has served the storer of the goods with a written notice that contains the following—

 - (a) a claim of ownership or interest in the goods and, if applicable, the nature of the interest claimed,

- (b) information identifying the goods to which the notice relates,
- (c) the name and address of the person making the claim.

6 Power to sell goods

- (1) In addition to all other remedies provided by law for the enforcement of liens or for the recovery of storer's charges a storer may sell by public auction, in the manner provided in this section, any goods upon which he or she has a lien for charges which have become due.
- (2) The storer shall give written notice of his or her intention to sell—
 - (a) to the person liable as debtor for the charges for which the lien exists, and
 - (b) to the owner of the goods, and
 - (c) to any other person of whose interest in the goods the storer has actual knowledge.
- (3) The notice may be given to a person—
 - (a) personally or by post, or
 - (b) by email to an email address specified by the person for being given notices of that kind, or
 - (c) by any other method authorised by the regulations for giving documents of that kind.
- (4) The notice shall contain—
 - (a) a brief description of the goods, and
 - (b) a statement showing the location where the goods are stored, the date of their deposit with the storer, and the name of the person by whom they were deposited, and
 - (c) an itemised statement of the storer's charges showing the sum due at the time of the notice, and
 - (d) a demand that the amount of the charges as stated in the notice and such further charges as may accrue shall be paid on or before a day mentioned, not less than one month from the delivery of the notice if it is personally delivered, or from the time when the notice should reach its destination according to the due course of post if it is sent by post, and
 - (e) a statement that unless the charges are paid within the time mentioned the goods will be advertised for sale and sold by public auction at a time and place specified

in the notice.

- (5) If charges are not paid on or before the day mentioned in the notice, an advertisement of the sale, describing the goods to be sold, and stating the time and place of the sale, is to be published—
- (a) in a newspaper circulating in the locality where the sale is to be held (whether published in print or on a publicly accessible website), and
 - (b) in one metropolitan daily newspaper (whether published in print or on a publicly accessible website).
- (5A) The sale must not be held less than 14 days after the date of the first publication of the advertisement.
- (6) The Local Court may, on the application of the owner, made in the manner prescribed, at any time after the service of the notice by order, stay further proceedings under this section, for such period and on such terms as it deems just, and any proceedings under this section taken after due service of such order on the storer, and during the period specified in the order, shall be illegal.
- (7) Nothing in this section authorises—
- (a) the sale of goods deposited prior to the commencement of the *Warehousemen's Liens (Amendment) Act 1989*, unless at least some part of the charges in arrears relates to a period more than 12 months before the date on which the notice of intention to sell the goods is given, or
 - (b) the sale of goods deposited after the commencement of that Act, unless at least some part of the charges in arrears relates to a period more than 6 months before the date on which the notice of intention to sell the goods is given.
- (8) In this section—
- owner** of goods includes a person who has served the storer of the goods with a written notice that contains the following—
- (a) a claim of ownership or interest in the goods and, if applicable, the nature of the interest claimed,
 - (b) information identifying the goods to which the notice relates,
 - (c) the name and address of the person making the claim.

7 Notices

- (1) Where a notice of lien under the provisions of section 5, or a notice of intention to sell under the provisions of section 6 has been given, but such provisions have not been strictly complied with, if any court before whom any question respecting the notice is

tried or inquired into considers that such provisions have been substantially complied with, or that it would be inequitable that the lien or sale shall be void by reason of such non-compliance, no objection to the sufficiency of the notice shall in any such case be allowed to prevail so as to release or discharge the goods from the lien or vitiate the sale.

- (2) A notice given under this Act by post shall be deemed to be sufficiently addressed to the person to whom it is sent if it is addressed to him or her at the last address of such person known to the storer.
- (3) Regulations made under this Act may provide for the giving of notice by advertisement in cases where any person to whom notice may be given pursuant to section 5 or section 6 is unknown to the storer, or where no address of any such person is known to the storer, and for the ascertainment of the day upon which such notice shall be deemed to have been given, and for any other matter relating to such advertisement.

Any notice given by advertisement in accordance with such regulations shall for the purposes of this Act be deemed to have been given personally on the date ascertained pursuant to the regulations.

8 Disposition of proceeds of sale

- (1) From the proceeds of the sale the storer shall satisfy his or her lien, and shall pay over the surplus, if any, to the person entitled thereto; and the storer shall when paying over the surplus deliver to the person to whom he or she pays it a statement of account showing how the amount has been computed.
- (2) If the surplus is not demanded by a person entitled to the surplus within 14 days after the sale, the surplus is to be dealt with as if the storer were an enterprise and the surplus were unclaimed money for the purposes of the [Unclaimed Money Act 1995](#).
- (3), (4) (Repealed)

9 Provision for payment before sale of goods

- (1) At any time before the goods are sold any person claiming an interest or right of possession in the goods may pay the storer the amount necessary to satisfy his or her lien, including the expenses incurred in serving notices and advertisement and preparing for the sale up to the time of the payment.
- (2) The storer shall deliver the goods to the person making the payment if he or she is the person entitled to the possession of the goods on payment of the storer's charges thereon, otherwise the storer shall retain possession of the goods according to the terms of the contract of deposit.

9A Intermingled goods

- (1) This section applies to goods that have been deposited with a storer by their owner, or by his or her authority, and that have become intermingled with other goods of the same kind owned by, or deposited with, the storer so as to form a single bulk quantity (***the bulk***).
- (2) Unless the parties otherwise agree—
 - (a) the owner's property in the goods becomes property in an undivided share in the bulk, and
 - (b) the owner becomes an owner in common of the bulk, and
 - (c) subject to paragraph (d), the owner and storer each have, in relation to the owner's undivided share in the bulk, the same obligations as they would have had in relation to the goods had they not become part of the bulk, and
 - (d) the storer's obligation to deliver the goods to, or to the order of, the owner becomes an obligation to deliver an equivalent quantity of goods out of the bulk to, or to the order of, the owner,as from the time the goods become part of the bulk.
- (3) The owner's undivided share in the bulk at any time is such share as, at that time, is equivalent to the quantity of goods that have been deposited by the owner less the quantity of goods that have been delivered out of the bulk to, or to the order of, the owner.
- (4) If at any time the aggregate of all owners' undivided shares in the bulk exceeds the whole of the bulk, those shares are to be reduced proportionately so that their aggregate is equal to the bulk.
- (5) A person who becomes an owner in common of the bulk is taken to consent to—
 - (a) any delivery of goods out of the bulk to any other owner in common of the bulk, being goods to which this section applies, and
 - (b) any dealing with, or removal, delivery or disposal of, goods in the bulk by any other owner in common of the bulk, but only to the extent of that other owner's undivided share in the bulk.
- (6) No cause of action lies against any person by reason of that person's having acted in accordance with subsection (5) (a) or (b) in reliance on the consent that exists by virtue of that subsection.
- (7) This section does not apply to goods deposited with a storer before the commencement of the [*Sale of Goods and Warehousemen's Liens Amendment \(Bulk*](#)

Goods) Act 2006.

10 Application of Act

The provisions of this Act shall apply to cases in which the goods were deposited for storage before as well as to cases in which the goods are deposited after the commencement of this Act but no notice pursuant to section 6 shall be given before the expiration of three months from such commencement.

In applying section 5 to a case in which the deposit was made before such commencement that section shall be read as if, in subsection (1), the words “after the commencement of this Act” were substituted for the words “after the date of the deposit”; and as if the words “at the commencement of this Act” were substituted for the words “at the date of the deposit”; and as if, in subsection (4), the words “from the commencement of this Act” were substituted for the words “from the date of the deposit of the goods”.

11 Regulations

(1) The Governor may make regulations not inconsistent with this Act prescribing all matters which are required or permitted to be prescribed or which are necessary or convenient to be prescribed for carrying out or giving effect to this Act.

(2), (3) (Repealed)

12 References to warehouseman’s lien

A reference in any other Act, in an instrument made under any Act, or in any other document, to a warehouseman’s lien is to be construed as a reference to a storer’s lien.

Schedule 1 Savings and transitional provisions

Part 1 Preliminary

1 Regulations

(1) The regulations may contain provisions of a savings or transitional nature consequent on the enactment of this Act or any Act that amends this Act.

(2) Any such provision—

(a) may, if the regulations so provide, take effect from the date of assent to the Act concerned or a later date, and

(b) has effect despite anything to the contrary in this Schedule.

(3) To the extent to which any such provision takes effect from a date that is earlier than the date of its publication on the NSW legislation website, the provision does not operate so as—

- (a) to affect, in a manner prejudicial to any person (other than the State or an authority of the State), the rights of that person existing before the date of its publication, or
 - (b) to impose liabilities on any person (other than the State or an authority of the State) in respect of anything done or omitted to be done before the date of its publication.
- (4) Without limiting subclauses (1) and (2), regulations made for the purposes of this clause may amend this Schedule to provide for additional or different savings and transitional provisions instead of including the provisions in the regulations.

Part 2 Provision consequent on enactment of [Better Regulation Legislation Amendment Act 2020](#)

2 Disposition of proceeds of sale

- (1) Section 8(2)–(4), and the regulations made under those sections, as in force immediately before their repeal by the [Better Regulation Legislation Amendment Act 2020](#), continue to apply in respect of the surplus proceeds arising from goods sold before that repeal.
- (2) Section 8(2), as substituted by the [Better Regulation Legislation Amendment Act 2020](#), does not apply in respect of surplus proceeds arising from goods sold before that substitution.