April 1, 2026

MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

Air carrier liability limits revised from December 28, 2024

S.O. 1694(E) of April 1, 2026 raises the carrier liability limits in rules 21 and 22 of the Carriage by Air Act's Third Schedule, from December 28, 2024.

THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL Aviation issued notification S.O. 1694(E), dated April 1, 2026, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii), No. 1629, the same day. The Central Government made it under sub-section (6) of section 4A of the Carriage by Air Act, 1972, and pursuant to rule 24 of Chapter III of the Third Schedule to the Act. It says it is necessary or expedient "to give effect to the limits of liability as revised by the depository". The changes apply "with effect from the 28th December, 2024", more than a year before the notification's own date. Asangba Chuba Ao, Joint Secretary, signed it under F. No. AV-11027/1/2025-A-MOCA.

KEY FACTS

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Notification S.O. 1694(E)



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The notification substitutes four figures in the Third Schedule, each written out in words. In rule 21(1), the figure becomes "one lakh fifty-one thousand eight hundred eighty": 128,821 becomes 151,880. In rule 22, sub-rule (1) goes from 5,346 to 6,303, sub-rule (2) from 1,288 to 1,519, and sub-rule (3) from 22 to 26. The notification gives only the rule numbers and the figures. It does not name the unit or say what each rule covers.

India Code's text of the Act (as on November 16, 2025) shows what each rule of the Third Schedule covers. Rule 21(1) is the amount of damages for death or bodily injury, per passenger, up to which the carrier cannot exclude or limit its liability. Rule 22(1) limits liability for damage caused by delay in the carriage of persons, for each passenger. Rule 22(2) limits liability for destruction, loss, damage or delay of baggage, for each passenger, and rule 22(3) for cargo, per kilogram. Under both, if the passenger or consignor made a special declaration of interest in delivery at destination and paid any supplementary sum required, the carrier is liable up to the declared sum, unless it proves that sum is greater than their actual interest. Rule 23 ties the sums to the Special Drawing Right as defined by the International Monetary Fund.

Rule 1(2)(c) of the Third Schedule defines the depository as the "International Civil Aviation Organisation", and rule 24 has it review the limits in rules 21, 22 and 23 at five-year intervals. Section 4A(6), inserted by Act 12 of 2016, lets the Central Government give effect to limits so revised by notification in the Official Gazette. The notification's note says the limits in rules 21 and 22 were earlier revised by S.O. 987(E), dated March 2, 2020. India Code's footnotes show that revision replaced 113,100, 4,694, 1,131 and 19 with the figures this notification now replaces.

The notification does not explain the December 28, 2024 date, and it does not say how the new limits apply to claims or cases from before April 1, 2026. It does not change rule 21(2), which in India Code's text refers to damages that exceed one lakh Special Drawing Rights for each passenger. It gives no rupee amounts; section 6A of the Act and rule 23 deal with converting Special Drawing Rights into rupees. India Code's text of the Act, as on November 16, 2025, does not yet show this notification.

Issued by	Ministry of Civil Aviation
Document	Notification S.O. 1694(E)
Dated	April 1, 2026
Published	Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii), No. 1629, April 1, 2026
Legal basis	Section 4A(6) of the Carriage by Air Act, 1972; rule 24 of Chapter III of the Third Schedule to the Act
Applies to	The limits of liability in rules 21 and 22 of the Third Schedule to the Carriage by Air Act, 1972
Takes effect	December 28, 2024 ("with effect from the 28th December, 2024")
Rule 21(1)	128,821 to 151,880 Special Drawing Rights
Rule 22(1)	5,346 to 6,303 Special Drawing Rights
Rule 22(2)	1,288 to 1,519 Special Drawing Rights
Rule 22(3)	22 to 26 Special Drawing Rights per kilogram
Earlier revision	S.O. 987(E), March 2, 2020
File number	F. No. AV-11027/1/2025-A-MOCA
Signed by	Asangba Chuba Ao, Joint Secretary

Limits of liability in the Third Schedule, in Special Drawing Rights (SDR)

Rule	What it covers	Old limit	New limit
21(1)	Death or bodily injury of a passenger: the amount, for each passenger, up to which the carrier cannot exclude or limit its liability	128,821 SDR	151,880 SDR
22(1)	Damage caused by delay in the carriage of persons, for each passenger	5,346 SDR	6,303 SDR
22(2)	Destruction, loss, damage or delay of baggage, for each passenger, unless a special declaration of interest was made	1,288 SDR	1,519 SDR
22(3)	Destruction, loss, damage or delay of cargo, per kilogram, unless a special declaration of interest was made	22 SDR	26 SDR

The notification (PDF, 1.0 MB)

Source: Gazette of India, CG-DL-E-02042026-271524.

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