

**CHAPTER 400**

## THE SHOPS REGULATION ACT

## Arrangement of Sections

## Section

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**SHOPS REGULATION***(9th August, 1941.)*11/1941.  
18/1989.

**1.** This Act may be cited as the Shops Regulation Act. s<sup>hort</sup> title.

**2.** In this Act—

**Interpretation.**

"shop" includes any premises or place where any trade or business whether wholesale or retail is carried on (but shall not include any factory or depôt where ice is sold, nor any garage or place where only petrol or motor accessories are sold);

"shop assistant" means any person wholly or mainly employed in a shop in connection with the serving of customers or the receipt of orders or the despatch of goods.

**Powers of Cabinet.**

**3.** (1) The Cabinet may by order (hereinafter referred to as a "Shop Hours Order")—

(a) define and declare the shops to which this Act shall apply;

(b) fix the hours during which such shops may be kept open throughout Antigua and Barbuda or any part thereof on the several days of the week for transacting business with the public;

(c) authorize the keeping open of any shop after the hours fixed for closing in the case of emergency and in such other circumstances as may be specified or indicated in such order;

(d) make any incidental, supplemental or consequential provisions which may appear necessary or proper.

(2) Every order made under this Act may be amended, varied, or revoked by a subsequent order made in like manner.

**Employment of shop assistants after closing hour prohibited.**

**4.** No shop assistant shall be employed in or about any shop except during the time fixed by any Shop Hours Order for the time being in force under this Act.

**Hours of employment.**

**5.** The number of hours during which any shop assistant may be employed in any shop shall not exceed in the aggregate in any week forty-five hours exclusive of the time allowed for meals except as is hereinafter provided:

Provided that a shop assistant may be employed for stock-taking for a period not exceeding five hours in any one week in a year which period of five hours shall be in addition to the time during which he may otherwise be lawfully employed.

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**6.** Nothing contained in sections 4 and 5 shall apply in the case of persons employed as shop assistants who are members of the family of the owner or occupier of the shop and who are maintained by him and dwell in his house. **Exemption of members of family of owner or occupier.**

**7.** The owner or occupier of any shop to which this Act applies in which female shop assistants are employed shall at all times provide and keep therein a sufficient number of suitable seats or chairs for the use of such female shop assistants and shall permit them to use such seats or chairs when not necessarily engaged in the work or duty for which they are employed. **Seats to be provided for female shop assistants.**

**8.** Any police officer may enter any shop to which this Act applies and make such enquiries as may be necessary to ascertain whether the provisions of this Act have been complied with. **Power of entry and inspection.**

**9.** Any person contravening the provisions of this Act or of any order made thereunder shall be guilty of an offence against this Act. **Offence.**

**10.** Any person found guilty of an offence against this Act shall be liable on summary conviction to a penalty not exceeding one thousand dollars. **Penalty.**

**11.** The provisions of section 5 shall in every year be suspended from the 19th to the 24th December both days inclusive. **Suspension of operation of section 5.**

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