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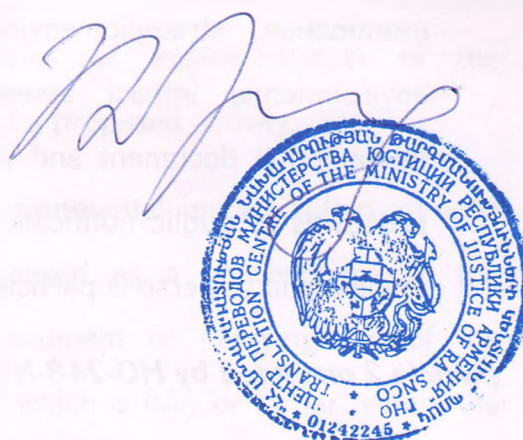
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"TRANSLATION CENTRE OF THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA"
STATE NON-COMMERCIAL ORGANISATION

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DIRECTOR

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LAW

OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

(Law edited by HO-150-N of 3 May 2023)

Adopted on 21 June 2014

ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND EXPERT EXAMINATION

CHAPTER 1

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1. Subject matter of the Law

1. This Law shall regulate relations pertaining to the rights and obligations of the initiators in the processes of strategic environmental assessment, environmental

impact assessment, transboundary impact assessment, state expert examination of environmental impact, public notification, holding public hearings, issuing state expert opinion, be revoked, environmental impact assessment, expert examination and carrying out of the proposed activity in the Republic of Armenia.

Article 2. Scope of the Law

1. This Law shall extend to the environmental impact assessment and expert examination, strategic environmental assessment and expert examination, environmental impact assessment and expert examination of the draft fundamental document and proposed activity having a transboundary impact, processes of public notification, public hearings, revocation of the state expert opinion and to persons participating in such processes.

(Article 2 amended by HO-248-N of 18 June 2026)

(Law HO-248-N of 18 June 2026 has a transitional provision)

Article 3. Legislation on assessment and expert examination

1. Legislation on assessment and expert examination shall consist of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, international treaties of the Republic of Armenia, this Law and other legal acts.
2. In case of conflict between the norms of international treaties ratified by the Republic of Armenia and those of laws, the norms of international treaties shall apply.

Article 4. Main concepts used in the Law

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

- (1) **environment** shall mean integrity of natural and anthropogenic components (ambient air, climate, waters, soils, subsoil, landscape, fauna and flora, including forests, specially protected areas of nature or environmental lands, green areas of settlements, structures, natural objects, historical and cultural monuments), social environment, including human health, safety factors, substances, phenomena, and their interaction among one another and with people;
- (2) **environmental impact** shall mean change in the environment or one of the components thereof as a consequence of implementation of the fundamental document or carrying out of a proposed activity;
- (3) **transboundary impact** shall mean environmental impact within an area under the jurisdiction of the state caused as a consequence of the implementation of the fundamental document or carrying out of the proposed activity, the physical source of which is fully or in part within the area under the jurisdiction of another state;
- (4) **affected state** within the meaning of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, shall mean a state that maybe subject to an environmental impact as a consequence of the implementation of a fundamental document or the carrying out of a proposed activity within the area under the jurisdiction of another state;
- (5) **state of origin** within the meaning of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context shall mean a state under the jurisdiction of which it is planned to implement the provisions of the fundamental document or carry out the proposed activity;
- (6) **fundamental document** shall mean a document having a potential impact on the environment (strategy, concept paper, scheme of utilisation of natural resources, programme, plan, layout, urban development

programme document) or any amendment to the document approved by laws of the Republic of Armenia or other legal acts of the state or local self-government bodies;

- (7) **proposed activity** shall mean types of the activities specified in parts 3 and 4 of Article 12 of this Law, activity prescribed by parts 6 and 7, and in cases provided for by the procedure prescribed by point 5 of part 1 of Article 8 of this Law — also reconstruction or expansion or technical or technological re-equipment or re-profiling or conservation or relocation or termination or closure thereof, in case of facilities important from the perspective of the nuclear energy safety — decommissioning (in case of a landfill **serving as a facility important from the perspective of the nuclear energy safety** — closure) or demolition or design change;
- (8) **design document** shall mean a document or a package of documents prescribed by law and other legal acts for carrying out the proposed activity and an amendment made thereto. In case no document or a package of document is prescribed by law and other legal acts for carrying out the proposed activity, the phased description of the proposed activity, in case of subsoil use — the programme prescribed by Articles 36 and 39 or the project for extraction prescribed by Article 50 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On subsoil";
- (9) **strategic environmental assessment** (hereinafter referred to as “the SEA”) shall mean the process of determination and assessment of the environmental impacts as a consequence of implementation of provisions of the draft fundamental document, which shall include determination of the scope and provisions of the SEA report, preparation of the SEA report, ensuring participation of the public concerned and holding of professional consultations, taking into account the provisions of the SEA report, results of public participation and consultations in the fundamental document;

- (10) **environmental impact assessment** (hereinafter referred to as “the EIA”) shall mean the process of examining of the potential impact of the proposed activity on the environment as a result of the activity proposed by the initiator;
- (11) **expert examination** shall mean the process of issuing positive or negative state expert opinion on the proposed activity as a result of examination, assessment and analysis of the draft fundamental document and the SEA report or design document on the proposed activity and the EIA report, in accordance with the draft fundamental document and the SEA report or in accordance with the design document and the EIA report;
- (12) **state expert opinion** shall mean an official document adopted by the authorised body as a result of the expert examination;
- (13) **authorised body** shall mean a state administration body developing and implementing the policy of the Government in the field of ensuring state expert examination of the environmental impact prescribed by the Law “On the structure and operation of the Government”;
- (14) **initiator** shall mean a state or local self-government body submitting the draft fundamental document or a person applying for carrying out the proposed activity;
- (15) **expert** shall mean a legal or natural person involved by the authorised body in the expert examination process;
- (16) **affected settlement** shall mean a settlement (in case of the city of Yerevan — administrative district) subject to potential environmental impact resulting from the implementation of the fundamental document or carrying out of the proposed activity;

- (17) **affected community** shall mean a community including an affected settlement;
- (17.1) **public** shall mean one or more natural or legal persons or the companies, organisations or groups thereof, in accordance with the legislation or practice of the Republic of Armenia;
- (18) **public concerned** shall mean the public directly or potentially affected as a consequence of implementation of the fundamental document or carrying out of the proposed activity, or showing interest in relation to decisions adopted thereon;
- (19) **participants of the process** shall mean state or local self-government bodies, natural and legal persons, including affected community, affected settlement, public concerned, which, in accordance with this Law, participate in the process of assessments or expert examination;
- (20) **application** shall mean a package of documents submitted by the initiator to the authorised body before carrying out the activities prescribed by Article 18 of this Law;
- (21) **report** shall mean a document summarising the results of the SEA or the EIA elaborated by an individual entrepreneur or legal person holding the relevant license;
- (22) **package of documents submitted for expert examination** shall mean a design document, SEA or EIA report, documents prescribed by part 2 of Article 17 of this Law;
- (23) **environmental management plan** shall mean a document setting out the proposed measures for maintaining and enhancing potential positive impacts on the environment, preventing, excluding, reducing negative impacts, preventing irreversible impact and compensating for the damage

caused to the environment (phases of construction, exploitation, closure, post-closure, risk-bearing and emergency situations), the substantiation of their selection and effectiveness, an implementation schedule, monitoring indicators, total cost assessment;

(24) **environmental impact monitoring programme** shall mean the integrity of actions aimed at observation of the impact on the environment, post-project analysis, fulfilment of requirements of the state expert opinion and requirements prescribed by laws and secondary regulatory legal acts of the Republic of Armenia or production control (self-control) during the application of provisions of the fundamental document or the carrying out of the proposed activity and afterwards, in accordance with the design document;

(25) *(point repealed by HO-25-N of 20 January 2026)*

(26) *(point repealed by HO-25-N of 20 January 2026)*

(Article 4 amended by HO-25-N of 20 January 2026, supplemented, edited by HO-248-N of 18 June 2026)

(Law HO-248-N of 18 June 2026 has a transitional provision)

Article 5. Principles of assessment and expert examination

1. The principles of assessment and expert examination shall be as follows:

- (1) consideration of the possibility of environmental impact of the proposed activity;
- (2) prevention, reduction and exclusion of the adverse environmental impact as a result of implementation of the fundamental document or carrying out of the proposed activity;

- (3) comprehensive consideration of impacts, including transboundary impact, in the process of assessment;
- (4) ensuring consideration of alternative options for carrying out the proposed activity, including exclusion of carrying out the activity;
- (5) ensuring completeness, authenticity and scientific justification of the reports;
- (6) ensuring justification, legitimacy and objectivity of the state expert opinion;
- (7) ensuring transparency, publicity of the processes of assessment and expert examination and participation of the public concerned therein;
- (8) ensuring maintenance and enhancement of potential positive impacts on the environment, prevention, reduction, exclusion of negative impacts and compensation of the damage caused to the environment or recovery of the environment as a result of the expert examination.

Article 6. Purpose and objectives of assessment and expert examination

1. The purpose of the assessment is to foresee, prevent, reduce or exclude the potential environmental impacts on the environment as a result of implementation of the draft fundamental document and carrying out of the proposed activity in accordance with the design document and EIA report, as well as full, cumulative and scientifically-based assessment thereof.
2. The purpose of the expert examination is to issue positive or negative state expert opinion on the draft fundamental document or proposed activity, the design document and the EIA report, as a result of examination, analysis and assessment of the draft fundamental document and SEA report or design document and EIA report, based on the principle of prevention, reduction or exclusion of potential negative impact on the environment.

3. The objectives of the assessment and expert examination are as follows:
 - (1) ensuring sustainable development based on the requirements of environmental safety and environmental impact limitations;
 - (2) ensuring of maintenance of the positive impacts of provisions of the draft fundamental document and the proposed activity, prevention, reduction or exclusion of the adverse impacts and their consequences;
 - (3) assessing the possible risks of environmental impact in emergency situations.

Article 7. Activities, environmental objects and characteristics considered in the process of EIA and expert examination

1. Based on the types and specifics of the proposed activity, the following is considered in the process of conducting assessment and expert examination:
 - (1) qualitative indicators of ambient air, substances polluting the atmosphere, pollution level;
 - (2) surface waters and ground waters, class of the quality thereof, flow regimes, qualitative and quantitative indicators, pollution level, water consumption, drainage, water system or individual parts thereof;
 - (3) the soil — designated purpose, type of lands, functional designation, category, quality, condition, composition, level of pollution, degradation, use of fertile layer;
 - (4) geomorphology, slope inclination, geological and tectonic structure, external geological phenomena, mineral resources, subsoil use;
 - (5) terrain, landscape, specially protected areas of nature or environmental lands, green areas of settlements, animal migration routes and habitats;

- (6) flora and fauna, composition of species thereof, life environments of objects of fauna, growing areas of objects of the flora, utilisation of the objects of flora and fauna, the use of live modified organisms, the presence of invasive — non-native — plant and animal species, animals or plants registered in the Red Book of Animals of the Republic of Armenia and the Red Book of Plants of the Republic of Armenia;
 - (7) forests — functional designation thereof, sustainable management of forests, composition of species, growth class (bonitet), condition (viability, infection with pests, age composition);
 - (8) historical and cultural monuments, structures, cemeteries, infrastructures, overburdened state of roads with vehicles;
 - (9) waste composition, waste class, use, hazardous properties, hazard level, the amount of waste, origin (according to technological regulation);
 - (10) physical impacts — noise, vibrations, ionising and non-ionising radiations;
 - (11) existence of factors affecting climate change, measures aimed at mitigation of and adaptability to climate change;
 - (12) healthcare factors connected with the impacts;
 - (13) social factors, demographic composition and the population;
 - (14) probability of occurrence of emergency situations, accidents, hazardous natural phenomena.
2. In case of assessment of facilities important from the perspective of the nuclear energy safety, in addition to the features prescribed by part 1 of this Article, the characteristics approved by the decision prescribed by point 9 of part 1 of Article 8 of this Law shall also be considered.

CHAPTER 2

MANAGEMENT OF THE PROCESSES OF ASSESSMENT AND EXPERT EXAMINATION

Article 8. Competences of the Government

1. The competences of the Government in the processes of assessment and expert examination shall be as follows:
 - (1) approving the procedure for SEA and the requirements for SEA report;
 - (2) approving the procedure for EIA;
 - (3) approving the procedure for expert examination, making an amendment or supplement to the state expert opinion, revoking the state expert opinion;
 - (4) approving the procedure for assessment of the potential economic damage to the environment as a consequence of carrying out the proposed activity and compensation thereof;
 - (5) approving the procedure for defining the necessity for EIA and expert examination of the reconstruction or expansion or technical and technological re-equipment or re-profiling or conservation or relocation or termination or closure or demolition or design change of the types of the proposed activity;
 - (6) approving or revoking the state expert opinion on draft fundamental document or proposed activity having a transboundary impact;
 - (7) establishing the content of public awareness and notification on public hearings, the procedure for public hearings, the procedure and time-limits for submitting public opinions, comments and suggestions in the process of EIA and expert examination, for delivering preliminary consent or

non-consent by local self-government bodies, as provided for by Article 16 and Chapter 7 of this Law;

- (8) approving the procedure for licensing of the activity of elaboration of EIA and SEA reports;
- (9) approving the characteristics subject to consideration in the process of EIA and expert examination of facilities important from the perspective of nuclear energy safety;
- (10) approving the procedure for assessment of the potential environmental damage to the environment as a consequence of carrying out the proposed activity and compensation thereof;
- (11) approving the types of activities subject to assessment and expert examination in specially protected areas of nature or forest lands or green areas of settlements or within the boundaries of historical and cultural monuments or environmental lands not included in the fundamental documents having obtained a positive state expert opinion.

Article 9. Competences of the authorised body

- 1. The competences of the authorised body shall be as follows:
 - (1) implementing, within the scope of its competence, international cooperation related to the process of expert examination;
 - (2) approving the SEM and EIA guidelines;
 - (3) signing the state expert opinion on draft fundamental document or proposed activity having a transboundary impact;
 - (4) elaborating draft decision of the Government on approving or revoking the state expert opinion on draft fundamental document or proposed activity having a transboundary impact;

- (5) conducting the expert examination, drawing up, approving (except for the state expert opinion on draft fundamental document or proposed activity having a transboundary impact), issuing the state expert opinion;
- (6) adopting a decision, in compliance with the procedure approved by the Government, on the necessity of the EIA and expert examination for reconstruction or expansion or technical or technological re-equipment or re-profiling or conservation or relocation or termination or closure or demolition or design change of the types of the proposed activity;
- (7) involving an expert in the process of expert examination on contractual basis conditioned by professional or expert need;
- (8) revoking the state expert opinion in the cases and through the procedure prescribed by part 1 of Article 20 of this Law;
- (9) coordinating the draft fundamental document or the proposed activity with the bodies concerned;
- (10) ensuring participation of its representative in public hearings;
- (11) providing, in written form or electronically, information on being subject to EIA and expert examination of the proposed activity and on relevant procedures to the initiator;
- (12) ensuring the opportunity for notification of the public and participation of the public concerned in the process of expert examination in the cases and through the procedure prescribed by this Law;
- (13) providing written information on the publication of the approved state expert opinion to the state authorised bodies and relevant inspection bodies prescribed by Article 12 of this Law;
- (14) performing other functions provided for by the law of the Republic of Armenia.

(Article 9 edited by HO-248-N of 18 June 2026)

(Law HO-248-N of 18 June 2026 has a transitional provision)

Article 10. Competences of territorial administration bodies in the process of EIA, SEA and expert examination

1. The competences of territorial administration bodies in the process of EIA, SEA and expert examination shall be as follows:
 - (1) providing an opinion on the provisions of the draft fundamental document or the proposed activity related to the marz;
 - (2) ensuring conditions and requirements for notification on the processes of assessment and expert examination of the impact of the draft fundamental document drawn up upon the initiative thereof, for the organisation of public hearings and participation of the public concerned;
 - (3) providing, upon the request of the initiator, information regarding the fundamental documents in force related to the territory;
 - (4) providing respective advice to the initiator in the processes of assessment, as well as any other information, in their possession, necessary for conducting the impact assessment.

Article 11. Competences of local self-government bodies in the process of EIA and expert examination

1. The competences of local self-government bodies in the process of EIA and expert examination shall be as follows:

- (1) providing a preliminary consent or non-consent by the council of elders of the community on the draft fundamental document or the proposed activity related to the community;
- (2) ensuring — within the scope of powers, through the procedure prescribed by this Law — conditions and requirements for notification on the draft fundamental document or proposed activity, the processes of assessment and expert examination of the impact thereof, for the organisation of public hearings and participation of the public concerned by the head of the community;
- (3) providing an opinion on the proposed activity during the public hearings by the head or the council of elders or the member of the council of elders of the community;
- (4) providing, upon the written request of the initiator, information regarding the fundamental documents in force related to the territory;
- (5) providing respective advice to the initiator in the processes of EIA, as well as any other information, in the possession thereof, necessary for conducting the impact assessment.

CHAPTER 3

TYPES OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY SUBJECT TO EIA AND EXPERT EXAMINATION

Article 12. Proposed activity subject to EIA and expert examination

1. The EIA reports and design documents of the types of proposed activity prescribed by parts 3 and 4, 6-9 of this Article, as well as by point 1 of part 4 of Article 18 of this Law shall be subject to assessment and expert examination.

2. The types of the proposed activity subject to assessment and expert examination shall, based on the fields, be classified into two categories — A and B — according to the reducing degree of impact on the environment.
3. Category A shall include:
 - (1) in the field of energy:
 - a. selection, construction, operation and decommissioning (in case of landfills intended for the burial of radioactive waste — closure) of a site for facilities important from the perspective of nuclear energy safety;
 - b. installations for irradiated nuclear fuel processing;
 - c. installations for the production or enrichment of nuclear fuel;
 - d. installations for processing irradiated nuclear fuel or high-level radioactive waste;
 - e. installations for the final disposal of irradiated nuclear fuel;
 - f. installations exclusively for the final disposal of radioactive waste;
 - g. installations exclusively for the storage of irradiated nuclear fuel or radioactive waste (planned for more than 10 years) in places other than the area of the production facility;
 - h. storage facilities and landfills for radioactive waste;
 - i. thermal power plants or other combustion installations with a thermal power of 50 MW or more;
 - j. hot water or steam production facilities with a thermal power of 50 MW and more;
 - k. hydroelectric power plants with an electrical power of 1 MW and more;

- l. gasification or gas liquefaction plants;
 - m. coke production furnaces;
 - n. production of energy form geothermal waters with a power of 8 MW and more,
- (2) in the field of subsoil use:
- a. geological explorations with underground mine openings with a length more than 1 000 running metres or in case of drilling of boreholes with a depth exceeding 1 000 running metres;
 - b. extraction of metallic, including radioactive mineral resources or processing of ores or minerals or construction of extraction complex (including tailing dumps);
 - c. processing of hazardous waste generated from subsoil use;
 - d. oil or gas processing plants;
 - e. extraction of oil or gas or processing of crude oil or natural gas;
 - f. creation of underground structures for the storage of oil or gas or industrial waste or poisonous or radioactive substances;
 - g. construction of roads or structures for underground transportation;
 - h. final closure of the metallic mineral resources mining complex;
 - i. extraction of non-metallic mineral resources or processing of minerals 30 m³ or more per day,
- (3) in the field of chemical industry:
- a. manufacturing or processing of rubber or industrial rubber products;
 - b. production or processing of oil or oil products;

- c. production or processing of fuel oil, tar, bitumen;
 - d. production of explosives;
 - e. production of inorganic acids or alkalis or other inorganic substances or compounds;
 - f. production or processing of organic or inorganic substances or mixtures thereof;
 - g. production of pesticides or agrochemicals;
 - h. production of household chemicals (washing, cleaning or other substances) with a monthly capacity of 50 tonnes and more;
 - i. production of ethyl alcohol;
 - j. chemical production installations, where chemical or biological processes are used to produce protein feed additives, enzymes and other protein substances;
 - k. installations for the production of carbon (natural coke) or electrographite by combustion or graphitisation;
 - l. storage facilities with a volume of 5 000 tonnes and more for gaseous or oil or petrochemical or chemical substances,
- (4) in the field of pharmaceutical production:
- a. installations where chemical or biological processes for the production of basic pharmaceutical products shall be used,
- (5) in the field of production and processing of the metals:
- a. roasting and agglomeration of metallic minerals (including sulphide or oxidized minerals);
 - b. production or processing of non-ferrous, precious, rare, ferrous metals or the alloys thereof from minerals or concentrates or

secondary raw materials or spraying of protective metal coatings upon the supply of raw steel the amount of which exceeds 2 tonnes per hour;

- c. processing of non-ferrous metals, including alloyage, recuperation of products (refinement, foundry production, etc.);
- d. production of processed cast iron or steel (primary or secondary casting), including continuous casting, which exceeds the capacity of 2.5 tonnes per hour;
- e. surface treatment of metals or plastic materials by use of electrolytic or chemical processes in baths with a volume of 30 m³ or more,

(6) in the field of waste management:

- a. collection, storage, utilisation, treatment (except for sorting or mechanical separation of household solid, electronic and electrotechnical equipment, construction garbage), recycling, neutralisation, placement or burial of hazardous waste;
- b. construction or operation of landfills intended for serving to population of 15 000 and more or receiving daily garbage of 10 tonnes and more or processing of household garbage;
- c. disposal facilities or landfills designated for non-hazardous wastes with a capacity exceeding 50 tonnes per day;
- d. a landfill where more than 10 tonnes of garbage is dumped per day, or the total volume whereof exceeds 25 000 tonnes, except for a landfill designated for non-hazardous wastes;
- e. construction of waste placement facilities;
- f. processing of plastic materials with the change of chemical properties,

- (7) in the field of industry of construction materials:
- a. production of cement or clinker or lime or plaster — 100 tonnes and more per day;
 - b. melting of mineral — 20 tonnes and more per day — including the production of mineral fibre;
 - c. manufacturing of ceramic products through firing, including roof tile or brick or firebrick or ceramic tile or stoneware or porcelain items — 30 tonnes and more per day, or kilns with a capacity exceeding 4 m³, the setting density of which exceeds the limit or value of 300 kg/m³;
 - d. production of glass or glass fibre or glass items with a melting production capacity of 20 tonnes and more per day;
 - e. stationary production of asphalt with a productivity of 80 t/h and more or concrete with a productivity of 80 m³/h and more;
 - f. facilities envisaged for the extraction of asbestos, for the processing and transformation of asbestos and asbestos-containing products and for the production of asbestos-cement products – annual production capacity exceeding 20 000 metric tonnes of finished products; facilities envisaged for friction materials — annual production capacity exceeding 50 metric tonnes of finished products; and facilities envisaged for other uses of asbestos with a volume of more than 200 metric tonnes per year,
- (8) in the field of light industry:
- a. production or chemical treatment of natural leather — 10 tonnes and more per day, production of artificial leather (including synthetic) — 30 000 square decimetre and more monthly;

- b. installations for pre-treatment of fibre or textiles (operations such as washing, bleaching, mercerisation) or dyeing where the volume of materials under treatment exceeds 10 tonnes per day;
 - c. surface treatment of materials, objects or products using organic solvents, in particular installations for finishing, printing, coating, degreasing, waterproofing, standardisation, dyeing, cleaning or absorption, with a daily capacity of more than 150 kg per hour or 200 tonnes per year,
- (9) in the field of sanitary-technical structures:
- a. cemeteries or crematoria or morgues, facilities for anatomical pathology facility or mortuaries;
 - b. cremation or burial of animals or slaughterhouses, with a capacity of 10 tonnes per day,
- (10) in the field of infrastructures:
- a. airports with runways of 2 100 m or more in length;
 - b. electricity transmission lines with a length of 15 km and more, with a voltage of 220 kV and more;
 - c. construction or reconstruction of new roads with four and more traffic lanes, or widening of roads with two or less traffic lanes for increasing the number of traffic lanes to four and more, where the uninterrupted length of the respective section is 10 km or more;
 - d. construction of tunnels or metro or railways with a length of 500 meters or bridges with a cargo capacity of 25 tonnes and more;
 - e. pipelines for gas or oil or chemical substances with a diameter of 300 mm and more and with a length of 20 km and more;

- f. installation of high-power transmitting radio-technical facilities. For the purposes of this Law, high-power transmitting radio-technical facilities shall mean the facilities the directional gain of the installed antenna is more than 5, or the maximum power of which exceeds the levels mentioned below:

900 W — in the frequency range of 30 kHz-3 MHz;

500 W — in the frequency range of 3-30 MHz;

25 W — in the frequency range of 30 MHz-300 GHz,

(11) in the field of water economy:

- a. water reservoirs or artificial lakes or basins or other water retention facilities with a volume of 3 million m³ and more;
- b. household wastewater treatment plants with a capacity for population of 50 000 and more;
- c. industrial wastewater treatment plants;
- d. systems for subterranean waters extraction or artificial replenishment of groundwater when the annual volume of water extracted or replenished is equivalent to 5 million cubic metres or exceeds it;
- e. extraction of underground freshwater for entrepreneurial purposes;
- f. commercial ports, as well as inland waterways and ports for inland shipping which permit the passage of vessels of more than 1 350 metric tonnes,

(12) in the field of urban development:

- a. anti-landslide or anti-mudslide or anti-mudflow measures for territories of 10 ha and more,

(13) in the field of agriculture:

- a. factories for milk processing, dairy production with a daily capacity of 200 tonnes and more;
- b. fish farms — in case of water intake of 400 litres/second and more (for one farm);
- c. poultry breeding economies — more than 20 000 birds;
- d. swine breeding economies — 1 000 head and more or 350 places and more for mother pigs,

(14) in the field of wood and paper industry:

- a. production of paper or cardboard with a production capacity exceeding 20 tonnes per day;
- b. production of wood pulp or similar fibrous materials,

(15) in the field of food industry:

- a. production of manufactured feed concentrates — 50 tonnes and more per day;
- b. tobacco manufacturing or processing — 0.5 tonnes and more per day,

4. Category B shall include:

(1) the following types of activity in the field of energy or production units or all structures or infrastructures thereof:

- a. biogas production or energy generation using biogas — with a capacity of 1 MW and more;
- b. hydroelectric power plants with a capacity of up to 1 MW;
- c. wind power plants with a total capacity of 5 MW and more, solar power plants occupying 3 ha of territory and more or floating solar installations;

- d. production of energy from geothermal waters with a capacity of up to 8 MW;
 - e. combustion installations with a thermal power of 1 MW up to 50 MW, except for thermal power plants;
 - f. hot water or steam production facilities with a thermal power of 1 MW up to 50 MW,
- (2) in the field of subsoil use:
- a. geological explorations;
 - b. final closure of non-metallic mineral resources deposits;
 - c. processing of non-hazardous wastes of subsoil use;
 - d. final closure of mineral water deposits;
 - e. exploitation of mineral water deposits for entrepreneurial purposes;
 - f. processing of non-metallic mineral resource — from 8 up to 30 m³ per day,
- (3) in the field of water economy or soil amelioration:
- a. water reservoirs or artificial lakes or basins or other water retention facilities with a volume of 500 000 to 3 million m³;
 - b. water flow transfer works between water basins, when such transfer is aimed at preventing possible water shortage, and the annual volume of water transferred exceeds 100 million m³, except for the cases provided for by point 6.1 of the Programme approved by the Law "On approving the Annual and Complex Programmes for the Restoration, Conservation, Reproduction and Use of the Ecosystem of Lake Sevan", or all other types of work related to the transfer of water resources through river basins, when the average multi-year water

flow exceeds 2 000 million m³ per year, when the volume of water transferred exceeds 5% of that flow. In both cases, the transfer of drinking water is excluded;

- c. household wastewater treatment plants with a capacity for population of 3 000-50 000;
- d. construction of infrastructures for the purposes of protection from floods, eutrophication;
- e. desalination of salinised soils by chemical solutions;
- f. drying or drainage collector systems with a length of 5 km and more,

(4) in the field of agriculture:

- a. fish farms — with annual productivity of 100 tonnes and more, where the water consumption of the farm does not exceed 400 litres/second;
- b. sheep-raising farms — 500 head and more;
- c. stock-raising (cattle) farms — 1 000 head and more,

(5) in the field of forestry:

- a. forest felling in state- or community-owned lands, except for forest fellings prescribed by forest management plans or management plans for specially protected nature areas;
- b. afforestation, except for forest lands,

(6) in the field of infrastructures:

- a. construction of electricity transmission lines with a length of 5 km up to 15 km or with a voltage of 110 kV up to 500 kV, with a length of more than 500 m;
- b. petrol stations or liquid fuel station, gas stations with a capacity of 5 m³ and more or NGV-refuelling compressor stations;

- c. construction of highways and expressways;
 - d. water supply and water drainage systems with a diameter of 300 mm and more and with a length of 1 km and more or main canals;
 - e. pipelines with a diameter of 300 mm and more and with a length of 20 km and more for fibre optic cables,
- (7) in the field of food industry:
- a. treatment and processing of animal raw materials (other than milk) for getting food in case the production capacity exceeds 75 tonnes per day;
 - b. treatment and processing of plant raw materials for getting food in case the production capacity exceeds 300 tonnes per day (quarterly average indicator);
 - c. production of sugar or granulated sugar — 10 tonnes and more per day;
 - d. brewing — 1 000 decalitres and more per day;
 - e. milk processing and dairy production — with a capacity of 100 up to 200 tonnes per day;
 - f. production of animal or vegetable oils and fats — 5 tonnes and more per day;
 - g. production or processing of fish products the capacity of which to produce finished products exceeds 30 tonnes per day,
- (8) in the field of urban development:
- a. construction of objects of urban development activities with the maximum aboveground built-up area of 1 500 m² and more or with the maximum underground built-up area of 2 000 m² and more;

- b. construction of objects of urban development activities with the total built-up area of 15 000 m² and more, including the areas of all the floors, including underground floors, the areas of impermeable landscaped surfaces;
 - c. landscaping — in case of impermeable surface area of 1 000 m² and more,
- (9) in the fields of recreation and tourism:
 - a. ski runs, ropeways, zipline and related infrastructures,
- (10) in the field of industry of construction materials:
 - a. stationary production of asphalt with a productivity of 30 up to 80 t/h or concrete with a productivity of 30 up to 80 m³/h;
 - b. production of cement or lime or plaster — up to 100 tonnes per day,
- (11) in the field of waste management:
 - a. construction or operation of landfills designated for serving population of up to 15 000 or receiving daily garbage of up to 10 tonnes, the total volume whereof does not exceed 25 000 tonnes;
 - b. economic activity related to sorting of household solid, electronic and electrotechnical equipment, construction wastes;
 - c. utilisation, treatment, processing, burning of non-hazardous wastes with the quantity not exceeding 1 tonne per day.
- 5. Types of activities considered as immediate for ensuring national security and eliminating the consequences of emergency situations, provided for by this Law or the design changes provided for by Article 18 of this Law shall not be subject to expert examination (including transboundary).

- 5.1 The construction of a new school (educational complex) or kindergarten on land plots assigned to existing schools under state or community subordination and kindergartens under state or community subordination, or on land plots adjacent thereto, or the reconstruction or major repair of an existing school (educational complex) or the sports hall, canteen, or assembly hall of a school (educational complex), or of a kindergarten, as well as the reconstruction or major repair of stadiums or sports schools or sports complexes on state- or community-owned land, shall not be subject to expert-examination. In such cases, the authorised body shall provide its position on the environmental impact during the comprehensive state urban development expert-examination of architectural and construction projects.

The implementation of the types of activities referred to in this part on other land plots allocated for that purpose within the same settlement, as well as the construction of stadiums or sports schools or sports complexes, shall not be subject to expert-examination where this is provided for in accordance with the procedure established by point 3 of part 1 of Article 8 of this Law.

6. All the types of activities approved by the Government, not listed in part 3 and 4 of this Article, which will be carried out in specially protected areas of nature or in forest lands or in green areas of settlements or within the territories of historical and cultural monuments or environmental lands and which are not included in the fundamental documents with a positive state expert opinion shall be subject to expert examination as well. In this case the expert examination shall be carried out in accordance with the procedure for Category B.
7. At the initiative of the initiator, all proposed activities not prescribed by this Article shall be subject to expert examination. In this case the expert examination shall be carried out in accordance with the procedure for Category B.
8. Expansion or reconstruction or technical and technological re-equipment or re-profiling or conservation or relocation or termination or closure or demolition or

design change of the types of the proposed activity listed in this Article shall be subject to assessment and expert examination in the case provided for by point 1 of part 4 of Article 18 of this Law.

- 9 Expansion or reconstruction or technical or technological re-equipment or re-profiling of the activity not exceeding the limits of the types of the proposed activity listed in this Article shall also be subject to EIA and expert examination, as a result of which the limits of the activity will coincide the limits of the types of the proposed activity prescribed by this Article or will exceed them.

(Article 12 edited, amended, supplemented by HO-248-N of 18 June 2026)

(Law HO-248-N of 18 June 2026 has a transitional provision)

CHAPTER 4

PROCESSES OF EIA AND EXPERT EXAMINATION, REQUIREMENTS FOR THESE PROCESSES

Article 13. EIA and expert examination

1. The assessment and expert examination shall be carried out prior to carrying out of the proposed activity. The actual carrying out of the proposed activity without a positive state expert opinion shall be subject to termination, with the person who carried out the proposed activity being required to restore the previous state.
2. The assessment and expert examination shall be carried out based on the type, extent and location of the proposed activity and, conditioned thereby, on the possible cumulative total degree of the already existing and predicted impacts.

Article 14. Processes of EIA

1. The EIA shall be carried out by the initiator, in case of having a relevant license, or through an individual entrepreneur or legal person with a relevant license. In the phase of EIA:
 - (1) the potential impact of the proposed activity on the environment shall be assessed;
 - (2) the alternative options for the solutions provided for by the design documents for the proposed activity, including the option of refusal (no-action alternative) from the activity proposed, shall be identified and substantiated and their impact on the environment, social and economic situation shall be assessed;
 - (3) the environmental management plan — which shall be enshrined in the design document — including the environmental impact monitoring programme, shall be developed for the purpose of prevention, reduction or exclusion of the environmental impact;
 - (4) the degree of the impact shall be taken into account based on the geographical location, number of the population of the area subject to impact, the probability, complexity, degree, duration, frequency of the impact and the possible cumulative total degree of the already existing and predicted impacts;
 - (5) during the assessment, the cumulative environmental impact shall be taken into account as a consequence of implementation of other activities on the area of carrying out of the proposed activity.
2. While carrying out the assessment, the suggestions, comments and opinions submitted by participants of the process shall be taken into account. In case of failure to accept them, the relevant justifications shall be included in the report.

3. As a result of assessment, the initiator shall draw up a report in accordance with Article 15 of this Law, and submit it for expert examination.
4. Within the process of EIA, the initiator may consult with the authorised body, state bodies, leaders of the affected community and the public concerned.

Article 15. Contents of EIA reports

1. The requirement for the EIA report for the proposed activity of category A shall be the following:
 - (1) name of the initiator and place of residence (location) thereof;
 - (2) name of the proposed activity, in accordance with Article 12 of this Law;
 - (3) summary content of the report, which includes information on the initiator, non-technical description of the proposed activity, place of implementation, publicly accessible and brief description of the potential impacts on the environment and measures aimed at mitigation thereof, which must stem from design documents;
 - (4) description of the area of the proposed activity provided for by the design document, including the description of the environment, natural conditions, resources, as well as the purpose of their use, infrastructures, affected community, affected settlement and the spatial planning documents, the scheme or map of the situation provided by the competent body reflecting their location with the unified geodetic coordinate system operating in the Republic of Armenia;
 - (5) description and purpose, production capacities, physical, technical and technological characteristics of the proposed activity provided for by the design document, the description of the required natural resources, used raw materials and substances, as well as the description of emissions,

leakages, wastes and the usage thereof, industrial dump sites, physical influences;

- (6) description of all possible alternative options, including the option of refusal (no-action alternative) from the proposed activity provided for by the design document;
- (7) assessments of the possible economic, environmental damages to the environment, the form and time limits for compensation thereof prescribed by the design document;
- (8) separate, cumulative and full assessment of the possible changes of individual components of the environment, natural resources, conditions of and their extent, in the event of carrying out the proposed activity provided for by the design document, including alternative options;
- (9) potential social impacts, risks, benefits, the analytical characteristics provided for by the design document;
- (10) potential impacts on human health, factors, risks;
- (11) assessment of the risks posed as a consequence of potential emergency situations provided for by the design document and measures aimed at the prevention and reduction thereof;
- (12) factors causing possible climate change when carrying out the proposed activity provided for by the design document, including greenhouse gas emissions, their nature, volume, as well as measures aimed at the mitigation of and adaptability to climate change;
- (13) justifications of the compliance of the proposed activity provided for by the design document with the approved fundamental documents;
- (14) justification — from environmental protection, economic, social perspective — of the option selected as a result of analysis of all the possible options provided for by the design document;

- (15) the environmental management plan proposed by the design document;
 - (16) proposed activity impact monitoring programme;
 - (17) summary materials on the information provided by the proposed activity report, maps, schemes, diagrams, tables submitted attached to the report, by mentioning the sources for the reference data;
 - (18) sources for the reference data used with regard to the environment;
 - (19) information with regard to the obstacles revealed during assessment and drawing up of the report, including information on the absence of data;
 - (20) potential impacts on the environment in the phases of construction, exploitation and closure.
2. The requirements for the EIA report for the proposed activity of category B shall be the following:
- (1) name of the initiator and place of residence (location) thereof;
 - (2) name of the proposed activity, in accordance with Article 12 of this Law;
 - (3) description of the area of the proposed activity provided by the design document, including the description of the environment, natural conditions, resources, as well as the purpose of their use, infrastructures, affected community and the spatial planning documents, the scheme or map of the situation provided by the competent body reflecting their location with the unified geodetic coordinate system operating in the Republic of Armenia;
 - (4) characteristics of the proposed activity provided for by the design document in the phases of construction, exploitation, closure and post-closure (production capacities, natural resources and materials used, technical and technological solutions);
 - (5) potential impacts on the environment in the phases of construction, exploitation and closure;

- (6) potential impacts on human health, factors, risks;
- (7) the environmental management plan provided for by the design document;
- (8) justifications of the compliance of the proposed activity provided for by the design document with the approved fundamental documents;
- (9) programme for monitoring of the impact of the proposed activity provided for by the design document.

Article 16. Provision of preliminary consent or non-consent by local self-government body (bodies)

1. The initiator that intends to carry out the proposed activity prescribed by Article 12 of this Law in community, shall submit a notification to the head of the community within the administrative boundaries whereof the proposed activities will be carried out, which shall include the following:
 - (1) name of the initiator and place of residence (location) thereof;
 - (2) name of the proposed activity in accordance with Article 12 of this Law, the purpose, brief description thereof;
 - (3) place of carrying out the proposed activity.
2. The head of the community shall provide public notification within five working days after receiving the notification, and shall hold a public hearing in the affected settlement no earlier than on the 21st and not later than on the 25th working day after the notification.
3. Within 30 working days following the public hearing prescribed by part 2 of this Article, the council of elders of the community shall adopt a decision on providing preliminary consent or non-consent to the carrying out of the proposed activity, which shall contain justifications on the reasons thereof.

4. The head of the community shall — within a five-day period after the council of elders of the community renders a decision prescribed by part 3 of this Article, and in the case prescribed by part 13 of Article 16 of the Law "On self-government bodies" — within a three-day period after the decision of the council of elders of the community enters into force — submit to the authorised body and the initiator the decision of the council of elders, the records, photos or video recordings of the public hearings, where available also the suggestions, comments and opinions of the public concerned.
5. In case of holding hearings in more than one community, the non-consent expressed by at least one of the communities shall — in compliance with part 3 of this Article — be considered as a non-consent to the proposed activity.
6. In case the council of elders of the community fails to render a decision within the time period prescribed by part 3 of this Article, the initiator may submit the package of documents for expert examination without the preliminary consent of the council of elders of the community.

(Article 16 amended by HO-248-N of 18 June 2026)

(Law HO-248-N of 18 June 2026 has a transitional provision)

Article 17. Expert examination

1. The expert examination shall commence from the moment the initiator submits, in electronic form, the complete package of documents for expert examination to the authorised body with an accompanying letter. In case of impossibility to submit the package of documents electronically for expert examination, it shall be done in paper form. During the process of expert examination of the proposed activity in the field of subsoil use, the authorised body and the initiator shall carry out the document circulation of the submission of the package, return

of the package, return of the package for revision, notification to the initiator, refusal from the expert examination, suspension or extension of the expert examination through the body authorised in the field of subsoil use and protection.

2. The package shall include the following:
 - (1) EIA or SEA report;
 - (2) the design document — in case of the proposed activity;
 - (3) the decision of the local self-government body (bodies) on the preliminary consent prescribed by part 3 of Article 16 of this Law, except for the case prescribed by part 6 of Article 16 of this Law, which shall be certified through the request made by the authorised body to the head of the relevant community;
 - (4) documents (the copy, photos or video recordings of publication of notification, where available, also the suggestions, comments and opinions, as well as the records of the public hearings) drawn up by the local self-government body (bodies) during the public hearings conducted in accordance with Article 16 of this Law.
3. Prior to starting the expert examination prescribed by part 1 of this Article, the initiator may submit a request to the authorised body in written form for the purpose of receiving clarifications or consultation with regard to the requirements for the content of EIA report. The authorised body shall response to the initiator within 10 working days following the receipt of the request.
4. The authorised body shall return the submitted package to the initiator (in case of subsoil use — to the body authorised in the field of subsoil use and protection) within seven working days following the date of their entry in the authorised body, where it does not contain the EIA report and the documents

provided for by part 2 of this Article or contains formal or non-substantive inaccuracies or deficiencies or the state duty is not paid, by indicating the reason for the return.

5. Prior to the issuance of the state expert opinion, the initiator may refuse the process of the expert examination of the package submitted for expert examination, by submitting a request thereon to the authorised body in writing. In that case, the state duty shall not be subject to return.
6. In case the proposed activity is subject to impact assessment in the transboundary context, the authorised body shall inform the initiator thereon in writing.
7. During the expert examination, the authorised body shall involve the process participants in the process. The SEA or EIA report shall be forwarded to the relevant state and local self-government bodies for opinion. In case of failure by the mentioned bodies to submit an opinion within 15 working days, the opinion shall be considered positive.
8. During the expert examination, the authorised body shall, jointly with the local self-government body, make notification on the public hearings and hold public hearing with the participation of the initiator.
9. During the expert examination, the authorised body shall carry out on-site inspection works and observations in order to determine the compliance of the current state of the area and the information provided in the EIA or SEA reports.
10. In case of non-formal or substantive inaccuracies or deficiencies in the information contained in the package, or in case of non-compliance between the design document and the EIA report, it shall be returned to the initiator (in case of subsoil use — to the body authorised in the field of subsoil use and protection) with an explanatory letter for revision with an indication of all the

inaccuracies, deficiencies, incompliances. The initiator shall submit the revised package to the authorised body within 30 working days following the receipt of the explanatory letter from the authorised body, in case whereof the time limit for expert examination of the package returned for revision shall be considered suspended until the day the package revised by the initiator is entered to the authorised body. In case of failure to submit the revised package by the initiator within 30 working days, the package shall be considered as having received a negative opinion by law. In case the package returned for revision is submitted without revision by the initiator, the authorised body shall — within 10 working days following the receipt of the non-revised package — deliver a negative opinion.

11. Within 10 working days following the date the package is considered as having received a negative opinion by law in the case provided for by part 10 of this Law or the receipt of a negative opinion, the authorised body shall notify the initiator thereof, indicating the grounds for delivering a negative opinion.
12. In case of reconstruction or expansion or technical and technological re-equipment or re-profiling or conservation or relocation or termination or closure or demolition or design change of the proposed activity, when the implementation of the expert examination is directly linked to the results of the initiated criminal proceedings or of the inspections conducted by the inspection bodies, the time limit for the expert examination shall be considered suspended. The authorised body shall notify the initiator thereof in writing.
13. In case of elimination of the grounds provided for by part 12 of this Article, the process of expert examination shall be resumed, of which the initiator shall be notified by the authorised body in writing.
14. Following the process of expert examination, a state expert opinion shall be drawn up based on the following:

- (1) comprehensiveness of the reports and the compliance of the reports with the fundamental or design document;
 - (2) substantiation of the selection of the draft fundamental document or the proposed activity, taking into account the alternative options;
 - (3) compliance with the requirements of the legislation of the Republic of Armenia;
 - (4) compliance with short-term, medium-term and long-term programmes prescribed by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia;
 - (5) effectiveness of the environmental management plan, environmental impact monitoring programme enshrined in the fundamental or design document;
 - (6) effectiveness, substantiation of notification of the participants of the process, of ensuring public hearings and consideration of the opinions.
15. The time limits for the expert examination of the EIA shall be as follows:
- (1) in case of category A of the proposed activity — up to 80 working days;
 - (2) in case of category B of the proposed activity — up to 40 working days.
16. In case of necessity to perform additional work or obtain other information to ensure the completeness of the examination process, the authorised body may extend the time limit for the process of expert examination for up to 30 working days, by notifying the initiator thereon indicating in the notification the additional work to be performed or the necessary information to be obtained.
17. In case a state expert opinion is not issued within the time limits for the expert examination of the EIA prescribed by this Article, the state expert opinion shall be considered as positive, where the expert examination has been conducted in compliance with all the requirements of this Law.

Article 18. EIA and expert examination of the reconstruction or expansion or technical and technological re-equipment or re-profiling or conservation or relocation or termination or closure or demolition or design change of the types of the proposed activity

1. Prior to carrying out reconstruction or expansion or technical and technological re-equipment or re-profiling or conservation or relocation or termination or closure or demolition or design change of the types of the proposed activity listed in Article 12 of this Law, the initiator shall submit an application to the authorised body.
2. The application shall include the following:
 - (1) name of the initiator and place of residence (location) thereof;
 - (2) type of the proposed activity in accordance with Article 12 of this Law;
 - (3) description of the area subject to the proposed activity;
 - (4) characteristics of the proposed activity (production capacities, technical and technological solutions);
 - (5) comparative analysis of the current situation and the proposed changes;
 - (6) information or documents prescribed by the procedure provided for by point 5 of part 1 of Article 8 of this Law.
3. In case there are inaccuracies or deficiencies in the information contained in the application prescribed by this Article or in case the state duty is not paid, it shall — within 10 working days following the receipt of the application — be returned to the initiator with a letter for the purpose of revision, indicating the reasons for the return.
4. The authorised body shall, within 15 working days from the day of receiving the application prescribed by part 1 of this Article, and in the case prescribed by

part 3 of this Article — within 15 working days following the receipt of the revised application, inform the initiator in writing of the following:

- (1) the fact that reconstruction or expansion or technical or technological re-equipment or re-profiling or conservation or relocation or termination or closure or demolition or design change of the types of the proposed activity is subject to EIA and expert examination, in case of which the EIA and expert examination shall be carried out in the manner provided for by this Law, or
- (2) the fact that reconstruction or expansion or technical or technological re-equipment or re-profiling or conservation or relocation or termination or closure or demolition or design change of the proposed activity is not subject to EIA and expert examination.

Article 19. State expert opinion

1. The state expert opinion shall consist of the following introductory, descriptive, reasoning and concluding parts:
 - (1) the introductory part shall include brief information about the initiator, the draft fundamental document or the proposed activity by design documents;
 - (2) the descriptive part shall include the description of the potential harmful impact on the environment, measures envisaged by the environmental management plan and the monitoring programme;
 - (3) the reasoning part shall include summary analysis of the data prescribed by part 14 of Article 17 of this Law, reasoned conclusions on the provisions of the draft fundamental document or the proposed activity;
 - (4) the concluding part shall include a conclusion whether the state expert opinion is positive or negative.

2. The positive state expert opinion may contain mandatory requirements, conditions aimed at the environmental protection, for which time limits shall be established. In case of failure to implement the mentioned requirements or conditions within the time limits prescribed, the opinion shall be revoked through the procedure prescribed by point 1 of part 1 of Article 20 of this Law.
3. In case a time limit is indicated in the draft fundamental document or in the document of the proposed activity provided for by the design document, the positive state expert opinion shall be issued for the given time limit, unless other time limit is prescribed in the opinion with a substantiated reasoning. In case no time limit is indicated in the draft fundamental document or in the document of the proposed activity provided for by the design document, the positive expert opinion shall be issued for the time limit of maximum 25 years.
4. While drawing up positive or negative state expert opinions, the suggestions, comments, opinions submitted by participants of the process, as well as results of public hearings shall be taken into account. In case of not accepting the opinions of the participants of the process, the authorised body shall give valid reasonings. The state expert opinion shall be approved by the head of the authorised body or the person authorised by him or her.
5. The state expert opinion shall be provided to the initiator within two working days and be posted on the official website of the authorised body within seven working days.
6. Without a positive state expert opinion, the adoption of the fundamental document or the carrying out of the proposed activity shall be prohibited.
7. The technical errors in the state expert opinion, in case they do not affect the content of the state expert opinion, shall be corrected by the authorised body by means of corrections which shall make an integral part of the expert opinion and shall be additionally provided to the initiator.

8. The state expert opinion may be appealed as prescribed by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia.

Article 20. Revoking state expert opinion

1. The positive state expert opinion shall be revoked by the authorised body, where:
 - (1) the initiator fails to eliminate the recorded violations within a one-month period after being subjected to liability for the offence prescribed by part 3 of Article 94.1 of the Code on Administrative Offences of the Republic of Armenia, and whereon the inspection body exercising supervision in the field of environmental protection files a motion to the authorised body to revoke the positive state expert opinion by the latter;
 - (2) a legislative act prescribing a requirement to revoke the state expert opinion by the authorised body has come into force;
 - (3) a new environmental factor has emerged after issuing the state expert opinion, which did not exist at the time of the issuance of the state expert opinion and in the presence of which the continuation of the activity will contradict the international treaties of the Republic of Armenia, laws or secondary regulatory legal acts of the Republic of Armenia, or the existence of which at the time of issuing the state expert opinion would serve as a ground for issuing a negative expert opinion;
 - (4) false documents (information and data) have been submitted by the package of documents submitted for expert examination and the positive state expert opinion does not comply with the legislation of the Republic of Armenia and where the recorded incompliances — in case of being known prior to the issuance of the opinion — would serve as a ground for issuing a negative expert opinion.

2. In case of failure to launch the carrying out of the proposed activities provided for by the fundamental or design documents within two years after the receipt of the positive state expert opinion, the positive state expert opinion shall be revoked.
3. The initiator may appeal the decision on revoking the state expert opinion adopted by the authorised body as prescribed by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia.

(Article 20 amended by HO-248-N of 18 June 2026)

(Law HO-248-N of 18 June 2026 has a transitional provision)

CHAPTER 5

PROCESSES OF SEA AND EXPERT EXAMINATION, REQUIREMENTS THEREFOR, TYPES OF FUNDAMENTAL DOCUMENTS SUBJECT TO STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND EXPERT EXAMINATION

Article 21. Types of fundamental documents subject to SEA and expert examination

(title edited by HO-248-N of 18 June 2026)

1. Draft fundamental documents relating to the fields of agriculture, forestry, fish farming, energy, industrial sectors, subsoil use, transport, territorial development, waste use, water economy, communications, tourism, and urban development shall be subject to SEA and expert-examination if they establish grounds for the future implementation of projects listed in Annex 1 to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to the Convention “On Environmental Impact Assessment in a Trans-boundary Context” or grounds for the future implementation of projects listed in Annex 2 thereto

which, in accordance with Article 12 of this Law, shall be subject to environmental impact assessment and expert-examination.

2. Whether draft fundamental documents not referred to in part 1 of this Article, but establishing grounds for the future carrying out of the types of proposed activities listed in Article 12 of this Law, shall be subject to SEA and expert-examination shall be determined by the authorised body, based on the results of consultations conducted jointly with the authorised body for management in the field of healthcare, in accordance with the SEA procedure approved by the Government.
3. Whether draft fundamental documents not referred to in part 1 of this Article and which may have an impact on specially protected natural areas and forest areas, as well as on historical and cultural monuments, shall be subject to SEA and expert-examination shall be determined by the authorised body, based on the results of consultations conducted jointly with the initiator, in accordance with the SEA procedure approved by the Government.
4. The authorised body, based on the results of consultations conducted jointly with the initiator and the authorised body for management in the field of healthcare, shall also determine whether the use of small areas at the local level and minor amendments to fundamental documents are subject to SEA and expert-examination, in accordance with the SEA procedure approved by the Government.
5. Draft fundamental documents of a financial or budgetary nature, as well as draft fundamental documents the sole purpose whereof is to serve national security, defence, and civil emergencies, shall not be subject to SEA and expert-examination.

(Article 21 supplemented by HO-25-N of 20 January 2026, edited by HO-248-N of 18 June 2026)

(Law HO-248-N of 18 June 2026 has a transitional provision)

Article 22. SEA

1. The SEA and expert examination of the draft fundamental document shall be carried out prior to the adoption of the fundamental document.
2. Phases of carrying out SEA shall be as follows:
 - (1) preliminary assessment;
 - (2) determining scope of the SEA;
 - (3) drawing up a SEA report;
 - (4) taking into account the results of the SEA in the fundamental document.
3. The initiator shall:
 - (1) in the phases provided for by part 2 of this Article, submit a request to the authorised body and the authorised body in the field of healthcare management for consultation, taking into account, where necessary, the field of the fundamental document, submit a request also to the authorised state bodies for management in the fields listed in part 1 of Article 21 of this Law and to local self-government bodies;
 - (2) involve the public concerned as prescribed by Chapter 7 of this Law, and, where necessary, make transboundary notification and conduct discussions as prescribed by Chapter 6 of this Law.

(Article 22 edited by HO-248-N of 18 June 2026)

(Law HO-248-N of 18 June 2026 has a transitional provision)

Article 23. Expert examination of the SEA report

1. The expert examination of the SEA report shall be carried out within up to 80 working days from the day of submitting the SEA report, with the

accompanying letter, to the authorised body (except for fundamental documents having a transboundary impact), based on which the authorised body shall provide the initiator with an expert opinion.

2. The state expert opinion on the SEA report shall be issued in accordance with Article 19 of this Law.

CHAPTER 6

ASSESSMENT OF DRAFT FUNDAMENTAL DOCUMENT OR PROPOSED ACTIVITY HAVING TRANSBOUNDARY IMPACT

Article 24. General requirements for impact assessment of draft fundamental document or proposed activity having a transboundary impact

1. Where the implementation of the fundamental document or carrying out of the proposed activity in the territory of the Republic of Armenia, as well as the implementation of the fundamental document or carrying out of the proposed activity in the territory of other states may have a transboundary impact, the EIA and the expert examination shall be carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, other international treaties ratified by the Republic of Armenia, international rules of healthcare and this Law.
2. The state expert opinion on transboundary impact shall be signed by the head of the authorised body and approved by the Government.
3. For the purpose of ensuring comprehensiveness of the procedures for impact assessment of the draft fundamental document or the proposed activity having

transboundary impact and summarising the results of the assessment, the authorised body may — with an appropriate substantiation — extend the time limits prescribed by this Law.

4. Where additional information regarding the significant trans-boundary impact of a proposed activity, which was not available at the time of issuance of the state expert-examination opinion and which could have significantly affected that opinion, becomes known to the authorised body before the commencement of carrying out of that activity, then:
 - (1) in case of being a state of origin, the authorised body shall immediately notify the relevant authorised body of the affected state thereof, in accordance with the procedure established by this Law and other legal acts;
 - (2) in case of being an affected state, the authorised body may submit a request to the authorised body of the state of origin for the organisation of consultations and for consideration of the need to review that opinion.

(Article 24 supplemented by HO-248-N of 18 June 2026)

(Law HO-248-N of 18 June 2026 has a transitional provision)

**Article 25. Assessment of the transboundary impact of the draft
fundamental document or proposed activity in the
Republic of Armenia**

1. Where the potential transboundary impact is revealed during the assessment, the authorised body, together with the initiator, shall be obliged to ensure the requirements prescribed by this Article.
2. Where any activity prescribed by Annex 1 to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context or any fundamental document prescribed by Article 21 may have a significant adverse transboundary

environmental impact in the territory of the Republic of Armenia, the authorised body shall notify the relevant state authorised body of the affected state thereon as prescribed by this Law and other legal acts.

3. The notification shall contain the following information, unless otherwise provided for by a relevant international treaty of the Republic of Armenia:
 - (1) draft fundamental document and SEA report, information on the proposed activity, including any information on potential transboundary impact thereof;
 - (2) the nature of possible decisions rendered with regard to the draft fundamental document or the proposed activity;
 - (3) the procedures and time limits for expert examination;
 - (4) the time limits for response of the given state with regard to its intention to participate in the process of transboundary impact assessment. The authorised body shall support the initiator in the process of preparation of notification and inquiry.
4. The time limit for the affected state to respond whether it intends to participate in the process of transboundary impact assessment may not exceed 45 working days following the receipt of the notification, unless another time limit is provided for by the international treaties of the Republic of Armenia.
5. Where the state, which has received a notification, has officially refused to participate in the process of transboundary impact assessment or has failed to respond about its intention to participate within the time limit prescribed, the expert examination shall be carried out through the procedure prescribed by this Law.
6. After receiving an official letter on intention to participate in the process of transboundary impact assessment from the country having received the notification, the authorised body shall — as prescribed by the legislation of the

Republic of Armenia — submit to the affected state the documents necessary for impact assessment, mentioning the time limits for submitting the opinion with regard thereto, which shall not exceed 60 working days following the receipt of the documents, unless other time limits are provided for by the international treaties of the Republic of Armenia.

7. The authorised body and the initiator shall support the relevant authorised body of the affected state in dissemination of information on the draft fundamental document or the proposed activity among the relevant bodies and the public concerned of the territories of the given country most likely to be affected by the potential impact.
8. The authorised body and the initiator shall — with the relevant authorised body of the state likely to be affected by the potential impact — coordinate the format and the procedure for consultations with regard to the draft fundamental document or the proposed activity having a potential transboundary impact, the means of prevention or reduction of the impact and shall support in carrying out such consultations.
9. The initiator shall ensure the translation of the opinions and other necessary materials received from the affected state.

**Article 26. Process of transboundary impact assessment of draft
fundamental document or proposed activity of another state
on the environment of the Republic of Armenia**

1. Where notification is received in the Republic of Armenia regarding a draft fundamental document or a proposed activity that may have a potential transboundary impact on the Republic of Armenia, and the receiver is not the authorised body, the notification shall be sent to the authorised body within 10 working days after its receipt.

2. The authorised body shall — as prescribed by legislation of the Republic of Armenia — notify the relevant authorised body of the state of origin about the receipt of the notification and its intention to participate or not to participate in the process of transboundary impact assessment within the time limits and in the manner referred to in the notification.
3. Where there are no fixed time limits stipulated in the notification for a response, the authorised body shall respond to the notifying country within 10 working days after the date of receipt of the notification.
4. The authorised body shall ensure discussion of the notification guided by the requirements of this Law, unless otherwise provided for by bilateral or multilateral international treaties of the Republic of Armenia.
5. Where the authorised body has made a decision to participate in the transboundary process, the EIA shall be carried out as prescribed by this Law, taking into consideration the requirements of the international treaties of the Republic of Armenia, at the same time informing the authorised body of the state of origin about the requirements of this Law, including provision of the necessary funding thereby for translation of the EIA documents, ensuring participation of the public concerned and other costs required by this Law.
6. The authorised body shall coordinate the volume and content of the necessary documents, the format and procedure for consultations with regard to the draft fundamental document or proposed activity having a potential transboundary impact, the means for prevention or reduction of the impact with the relevant authorised body of the state of origin.
7. Unless otherwise provided for by the bilateral or multilateral international treaties of the Republic of Armenia or part 4 of this Article, the authorised body, after receiving the documents, shall ensure the study and consideration of the documents as prescribed by this Law and other legal acts, and shall send the state expert opinion approved by the Government to the notifying country.

8. Where the authorised body has been informed about a draft fundamental document or a proposed activity on the territory of another country that might have transboundary impact on the environment of the Republic of Armenia, and where no notification has been received from the given country, the authorised body, giving prior notice thereon to the Government of the Republic of Armenia, shall — as prescribed by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia — submit a request to the relevant authorised state body of the given country to receive a notification on the process of transboundary impact assessment of the draft fundamental document or the proposed activity.

Article 27. International co-operation in the field of transboundary impact

1. For the purpose of fulfilling the obligations assumed by the Republic of Armenia under the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, the Republic of Armenia may sign bilateral or multilateral international treaties or acquire other agreements.
2. For the purpose of increasing the effectiveness of the management of transboundary impact assessment, the Republic of Armenia may, together with other countries, create temporary or permanent acting bodies, the procedure of activity whereof shall be defined by relevant bilateral treaties or other written agreements.

CHAPTER 7

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION, HOLDING OF PUBLIC HEARINGS AND REQUIREMENTS THEREFOR

(title amended by HO-248-N of 18 June 2026)

(Law HO-248-N of 18 June 2026 has a transitional provision)

Article 28. Public notification and holding of public hearings

(title amended by HO-248-N of 18 June 2026)

1. The public shall have the right to participate in the processes of EIA, SEA and expert examination.
2. The authorised body, territorial administration bodies, local self-government bodies and the initiator shall — through the procedure prescribed by point 7 of part 1 of Article 8 of this Law, for the purpose of ensuring the participation of the public concerned in the processes of EIA, SEA and expert examination — carry out the following:
 - (1) dissemination of information on the right to initiate and participate in the processes of EIA, SEA and expert examination;
 - (2) ensuring accessibility of the documents on EIA, SEA and expert examination and other information;
 - (3) creating conditions for participation of the public concerned in the hearings, inform the public concerned about the draft fundamental document or the proposed activity, the expert examination process through official websites and other means of dissemination of information (the official website for public notifications of the Republic of Armenia via the link <http://www.azdarar.am>, notice boards of local self-government bodies and territorial administration bodies, buildings of public significance).

3. The first public hearing shall be held in the phase of providing a preliminary consent by the local self-government bodies prescribed by Article 16 of this Law, and the second one — during the expert examination prescribed by Article 17 of this Law. Prior to the public hearings, the notification of the public hearings shall be ensured through the procedure prescribed.
4. The content of the SEA notification of public hearings shall include the following:
 - (1) name of the initiator;
 - (2) name of the draft fundamental document;
 - (3) summary description;
 - (4) information on the provisions of the draft fundamental document;
 - (5) time limits and venue for holding public hearings;
 - (6) place of receiving information and time limits for submitting suggestions.
5. The content of the EIA notification of public hearings shall include the following:
 - (1) name of the initiator;
 - (2) type of the proposed activity;
 - (3) place of carrying out and brief description of the proposed activity;
 - (4) time limits for holding public hearings and address thereof;
 - (5) opportunity to get acquainted with the documents and receive information, the address intended for submitting suggestions.
6. The notification on public hearings shall be published in the official website for public notifications of the Republic of Armenia via the link <http://www.azdarar.am>, posted on the announcement boards of the buildings of the marzpetaran or the local self-government bodies of the affected community and the office of administrative head of the affected settlement or of buildings of public significance (buildings of culture, art, of scientific, educational and

training significance), published on the official websites of the local self-government bodies of the affected community and the initiator (where available). During the expert examination, the notification shall also be posted on the official website of the authorised body.

7. The public hearings during the expert examination shall be held not earlier than on the 15th day following the notification.

(Article 28 amended by HO-162-N of 16 April 2026, HO-248-N of 18 June 2026)

(Law HO-248-N of 18 June 2026 has a transitional provision)

Article 29. Holding public hearings and submitting suggestions

1. During the EIA, SEA and expert examination, including public hearings, the public concerned shall, within the time limits prescribed by this Law, have the right to submit any written and oral suggestion, comment and opinion to the authorised body and the initiator without substantiating the reasons underlying them.
2. The authorised body, the initiator shall be obliged to discuss all the suggestions, comments and opinions submitted by the public concerned and take into account the results of the participation of the public concerned and reasonable suggestions, comments and opinions while drawing up the EIA, SEA reports, expert examination.
3. The public concerned may submit written — and during public hearings also oral — suggestions, comments and opinions to the initiator, local self-government bodies, and during the expert examination — also to the authorised body.
4. The written or electronic suggestions, comments and opinions of the public concerned shall be submitted:
 - (1) in the case prescribed by part 2 of Article 16 of this Law — within 20 working days after the notification;

- (2) during the expert examination, in case of the draft fundamental document and types of the activity of category A — within 25 working days after the notification;
 - (3) during the expert examination, in case of the types of the activity of category B — within 20 working days after the notification.
- 5. During the hearings in the course of the expert examination, the initiator shall submit SEA or EIA reports.
 - 6. The initiator and the authorised body must take into account the comments and suggestions submitted during the hearings. In case of not taking them into account, substantiated reasonings shall be given.
 - 7. The results of public hearings shall be reflected in relevant reports and state expert opinion.
 - 8. Where the documents relating to the proposed activity and the EIA report contain information that is not subject to publication provided for by laws of the Republic of Armenia, the initiator shall remove this information from the report, making the public part thereof available to the public concerned.

CHAPTER 8

RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF INITIATOR IN EIA AND EXPERT EXAMINATION PROCESSES

Article 30. Rights and obligations of initiators in the processes of EIA, expert examination and carrying out of proposed activity

- 1. In the assessment and expert examination processes the initiator shall have the right to:

- (1) receive from the authorised body information about the assessment and expert examination process;
 - (2) receive from the state and local self-government bodies the effective fundamental documents related to the territory, as well as other information necessary for carrying out EIA;
 - (3) appeal — as prescribed by law — the state expert examination opinion and the decision adopted by the authorised body on revoking;
 - (4) exercise other rights prescribed by this Law.
2. The initiator shall be obliged to:
- (1) follow the requirements prescribed by this Law;
 - (2) provide the documents and information prescribed by this Law to the authorised body;
 - (3) ensure the completeness, authenticity and substantiation of the submitted materials;
 - (4) participate in the notification of the public concerned and public hearings;
 - (5) provide the public hearing holders with the relevant materials and documents;
 - (6) adopt or submit for approval the fundamental document and carry out proposed activity only in case of a positive state expert opinion;
 - (7) fulfil and not to violate the requirements and conditions of the state expert opinion, not to deviate from them and to carry out the proposed activity in accordance with the design documents and EIA report that have received a positive state expert opinion;
 - (8) carry out expansion or reconstruction or technical or technological re-equipment or re-profiling or conservation or relocation or termination or closure or demolition or design change of the types of the proposed

activity in accordance with the notification prescribed by point 2 of part 4 of Article 18 of this Law or in case of existence of a positive state expert opinion.

CHAPTER 9

INVOLVEMENT OF AN EXPERT IN EXPERT EXAMINATION PROCESS, RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS THEREOF

Article 31. Requirements for involvement of experts in expert examination process

1. The authorised body may involve a relevant expert, that is a natural or legal person, in the expert examination process.
2. The legal person whose statutory functions correlate with the object that is subject to expert examination may act as an expert. Employees of a legal person — acting as an expert — involved in the expert examination process must meet the requirements prescribed by part 3 of this Article.
3. The natural person who has a higher professional education related to the object that is subject to expert examination and has at least 10 years of professional work experience in the relevant sphere, of which five years of experience — in the course of the last eight years, may act as an expert.
4. The involvement of the experts in the expert examination process shall be carried out on contractual basis as prescribed by the legislation.
5. The contract shall define the rights and obligations of the parties, the content, scope and time limits of the activities of experts, the procedure and the amount of remuneration and other terms and conditions upon the agreement of the parties not contradicting the legislation of the Republic of Armenia.

6. The persons who have participated in the drafting of the given draft fundamental document or the design document of the proposed activity or in the impact assessment process thereof may not — as experts — be involved in the expert examination process.

Article 32. Rights and obligations of expert in expert examination process

1. The expert involved in the expert examination process shall have the right to:
 - (1) receive from the authorised body all documents submitted for expert examination;
 - (2) receive from the authorised body and state and local self-government bodies all the materials related to the documents subject to expert examination;
 - (3) participate in the discussion of the professional opinion rendered by him or her and of the draft state expert opinions;
 - (4) participate in public hearings on the documents being examined by him or her.
2. The expert involved in the expert examination process shall be obliged to:
 - (1) provide an impartial, independent, objective and substantiated professional opinion to the questions presented to him or her;
 - (2) carry out expert examination of the draft fundamental document or the proposed activity in accordance with the requirements of this Law and other legal acts;
 - (3) maintain the confidentiality of the information comprising a secret as prescribed by law;
 - (4) ensure implementation of the contractual requirements.

CHAPTER 10

FEES AND FINANCING OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT EXPERT EXAMINATION PROCESS

Article 33. Fees of expert examination process

1. A state duty shall be paid in the manner and in the amount prescribed by the Law "On state duty" for carrying out the expert examination process or for consideration of the application prescribed by Article 18 of this Law.

Article 34. Financing of expert examination process

1. The costs related to the expert examination process, prescribed by this Law, carried out by the authorised body and local self-government bodies shall be financed by means of the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia.

CHAPTER 11

LIABILITY IN EXPERT EXAMINATION PROCESS AND SUPERVISION OVER THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS LAW

Article 35. Liability in expert examination process

1. Violation of the requirements of this Law shall entail liability through the procedure prescribed by law.

Article 36. Supervision over implementation of this Law

1. The supervision over the compliance with the requirements prescribed by this Law with respect to the implemented activity requiring an expert opinion, including over the design documents having received a positive state expert opinion, the requirements and conditions of EIA report, the implementation thereof within the time limits prescribed, the requirements and conditions of the positive state expert opinion, the implementation thereof within the time limits prescribed and over the activity not having been issued a positive state expert opinion shall be carried out by the inspection body carrying out supervision in the field of environmental protection.

CHAPTER 12

FINAL PART AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

Article 37. Final part and transitional provisions

1. The relations with regard to the expert-examination process having been launched prior to the entry into force of this Law and pending at the moment of the entry into force of this Law shall be regulated by legal acts effective at the moment of launching the expert-examination process.
2. The legal acts prescribed by points 1, 2, 5, 9 and 11 of part 1 of Article 8 of this Law shall be adopted within six months following the entry into force of this Law, the one prescribed by point 8 of part 1 of Article 8 — by 31 December 2024, and those prescribed by points 4 and 10 of part 1 of Article 8 — by 31 December 2025.

3. The amendments and supplements to the regulations prescribed by points 3 and 7 of part 1 of Article 8 of this Law shall be adopted within six months following the entry into force of this Law.
4. Points 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9 and 10 of part 1 of Article 8 of this Law shall become effective from the moment of the entry into force of the secondary regulatory legal acts referred to in parts 2 and 3 of this Article. Until that time, the relevant provisions of Law No HO-110-N of 21 June 2014 "On environmental impact assessment and expert examination" shall continue to be effective.
5. Part 2 of Article 20 of this Law shall extend to the positive state expert opinions issued in 2022 and 2023 or the positive state expert opinions issued on the basis of the application submitted within the same time limit for the proposed activity.

President of the Republic of Armenia

S. Sargsyan

22 July 2014

Yerevan

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