

TRANSLITERATION ACT

Prom. SG. 19/13 Mar 2009, amend. SG. 77/1 Oct 2010, amend. SG. 77/9 Oct 2012, amend. SG. 68/2 Aug 2013, amend. SG. 98/13 Dec 2019

Chapter one. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Art. 1. (1) This Act shall provide the rules of transliteration.

(2) Transliteration is transcribing the letters of the Bulgarian Cyrillic alphabet with Latin letters or combinations of Latin letters. Transliteration shall be performed through a system of rules.

(3) The rules for transliteration ensure unambiguous transmission of Bulgarian geographical names, names of historical figures, cultural realities, as well as terms of Bulgarian origin in the relevant scientific field, by means of a specially constructed version of the Latin alphabet.

(4) The transliteration rules are in compliance with the graphic system of the modern Bulgarian literary language and with the Bulgarian traditions.

Art. 2. (1) This Act shall be applied in reference to the activities of the executive bodies and their administration.

(2) This Act shall also be applied to the administration of other state power bodies, envisaged in the Constitution.

(3) The transliteration rules defined by this Act shall also be applied by all legal and natural persons, which perform and use transliteration of geographical names, names of historical figures, cultural realities, as well as terms of Bulgarian origin in the relevant scientific field.

(4) A person who has the legal capacity to carry out activities in cartography shall be obliged to carry out the works assigned to him in accordance with the requirements of this Act.

(5) A person who makes, issues and publishes dictionaries, encyclopedia, textbooks and guidebooks, educational, advertising and other information materials shall be obliged to apply the rules of transliteration, provided by this Act.

Art. 3. (1) The transliteration rules shall be obligatory in cases, where as an addition to the name of a legal person, a geographical name, a name of a historical figure or a cultural reality has been included.

(2) The transliteration rules shall be obliged in cases, where the trademark as a sign, which distinguishes goods or services of a person from those of another person includes names of historical figures.

(3) (Amend. - SG 98/19) The transliteration rules shall also be mandatory for geographical names under Art. 85 of the Trademarks and Geographic Indications Act.

Chapter two. BASIC TRANSLITERATION RULES

Art. 4. The system for transliteration of the Bulgarian letters by Latin letters shall be as follows:

Българска	Версия на латинската
азбука	азбука
А, а	А, а

Б, б	B, b
В, в	V, v
Г, г	G, g
Д, д	D, d
Е, е	E, e
Ж, ж	Zh, zh
З, з	Z, z
И, и	I, i
Й, й	Y, y
К, к	K, k
Л, л	L, l
М, м	M, m
Н, н	N, n
О, о	O, o
П, п	P, p
Р, р	R, r
С, с	S, s
Т, т	T, t
У, у	U, u
Ф, ф	F, f
Х, х	H, h
Ц, ц	Ts, ts
Ч, ч	Ch, ch
Ш, ш	Sh, sh
Щ, щ	Sht, sht
Ъ, ъ	A, a
Ь, ь	Y, y
Ю, ю	Yu, yu
Я, я	Ya, ya

Art. 5. (1) Transliteration of the Bulgarian letter combinations with Latin letter combinations shall be as follows:

1. the letter combination "дж" shall be written and transcribed in Latin letters as "dzh";
2. the letter combination "дз" shall be written and transcribed in Latin letters as "dz";
3. the letter combination "ьо" shall be written and transcribed in Latin letters as "yo";
4. the letter combination "йо" shall be written and transcribed in Latin letters as "yo".

(2) The letter combination "ия", when at the end of the word, shall be written and transcribed as "ia".

Art. 6. The name of the Bulgarian state shall be written and transcribed in Latin in compliance with the established tradition:

България	Bulgaria
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Art. 7. (1) The geographical terms: mountain, plain, valley, plateau, town, village, river, lake, bay, etc., which form a part of the geographic name, shall be transliterated in the following way:

Стара планина	Stara planina
Атанасовско езеро	Atanasovsko ezero.

(2) Geographical terms that are not part of the geographical name are translated according to the rules of the language chosen for translation, as follows:

Нос Емине	Cape Emine.
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(3) The adjectives “north”, “south”, “east”, “west”, “central” and other, when included in the geographical name, shall be transliterated in the following way:

Централен Балкан	Tsentralen Balkan
София-юг	Sofia-yug
Перник-север	Pernik-sever.

Art. 8. Transliteration of compound names shall comply with the Bulgarian spelling rules in the following way:

Златни пясъци	Zlatni pyasatsi
Горна Оряховица	Gorna Oryahovitsa.

Art. 9. (1) Names of historical figures and geographical names of modern foreign literary languages, which use version of the Latin alphabet, shall be written in their original spelling.

(2) The names of historical figures and geographical names of modern foreign literary languages, which do not use any version of the Latin alphabet, shall be written according to the system for transliteration of the respective language.

Chapter three. CONTROL

Art. 10. (Amend. - SG 77/10; amend. – SG 68/13, in force from 02.08.2013) The Minister of Education and Science or officials authorized by him shall exercise control over the observance of the provisions of this Act.

Art. 11. (1) The officials under Art. 10 shall have the right to request from the inspected persons all necessary information, documents, data, references and explanations related to the control activity, with the exception of the documents and data related to the defence and security of the state.

(2) While performing the control activity, the officials under Art. 10 shall be obliged to:

1. produce an order for performing the inspection;
2. reflect correctly the results of the control activity.

(3) The instructions of the officials under Art. 10, issued within the frames of their competence, shall be obligatory for the controlled persons and shall be implemented within 30 days from being delivered.

Chapter four. ADMINISTRATIVE-PENAL PROVISIONS

Art. 12. (1) An official, who fails to perform his/her obligations under this Act and the instructions of the officials under Art. 10, if not subject to a stiffer penalty, shall be punished by a fine of BGN 100 to 400.

(2) On a legal person, who fails to perform its obligations under this Act and the instructions of the officials under Art. 10, unless subject to a stiffer penalty, shall be imposed a proprietary sanction from BGN 500 to 1200.

(2) A natural person, who fails to perform his obligations under this Act and the instructions of

the officials under Art. 10, if not subject to a stiffer penalty, shall be punished by a proprietary fine from BGN 100 to 300.

Art. 13. Whoever compiles or publishes dictionaries, encyclopaedia, textbooks and guidebooks in violation of Art. 2, Para. 5, shall be punished by a fine from BGN 400 to 800, or correspondingly – by a proprietary sanction from BGN 2000 to 5000.

Art. 14. (1) A natural person, who compiles, publishes, prints, distributes or gives to third persons educational, advertising, reference and other materials, information and data in written or electronic form in breach of the requirements of this Act, shall be punished by a fine of BGN 100 to 400.

(2) On a legal person, who has breached Para. 1, shall be imposed a proprietary sanction in the amount of BGN 200 to 800.

Art. 15. In case of a repeated violation under this Act, the fine or the proprietary sanction shall be imposed in double the amount.

Art. 16. (1) The breaches of this Act shall be established by acts drawn up by the officials under Art. 10.

(2) The acts shall be drawn up if, within the period under Art. 11, Para. 3, the prescriptions of the officials under Art. 10 have not been fulfilled.

(3) (Amend. - SG 77/10; amend. – SG 68/13, in force from 02.08.2013) The penal decrees shall be issued by the Minister of Education and Science, or by an official authorized by him.

Art. 17. (1) The violations established under this Act, the issuing, appealing and execution of the penal decrees shall be performed under the Administrative Violations and Penalties Act.

(2) (Revoked – SG 77/12, in force from 09.10.2012)

Additional provisions

§ 1. In the meaning of this Act:

1. "Geographical name" is a name of a geographic object.

2. "Geographical objects" are: rivers, tributaries, seas, oceans, mountains, parts of mountains, ridges, peaks, valleys, basins, plateaus, hills, dam lakes, mines, towns, villages and villa areas, holiday places, holiday villages, holiday complexes, various sites in inhabited areas, including parks, gardens, buildings, monuments of culture, residential areas, housing complexes, etc.

3. "Cultural realia" are objects of the traditional material culture, related to various spheres of personal and social life, as: home, family, foods, drinks and clothing, including traditional attires, social places and centres of social life, etc.

Concluding provisions

§ 2. In the Geodesy and Cartography Act (prom., SG, N. 29 of 2006; amm., N. 57 and 109 of 2007 and N 36 of 2008) in Art. 19 , Para. 5, shall be created:

"(5) The acts of the Minister of the Regional Development and Public Works, under Para. 1, p. 4 shall be obligatory in the implementation of the activities in the area of geodesy and cartography, performed by the executive bodies, the local self-government bodies and by the legal and natural persons."

§ 3. The registers trade marks, geographical indications and names of legal persons, transliterated in deviation of the provisions of this Act, may be complied with its requirements.

This Act was adopted by the 40th National Assembly on 27 February 2009 and has been sealed by the official stamp of the National Assembly.

Concluding provisions
TO THE ACT ON AMENDMENT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE VIOLATIONS AND
PENALTIES ACT
(PROM. - SG 77/12, IN FORCE FROM 09.10.2012)

§ 19. This Act shall enter into force from the day of its promulgation in the State Gazette.

Concluding provisions
TO THE ACT AMENDING THE YOUTH ACT
(PROM. - SG 68/13, IN FORCE FROM 02.08.2013)

§ 55. This Act shall enter into force from the day of its promulgation in the State Gazette.