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# Civil Protection System Act

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## I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

### Article 1.

(1) This Act regulates the system and operation of civil protection; the rights and obligations of state administration bodies, local and regional self-government units, legal entities and natural persons; training for the needs of the civil protection system; financing of civil protection; administrative and inspection supervision over the implementation of this Act and other issues important for the civil protection system.

(2) Civil protection is a system of organizing participants, operational forces and citizens to protect people, animals, material and cultural assets and the environment in major accidents and disasters.

eliminate the consequences of terrorism and war destruction.

(3) Civil protection is of public interest for the Republic of Croatia and for the security of the Republic of Croatia.

(4) This Law prescribes restrictions on ownership and other real rights on real estate and movable property for the purpose of protecting the interests and security of the Republic of Croatia, protecting and saving people, animals, material and cultural assets, and the environment.

#### Article 2.

This Act transposes Directive 2012/18/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 July 2012 on the control of major-accident hazards involving dangerous substances, amending and subsequently repealing Council Directive 96/82/EC (Text relevant for the EPG) (OJ L 197, 24.7.2012) into the legal order of the Republic of Croatia.

#### Article 3 (Official Gazette [20/21](#) )

Certain terms within the meaning of this Law have the following meanings:

- 1) Activity is the undertaking of similar actions aimed at achieving a specific goal through the application of civil protection measures.
- 2) Activation means the procedures for initiating emergency services, operational forces of the civil protection system and citizens.
- 3) Animal sanitation is the process of collecting, disposing of, removing and burying animal carcasses and food of animal origin.
- 4) Humane exhumation is the process of removing, identifying and burying the remains of victims.
- 5) Land sanitation is a set of organized and coordinated technical, health and agricultural measures and procedures to eliminate the source of the spread of socially dangerous diseases.
- 5a) Domino effect is a series of related effects which, due to the mutual arrangement and proximity of areas of a facility, plant, or parts of a plant or group of plants and the quantity of hazardous substances present in those areas of the plant, increase the possibility of a major accident or worsen the consequences of an accident that has occurred.
- 6) Evacuation means moving endangered persons, animals and movable property from endangered objects or areas.
- 7) An emergency event means an event whose remediation requires the action of emergency services and the potential involvement of operational forces of the civil protection system.
- 8) A disaster is a situation caused by a natural and/or technical-technological event that, due to its scope, intensity and unexpectedness, threatens the health and lives of a large number of people, property of greater value and the environment, and whose occurrence cannot be prevented or the consequences eliminated by the actions of all operational forces of the civil protection system of the regional self-government in whose territory the event occurred, as well as the consequences caused by terrorism and war.
- 9) Chemical-biological-radiological-nuclear protection (hereinafter: CBRN protection) is a set of organized procedures that include detection, sampling and identification of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear agents and/or substances and marking and decontamination of dangerous areas.
- 10) Coordination is the harmonization of the actions of participants in the civil protection system in order to achieve the goals of the civil protection system.
- 11) The on-site coordinator in the event of a major accident or disaster is the person who coordinates the activities of the operational forces of the civil protection system at the site of intervention.
- 12) International activities of members of the operational forces of the civil protection system mean providing urgent international assistance, participating in international training programs and exercises.

- 13) Mobilization is a procedure by which, upon the order of the competent authority, participants in the civil protection system are called, accepted and equipped, and they are brought into readiness to carry out civil protection tasks.
- 14) Education in the civil protection system is the organized acquisition of professional knowledge, skills and abilities and is implemented, in accordance with special regulations, as formal education (through training and advanced training, and participants are issued with a public document) and non-formal education.
- 14a) A hazardous substance is a substance, mixture or preparation defined by regulations on environmental protection and the prevention of major accidents involving hazardous substances.
- 14b) Operator is a legal or natural person who manages or owns an area of an installation or a facility or has a decisive economic role in the technical management of an area of an installation.
- 15) Training in the civil protection system is the organized acquisition of professional knowledge and skills with the purpose of increasing the readiness of the operational forces of the civil protection system and citizens to act in a major accident or disaster.
- 16) Operational forces of the civil protection system are all appropriate and available capabilities and resources of operational forces intended for the implementation of civil protection measures.
- 17) Personal and mutual protection is a fundamental form of organizing citizens for their own protection and providing assistance to other persons in need of protection.
- 17a) Site of an installation is the entire area under the control of the operator in which dangerous substances are present in one or more installations, including common or related infrastructure or activities.
- 18) Prevention expresses the concept and intention of completely avoiding potential negative impacts by action taken in advance.
- 19) Readiness is the state of readiness of operational forces and participants in the civil protection system for operational action.
- 20) Risk assessment is the determination of the quantitative and/or qualitative value of risk.
- 21) Providing international emergency assistance in civil protection is the dispatch of operational forces of the civil protection system and material assistance to a country affected by a major accident or disaster that has requested international assistance.
- 22) First aid is a set of procedures used to assist an injured or ill person at the scene, before the arrival of emergency medical services or other qualified health professionals.
- 23) Response means the provision of emergency services and assistance during a major accident or disaster or immediately after it in order to save lives, reduce the impact on health, public safety and meet the basic daily needs of vulnerable citizens.
- 24) Risk is the relationship between the consequences of an event and the probability of its occurrence.
- 25) Management means the activities of planning, organizing and leading the operational forces of the civil protection system towards the achievement of set goals (executive function of management).
- 26) Sheltering is the organized referral of citizens to the nearest dedicated building for sheltering or to another suitable space that enables optimal protection with or without adaptation (basements and other rooms in buildings that are adapted for sheltering and communal and other buildings below the surface of the ground intended for public use such as garages, shops and other suitable spaces).
- 27) Salvage of material and cultural assets is a set of organized and coordinated activities carried out to prevent damage and/or destruction of material and cultural assets.
- 28) Civil protection is a set of organized and coordinated activities carried out to preserve the life and health of people.



29) The basic operational forces in the civil protection system are forces that are ready for urgent and high-quality operational action in implementing measures and activities of the civil protection system in major accidents and disasters: operational forces of the fire brigade, the Croatian Mountain Rescue Service and the Croatian Red Cross.

30) Alerting and informing is drawing attention to danger by using prescribed warning signs and providing timely and necessary information in order to undertake activities for effective protection.

31) Management is the determination of the fundamental goal of the civil protection system, the planned connection of parts of the civil protection system and their tasks, measures and activities into a single whole in order to achieve the goals of the civil protection system.

32) Risk management means preventive and planning activities aimed at reducing vulnerability and mitigating the negative effects of risk.

32a) The external civil protection plan in the event of accidents involving hazardous substances (hereinafter: the External Plan) is a plan of measures and activities to be undertaken outside the area of the facility, adopted by the executive body of a regional self-government unit in order to manage the risks and external consequences of scenarios involving hazardous substances.

33) A major accident is an event caused by the sudden action of natural forces, technical-technological or other factors, resulting in a threat to the health and life of citizens, material and cultural assets and the environment at the scene of the event or in a wider area, the consequences of which cannot be remedied solely by the actions of emergency services in the area of its occurrence.

34) The requirements of the civil protection system in the field of spatial planning mean preventive activities and measures that must be contained in spatial planning documents of local and regional self-government units.

35) Protection and rescue means the organized implementation of measures and activities in the civil protection system.

36) Fire protection is a system of measures and actions established by special regulations.

37) Care is the provision of emergency, temporary accommodation and the supply of basic foodstuffs and personal hygiene items for endangered citizens who are being evacuated or relocated from an endangered area.

#### Article 4.

(1) Civil Protection Day of the Republic of Croatia is celebrated on March 1st.

(2) European 112 Day is celebrated on 11 February.

(3) The International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction is observed on 13 October.

## II. CIVIL PROTECTION SYSTEM

#### Article 5.

(1) The civil protection system includes measures and activities (preventive, planning, organizational, operational, supervisory and financial) that regulate the rights and obligations of participants, the organization and operation of all parts of the civil protection system and the method of connecting the institutional and functional resources of participants that complement each other into a single whole for the purpose of reducing disaster risks and protecting and rescuing citizens, material and cultural assets and the environment on the territory of the Republic of Croatia from the consequences of natural, technical and technological major accidents and disasters, eliminating the consequences of terrorism and war devastation.



(2) The civil protection system is organized at the local, regional and national levels, and connects the resources and capabilities of participants, operational forces and citizens into a single whole in order to reduce the risk of disasters, provide a rapid and optimal response to threats and dangers, and mitigate the consequences of major accidents and disasters.

#### Operation of the civil protection system

##### Article 6.

(1) The civil protection system operates regularly through preventive and planning activities, development and strengthening of the readiness of participants and operational forces of the civil protection system.

(2) The response of the operational forces of the civil protection system shall continue to the actions of emergency services and regular forces of local and regional self-government units when they are unable to prevent the occurrence and/or development of a major accident or disaster with their own capabilities.

(3) When a major accident and/or disaster exceeds the capabilities of all participants and operational forces of the civil protection system of the Republic of Croatia, the Government of the Republic of Croatia may make a decision to request and receive international assistance in accordance with the provisions of this Act and the obligations of the Republic of Croatia assumed under international treaties.

#### Principles of the civil protection system

##### Article 7.

(1) The principles of the civil protection system are general principles: the principle of humanity and the principle of non-discrimination, and the principles of the operational operation of the civil protection system: the principle of subsidiarity, the principle of solidarity and the principle of continuity of action.

(2) The principle of humanity is realized by ensuring respect for the persons to whom assistance is provided, by ensuring the right to physical and mental integrity and by protecting the personality.

(3) According to the principle of non-discrimination in the civil protection system, necessary assistance is provided to everyone in need, regardless of race, ethnicity, skin color, gender, language, religion, political or other belief, national or social origin, property status, union membership, education, social position, marital or family status, age, health status, disability, genetic heritage, gender identity, expression or sexual orientation.

(4) According to the principle of subsidiarity, civil protection decisions and measures are primarily made and implemented by engaging all available own resources and capabilities of participants and operational forces of the civil protection system of the local and regional self-government unit affected by a major accident or disaster.

(5) According to the principle of solidarity, additional assistance is provided to the affected unit of local and regional self-government after it has engaged all its available resources and capabilities of the participants and operational forces of the civil protection system.

(6) According to the principle of continuity of operations, participants and operational forces in the civil protection system continue to perform tasks within their scope of work even in major accidents and disasters.

### III. PARTICIPANTS IN THE CIVIL PROTECTION SYSTEM

#### Article 8 (Official Gazette **118/18**)

Measures and activities in the civil protection system are carried out by the following participants:

- Government of the Republic of Croatia
- Ministry of the Interior, as the central state administration body responsible for civil protection affairs (hereinafter: the Ministry)

- state administration bodies and other state bodies
- Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia and Police
- local and regional self-government units.

Government of the Republic of Croatia

Article 9.

The Government of the Republic of Croatia manages the activities of participants in the civil protection system in disasters with the support of the Civil Protection Headquarters of the Republic of Croatia.

Article 10 (Official Gazette **118/18** )

(1) The Government of the Republic of Croatia, upon the proposal of the Minister of the Interior (hereinafter referred to as: the Minister), shall adopt:

- Disaster risk assessment for the Republic of Croatia
- Disaster risk reduction strategy
- Strategy for the development of the civil protection system
- National Civil Protection Action Plan.

(2) The state action plan for civil protection is harmonized with the Defense Plan of the Republic of Croatia in the part that refers to the removal of the consequences of war destruction.

Article 11 (Official Gazette **118/18** )

(1) The Government of the Republic of Croatia, at the proposal of the Minister, when the Republic of Croatia is affected by a disaster, makes a decision on seeking and receiving international aid and a decision on providing aid to other countries when they are affected by a disaster.

(2) The Government of the Republic of Croatia, upon the proposal of the Minister, shall adopt a decision on the amount of international assistance from the Republic of Croatia to other countries affected by the disaster.

(3) By way of exception to paragraph 1 of this Article, if the situation in another country cannot tolerate the postponement of the provision of urgent assistance, the decision on the provision of international assistance to another country affected by the disaster may be made by the Minister in accordance with the decision of the Government of the Republic of Croatia on the amount of international assistance of the Republic of Croatia to other countries affected by the disaster.

(4) The Minister is obliged to submit to the Government of the Republic of Croatia a report on the provided international assistance from paragraph 3 of this Article within eight days from the date of sending the international assistance.

Central state administration body responsible for civil protection affairs

Article 12 (Official Gazette **118/18** , **20/21** )

The Ministry is responsible for the following tasks:

- coordinates the operation of the civil protection system in the Republic of Croatia
- performs analysis, processing and delivery of information and data on all types of hazards and possible consequences of major accidents and disasters
- establishes and manages a unified alert system in the Republic of Croatia and carries out alerting and informing the population
- gives consent to legal entities for alarm system projects
- via the single European emergency number 112 (hereinafter: the number 112), it receives all types of calls, forwards information to the competent services, coordinates their mutual actions in terms of

communication and consolidates feedback on the activities carried out

- prepares and submits to the Government of the Republic of Croatia for adoption regulations and planning documents for the implementation of this Act
- activates the operational forces of the civil protection system and coordinates their actions
- proposes and implements international agreements in the field of civil protection
- exchanges information and data with other countries, international organizations and regional initiatives
- in cooperation with the competent authorities of the Republic of Croatia and other countries and international organizations, carries out the receipt, provision or transit of urgent humanitarian aid
- prepares and conducts international conferences, seminars, courses, workshops, exercises and projects in the field of civil protection
- conducts training for members of the operational forces of the civil protection system and other participants in the civil protection system
- determines professional, material-technical and other conditions that must be met by public institutions and other legal entities for the implementation of formal and informal education programs in the civil protection system
- grants and revokes consent to public institutions and legal entities to conduct training in the civil protection system
- conducts training of instructors/trainers who can participate in conducting education in the civil protection system
- examines equipment and means for civil protection and submits a proposal for the adoption of Croatian standards in this area
- grants and revokes consent to legal entities to carry out activities in the field of testing the technical suitability of equipment and means for civil protection
- consolidates and maintains a single information database on the operational forces of the civil protection system, material resources and equipment, and readiness for operational action
- makes a decision on the development of the External Plan or the development of amendments to the External Plan, within one month of receiving the necessary documentation from the operator for its area of the facility
- gives approval to regional self-government units to external plans and their amendments and to the risk assessment methodology
- supervises the timeliness of the preparation and adoption of the External Plan or its amendments, which must be adopted within two years from the date of issuance of the consent of the state administration body responsible for environmental protection to the documents of the operator, or its facility area, who is obliged to prepare a safety report based on environmental protection regulations
- gives approval to regional self-government units to the risk assessment methodology and external protection and rescue plans in the event of accidents involving dangerous substances
- gives consent to local and regional self-government units to planned protection and rescue measures in spatial planning documents and compliance with risk assessments
- gives consent to legal entities (authorized persons) for the performance of professional work for the preparation of planning documents in the field of civil protection and keeps a register of issued consents
- gives consent to decisions of executive bodies of local and regional self-government units on the designation of legal entities of interest for the civil protection system



- participates in proposing the balance of state goods stocks
- is responsible for developing the Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy
- submits to the Government of the Republic of Croatia a unified proposal from central state administration bodies, scientific institutions, institutions and public enterprises, and associations for the appointment of deputy heads and members of the Civil Protection Headquarters of the Republic of Croatia
- coordinates the work of central and other state administration bodies in the preparation of the Disaster Risk Assessment for the Republic of Croatia
- carries out administrative and inspection supervision over the implementation of this Act and other special regulations
- performs other duties established by a special law.

#### Article 13 (Official Gazette **118/18** )

(1) For the performance of tasks within the scope of the Ministry, the Minister shall issue decisions, orders, guidelines, instructions, communication standard operating procedures and protocols.

(2) The Minister shall issue an ordinance on the list of technical means and equipment of civil protection (vehicles, devices, tools and resources) that must be tested, the testing procedure, the content, form and manner of issuing certificates on the correctness of technical means and equipment of civil protection, and the conditions under which testing may be performed by an authorized legal entity.

#### **27. Ordinance on technical and other requirements that must be met by authorized persons for testing the correctness of technical means and equipment for civil protection**

State administration bodies and other state bodies

#### Article 14 (Official Gazette **118/18** )

(1) State administration bodies and other state bodies are obliged, within their scope of competence, to carry out the following tasks for the efficient functioning of the civil protection system:

- provide information on early warning and immediate danger for the occurrence of an extraordinary event and instructions to the population on how to act in the event of major accidents and disasters
- develop parts of civil protection planning documents in the area within their scope
- implement preparedness measures within their scope for effective disaster response, in accordance with the specifics of the emergency event
- identify legal entities that are of particular interest to the civil protection system
- prepare and submit to the Ministry a risk assessment within its scope of work
- submit, at the request of the Ministry, data relevant to the protection and rescue of the population, material and cultural assets and the environment
- in the event of a major accident or disaster, at the request of the Government of the Republic of Croatia or the State Administration, to implement civil protection measures and activities within its scope with its own forces.

(2) State administration bodies and other state bodies shall establish a crisis headquarters to perform tasks within their scope of competence in accordance with special regulations, which may be activated for the needs of the civil protection system in a major accident or disaster.

Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia and Police

#### Article 15 (Official Gazette **118/18** )

(1) When a major accident and/or disaster is declared, and the capabilities and resources of the operational forces of the civil protection system are insufficient, at the proposal of the Ministry, in accordance with s

regulations, the Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia and the police are activated.

(2) In the case referred to in paragraph 1 of this article, the Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia coordinate their activities with the Ministry.

#### Local and regional self-government units

##### Article 16

(1) Local and regional self-government units are obliged to organize tasks within their self-government scope that relate to the planning, development, efficient functioning and financing of the civil protection system.

(2) Local and regional self-government units are obliged to strengthen and supplement the readiness of the existing operational forces of the civil protection system in their area in accordance with the assessment of the risk of major disasters and the civil protection action plan, and if the existing operational forces cannot respond to the consequences determined by the risk assessment, they are obliged to establish additional civil protection units.

(3) For the purposes of preparedness and response to major accidents and disasters, local and regional self-government units shall organize the participation of volunteers to implement measures and activities in the civil protection system, in accordance with the provisions of this Act and special regulations.

(4) In the event of a major accident, the civil protection headquarters of the local and regional self-government unit shall organize volunteers to implement certain measures and activities in the civil protection system, in accordance with the provisions of this Act and special regulations.

##### Article 17 (Official Gazette **118/18** , **20/21** )

(1) The representative body, upon the proposal of the executive body of the local and regional self-government unit, shall perform the following tasks:

- in the budget-making process, it considers and adopts the annual situation analysis and the annual development plan of the civil protection system with financial effects for a three-year period, as well as guidelines for the organization and development of the system, which are considered and adopted every four years
- provides an assessment of the risk of major accidents
- makes a decision on the designation of legal entities of interest for the civil protection system
- makes a decision on the establishment of civil protection units
- provides financial resources for the execution of decisions on the financing of civil protection activities in a major accident and disaster according to the principle of solidarity.

(2) By way of exception to paragraph 1 of this Article, local self-government units in which there are no significant risks and based on their size and other criteria regulated by the provisions of the ordinance referred to in Article 49, paragraph 2 of this Act, are not obliged to prepare and adopt a major accident risk assessment.

(3) The executive body of a local self-government unit shall perform the following tasks:

- adopts a civil protection action plan
- adopts a plan for civil protection exercises
- prepares and submits to the representative body a proposal for a decision on the designation of legal entities of interest for the civil protection system and a proposal for a decision on the establishment of civil protection units
- when adopting the annual procurement plan, the plan includes material resources and equipment of the civil protection forces



- makes decisions within its self-governing scope of activity in order to ensure material, financial and other conditions for financing and equipping the operational forces of the civil protection system
- is responsible for the establishment, development and financing, equipping, training and exercising operational forces in accordance with the adopted guidelines and the civil protection system development plan
- prepares and submits to the representative body a proposal for a major accident risk assessment and regularly updates the risk assessment and civil protection action plan
- ensures the conditions for moving, sheltering, evacuating and taking care of and carrying out tasks in the implementation of other civil protection measures in the protection and rescue of citizens, material and cultural assets and the environment
- ensures the conditions for the deployment of members to units and to the duty of civil protection commissioner, and keeps records of deployed members
- ensures the conditions for maintaining and updating the database on members, capabilities and resources of the operational forces of the civil protection system
- establishes the keeping of records of victims in major accidents and disasters.

(4) The executive body of a local and regional self-government unit shall coordinate the activities of the operational forces of the civil protection system established for the area of that unit in major accidents and disasters with the professional support of the competent civil protection headquarters.

(5) The executive body of the regional self-government unit, in addition to the tasks specified in paragraph 3 of this Article, shall adopt the External Plan or its amendments for the facility area or group of facility areas determined by the state administration body competent for environmental protection due to a possible domino effect, within one year of the Ministry's decision to draft the External Plan or its amendments, and shall provide all persons who could have significant material and health consequences due to a major accident in the facility area or group of facility areas, without having to submit special requests for this, with regular and in the most appropriate form clear and easily understandable, reviewed and harmonised information on safety measures and necessary behaviour in the event of a major accident in the area of its jurisdiction.

(6) The municipal head, mayor and county prefect are obliged to be trained to perform civil protection tasks within six months of taking office, according to the training program implemented by the Ministry.

#### Article 18 (Official Gazette **118/18** )

(1) Two or more local self-government units that are spatially connected into a single entity and that belong to the same geographical area and share common risks (on an island, etc.) may jointly organize the performance of civil protection tasks within their self-government scope in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

(2) To perform the tasks referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, local self-government units may:

- establish a joint body and administrative department, service or jointly organize their performance in accordance with the provisions of this Act
- develop a joint civil protection action plan that is confirmed by the executive bodies of local self-government units that jointly carry out civil protection tasks
- establish joint civil protection units.

(3) The local self-government units regulate their mutual relations in the joint organization of civil protection activities from their self-governing scope by a special agreement in accordance with the law, statutes and other general acts.

(4) Based on the decision of the representative bodies on the establishment, organization and scope of work of a joint administrative body, department, service or other means of joint organization of civil protection activities, the executive bodies of local self-government units shall conclude an agreement.



(5) The agreement referred to in paragraph 4 of this Article shall regulate financing, management methods, responsibility, status issues of civil servants and employees and other issues of importance for that body.

(6) Executive bodies of local self-government units are obliged to submit the agreement referred to in paragraph 4 of this Article to the Ministry.

(7) Local self-government units that establish a joint body, administrative department, service or otherwise jointly organize the performance of civil protection tasks within their self-government scope of competence are obliged to prepare their own risk assessment and establish their own civil protection headquarters.

#### Article 19 (Official Gazette **118/18** )

(1) Local self-government units shall staff units and deploy civil protection commissioners and deputy civil protection commissioners, and regional self-government units shall staff civil protection units, in accordance with the provisions of the ordinance issued by the Minister.

(2) The local and regional self-government unit, the founder of civil protection units, shall call up civil protection personnel for the purpose of mobilization, determining duties and harmonizing data in the civil protection system, issuing personal equipment, conducting inspections, and sending them to training and exercises.

(3) The local and regional self-government unit is obliged to ensure the conditions for training deployed civil protection forces (members of civil protection units, civil protection commissioners and their deputies) in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

## IV. OPERATIONAL FORCES OF THE CIVIL PROTECTION SYSTEM

#### Article 20 (Official Gazette **118/18** )

(1) Measures and activities in the civil protection system are carried out by the following operational forces of the civil protection system:

- a) civil protection headquarters
- b) operational firefighting forces
- c) operational forces of the Croatian Red Cross
- d) operational forces of the Croatian Mountain Rescue Service
- e) associations
- f) Civil protection units and commissioners
- g) on-site coordinators
- h) legal entities in the civil protection system.

(2) State administration bodies and other state bodies, local and regional self-government units and operational forces of the civil protection system are obliged to maintain and update a database on the members, capabilities and resources of their operational forces and to submit the said data to the Ministry once a year, no later than March of the following year.

### a) Civil Protection Headquarters

#### Article 21 (Official Gazette **118/18** )

(1) Civil Protection Headquarters shall be established at the state, regional and local government levels.

(2) The Civil Protection Headquarters is a professional, operational and coordinating body for the implementation of civil protection measures and activities in major accidents and disasters.



(3) The Civil Protection Headquarters performs tasks related to the collection and processing of early warning information on the possibility of a major accident and disaster, develops a plan of action for the civil protection system in its area, manages the response of the civil protection system, carries out public information tasks and proposes the adoption of a decision on the cessation of the implementation of measures and activities in the civil protection system.

(4) The Minister shall issue regulations on the composition of the headquarters, the method of work and the conditions for the appointment of the chief, deputy chief and members of the civil protection headquarters.

(5) The manner of operation of the Civil Protection Headquarters shall be regulated by the rules of procedure adopted by the Minister for the Civil Protection Headquarters of the Republic of Croatia or the executive body of a local and regional self-government unit for the headquarters it establishes.

#### **44. Ordinance on the composition of the headquarters, the method of work and the conditions for the appointment of the chief, deputy chief and members of the civil protection headquarters**

Article 22 (Official Gazette **118/18** )

(1) The Government of the Republic of Croatia, upon the proposal of the Minister, shall establish and appoint by decision the Civil Protection Headquarters of the Republic of Croatia, which shall consist of management personnel from central state administration bodies, operational forces of the civil protection system and other legal entities of particular importance for the civil protection system of the Republic of Croatia.

(2) The Chief of the Civil Protection Headquarters of the Republic of Croatia is the Minister and manages the work of the Headquarters.

(3) When a disaster is declared, the management of the work of the Civil Protection Headquarters of the Republic of Croatia shall be taken over by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia or, upon the authorization of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia, a member of the Government or the Chief of the Civil Protection Headquarters of the Republic of Croatia.

(4) The Ministry shall perform administrative and technical tasks and ensure the conditions for the work of the Civil Protection Headquarters of the Republic of Croatia.

Article 22a (Official Gazette **31/20** , **105/20** )

(1) In the event of special circumstances that imply an event or a certain condition that could not be predicted and influenced, and which endangers the life and health of citizens, property of greater value, significantly disrupts the environment, economic activity or causes significant economic damage, the Civil Protection Headquarters of the Republic of Croatia shall issue decisions and instructions that are implemented by the civil protection headquarters of local and regional self-government units.

(2) The decisions and instructions referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be adopted for the purpose of protecting the life and health of citizens, preserving property, economic activity and the environment, and harmonizing the conduct of legal entities and citizens.

#### **46. Decision on the temporary ban on crossing border crossings of the Republic of Croatia**

#### **47. Decision on border crossings through which transit traffic of freight vehicles will take place across the territory of the Republic of Croatia**

#### **49. Decision on the closure of children's playgrounds and open sports fields**

#### **50. Decision on measures when entering into marriage and life partnership**

#### **51. Decision on the manner of conducting funerals and last farewells**

#### **54. Decision on a measure to strictly limit stay on streets and other public places**

#### **56. Decision on the introduction of the necessary measure of the special organization of the work of the epidemiological service and special epidemiological measures related to the SARS CoV-2 virus during**

declared epidemic of the disease COVID19

57. Decision on the introduction of the necessary measure of the special organization of emergency medical services and medical transport during the declared epidemic of the disease COVID19

58. Decision on general and specific protection measures that must be implemented by taxi service providers

62. Decision on the introduction of a necessary measure of special organization of social welfare institutions and other social service providers during the declared COVID-19 epidemic

67. Decision on the special mode of operation of markets during the declared epidemic of the disease COVID-19

68. Decision on the necessary measure of increased control of the implementation of instructions for the prevention and suppression of the COVID-19 epidemic for social service providers in the social welfare system

70. Decision on necessary measures to limit social gatherings, work in trade, service activities and holding sports and cultural events during the declared COVID-19 epidemic

71. Decision on working hours and methods of work in the trade sector during the declared COVID-19 epidemic

74. Decision on measures for drivers of cargo vehicles of international transport during the declared epidemic of the disease COVID-19

75. Decision on the necessary measure of banning the entry of passenger ships on international cruises into seaports and inland ports during the declared COVID-19 epidemic

76. Decision on the method of organizing public transport during the declared epidemic of the disease COVID-19

77. Decision on monitoring compliance with the Recommendation for the prevention of COVID-19 infection in the hospitality industry of nightclubs

78. Decision on the temporary ban on crossing border crossings of the Republic of Croatia

79. Decision on necessary measures for the organization of gatherings with more than one hundred participants during the declared COVID-19 epidemic

80. Decision on the necessary measure of mandatory use of face masks or medical masks during the declared COVID-19 epidemic

82. Decision on the necessary measure of increased control of the implementation of the Instructions for the prevention and suppression of the COVID-19 epidemic for social service providers in the social welfare system

83. Decision on the necessary measure of mandatory use of face masks or medical masks

84. Decision on limiting social gatherings

85. Decision on temporary regulation of work and limitation of working hours of catering establishments and other catering service providers

#### Article 23 (Official Gazette 118/18 )

(1) The executive body of the regional self-government unit shall establish a civil protection headquarters by decision and appoint a chief, deputy chief and members of the headquarters from among representatives of the operational forces of the civil protection system, administrative bodies of the unit and the regional self-government unit and other legal entities of particular importance for the civil protection system of the regional self-government unit.



(2) The work of the civil protection headquarters of a regional self-government unit is managed by the chief of staff, and when a major disaster is declared, management is taken over by the executive body of the regional self-government unit.

(3) Members of the staff of a regional self-government unit are appointed members referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, upon the proposal of these services, some of whom are appointed ex officio, namely: management officials of services that deal with civil protection as a regular activity, employees of the basic operational forces of the civil protection system, management officials of regional organizational units of the Ministry, police administrations and health institutions.

(4) The regional self-government unit performs administrative and technical tasks and ensures the conditions for the work of the civil protection headquarters.

#### Article 24 (Official Gazette **118/18** )

(1) The executive body of the local self-government unit shall establish a civil protection headquarters by decision and appoint a chief, deputy chief and members of the headquarters from among representatives of the operational forces of the civil protection system, administrative bodies of the local self-government unit and other legal entities of particular importance for the civil protection system of the local self-government unit.

(2) The work of the civil protection headquarters of the local self-government unit is managed by the chief of staff, and when a major disaster is declared, management is taken over by the executive body of the local self-government unit.

(3) Members of the staff of a local self-government unit are appointed members referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, upon the proposal of these services, some of whom are appointed ex officio, namely: representatives of services that deal with civil protection as a regular activity, employees of the basic operational forces of civil protection, a representative of a regional organizational unit of the Ministry, a police station and a representative of health institutions.

(4) The local self-government unit performs administrative and technical tasks and ensures the conditions for the operation of the civil protection headquarters.

#### Article 25 (Official Gazette **118/18** )

Members of the Civil Protection Headquarters are required to complete training conducted by the Ministry according to the Training Program for Members of the Civil Protection Headquarters adopted by the Minister, within one year of their appointment to the Civil Protection Headquarters.

#### Article 26

(1) In order to mitigate the possible consequences of a major accident or disaster, the Chief of Civil Protection Staff may issue an oral order or make a decision to carry out a preventive forced evacuation.

(2) The Chief of Civil Protection Headquarters is obliged to issue a decision in writing regarding oral orders referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, no later than 24 hours from the issuance of the oral order.

(3) The decision referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article must contain provisions on the implementing authority, measures, time and place where the forced evacuation measure is implemented.

(4) Persons who are ordered to undergo a forced evacuation measure are obliged to act in accordance with the order/decision of the person responsible for implementing the forced evacuation.

#### Article 27.

Civil protection headquarters may request expert assistance and advice from scientific and other institutions, institutes, public companies and institutions, in order to undertake effective operational measures to protect members of the operational forces of the civil protection system, citizens, material and cultural assets and the environment.



## **b) Operational firefighting forces**

### Article 28.

(1) Operational firefighting forces are firefighting units and other operational firefighting forces determined by special regulations governing the field of firefighting.

(2) Operational firefighting forces are the basic operational force of the civil protection system in major accidents and disasters and are obliged to operate in the civil protection system in accordance with the provisions of special regulations governing the field of firefighting, this Act, civil protection action plans of local and regional self-government units and the National Civil Protection Action Plan.

## **c) Operational forces of the Croatian Red Cross**

### Article 29

(1) The Croatian Red Cross operates in the territory of the Republic of Croatia as a non-profit legal entity in accordance with special regulations governing the area of operation of the Croatian Red Cross.

(2) The operational forces of the Croatian Red Cross are the basic operational force of the civil protection system in major accidents and disasters and carry out obligations in the civil protection system in accordance with special regulations governing the area of operation of the Croatian Red Cross and plans adopted on the basis of special regulations governing the area of operation of the Croatian Red Cross, the provisions of this Act and the National Civil Protection Action Plan.

## **d) Operational forces of the Croatian Mountain Rescue Service**

### Article 30

(1) The Croatian Mountain Rescue Service operates in the territory of the Republic of Croatia as a non-profit legal entity in accordance with special regulations governing the area of operation of the Croatian Mountain Rescue Service.

(2) The operational forces of the Croatian Mountain Rescue Service are the basic operational force of the civil protection system in major accidents and disasters and carry out obligations in the civil protection system in accordance with special regulations governing the area of operation of the Croatian Mountain Rescue Service, this Act, civil protection plans of local and regional self-government units and the National Civil Protection Action Plan.

## **e) Associations**

### Article 31

Associations that do not have public authority, but are of interest to the civil protection system (e.g. canine activities, underwater activities, radio-communication, aviation and other technical activities), are a reserve part of the operational forces of the civil protection system that is trained to implement individual measures and activities of the civil protection system, with their capabilities they supplement the capabilities of the basic operational forces and specialist and intervention units of civil protection and are involved in the implementation of measures and activities of the civil protection system in accordance with the provisions of this Act and the plans of local and regional self-government units.

### Article 32 (Official Gazette **118/18**)

(1) Associations that are responsible for individual measures and activities in the civil protection system are determined and listed in civil protection action plans at all levels of the system's organization.

(2) Operational members of associations cannot be simultaneously deployed to multiple operational forces of the civil protection system at all levels of the system's organization.

(3) Associations are entitled to reimbursement of actual costs for participation in the implementation of measures and activities in the civil protection system from the budget of the local and regional self-gove

unit or the state budget of the Republic of Croatia, depending on whose request they participated in civil protection activities in major accidents and disasters.

(4) The Ministry and executive bodies of local and regional self-government units shall regulate their mutual relations with associations by agreements that determine the tasks of associations in the civil protection system, the conditions under which associations are included in the activities of the civil protection system, and financial resources (donations) intended to strengthen the capabilities of associations to implement measures and activities in the civil protection system in major accidents and disasters.

(5) In order to train for participation in the civil protection system, associations independently conduct training for their members and participate in training and exercises with other operational forces of the civil protection system at all levels.

## **f) Civil protection units and commissioners**

Article 33 (Official Gazette **118/18** )

(1) To participate in measures and activities in the civil protection system, in accordance with the risk assessment, the following civil protection units may be established:

- general-purpose civil protection units are established by local and regional self-government units of the lowest level of readiness intended to perform simple tasks in major disasters in their area of jurisdiction
- specialist civil protection units are established by local and regional self-government units to perform specific specialist tasks for each individual civil protection measure
- The state civil protection intervention unit is established as an operational force for operations in the territory of the Republic of Croatia and in international activities, and consists of a professional and reserve part.

(2) The Government of the Republic of Croatia shall adopt a regulation on the composition and structure of the civil protection units referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, and the material and personnel organization of the civil protection units shall be prescribed by an ordinance issued by the Minister.

(3) The Minister shall issue:

- regulations on the mobilization, conditions and methods of operation of the operational forces of the civil protection system
- regulations on the criteria for health capabilities that must be met by members of civil protection units and the criteria for deployment and conditions for the appointment of the civil protection commissioner and his deputy
- regulations on the types and methods of conducting exercises of the operational forces of the civil protection system.

**24. Ordinance on the types and manner of conducting exercises of the operational forces of the civil protection system**

**32. Ordinance on the mobilization, conditions and methods of operation of the operational forces of the civil protection system**

**36. Ordinance on the criteria for health capabilities that must be met by members of civil protection units, criteria for deployment and conditions for the appointment of the civil protection commissioner and his deputy**

**39. Regulation on the composition and structure of civil protection units**

**43. Rulebook on the procedure for receiving and transmitting notifications of early warning, imminent danger and giving instructions to the population**

Article 34.



(1) The civil protection commissioner and his deputy shall be appointed by the executive body of the local self-government unit for an individual residential building, multiple residential buildings, streets and parts of streets, local committees and smaller settlements.

(2) The Civil Protection Commissioner and his deputy are obliged to respond to the call of the chief of the competent civil protection headquarters.

(3) The Civil Protection Commissioner and his deputy:

- participate in preparing citizens for personal and mutual protection and coordinate the implementation of personal and mutual protection measures
- provide information to citizens about timely implementation of civil protection measures and public mobilization to participate in the civil protection system
- participate in organizing and implementing evacuation, sheltering, care and other civil protection measures
- organize the protection and rescue of members of vulnerable groups
- they check the installation of notices about warning signs in residential buildings in the area of their jurisdiction and inform the civil protection inspection of any omissions.

### **g) On-site coordinator**

#### Article 35

(1) The on-site coordinator assesses the situation and its consequences on the ground and, in cooperation with the competent civil protection headquarters, coordinates the actions of the operational forces of the civil protection system.

(2) The on-site coordinator, in accordance with the specifics of the emergency, is appointed by the Chief of Civil Protection Staff from among the operational forces of the civil protection system.

### **h) Legal entities in the civil protection system**

#### Article 36 (Official Gazette **118/18** , **20/21** )

(1) In the event of a threat, occurrence and consequences of major accidents and disasters, legal entities, especially legal entities majority-owned by the Republic of Croatia and legal entities designated by a decision of the competent central state administration body as operational forces of the civil protection system of special interest at the state level, and legal entities designated by decisions of executive bodies of local and regional self-government units as of interest for the civil protection system, are obliged to develop a plan in operational plans on the method of organizing the implementation of measures and activities in the civil protection system in accordance with the provisions of this Act, special regulations and their general acts.

(2) Legal entities of particular importance for defence may be designated as legal entities of interest for the civil protection system and used in the implementation of civil protection measures in major accidents and disasters based on a decision of the competent central state administration body.

(3) Legal entities that carry out activities using hazardous substances, and are not required to prepare safety reports in accordance with environmental protection regulations, are required to prepare risk assessments and operational plans in accordance with the prescribed methodology.

(4) The legal entity is obliged to provide the Ministry and units of local and regional (regional) self-government free of charge with the data necessary for the preparation of a risk assessment and civil protection action plan.

(5) The operator is obliged to submit to the Ministry and regional self-government units, free of charge, the data necessary for the preparation of the External Plan for its facility area within a maximum period of two months from the receipt of the approval of the state administration body responsible for environmental protection for the safety report.



(6) The operator is obliged for his plant area in the event of a change in the area of the plant, plant, warehouse or process or the type or physical form or quantity of a hazardous substance that could have significant consequences for the risk of major accidents, to inform the Ministry of the details of these updates before such change.

(7) A legal entity that, in the area of its jurisdiction, determines a threat of an extraordinary event, major accident and/or disaster is obliged to notify the competent 112 center without delay.

(8) A legal entity is obliged to respond to the request of the Chief of Civil Protection Headquarters of a local and regional self-government unit and the Chief of the Civil Protection Headquarters of the Republic of Croatia and to participate with human resources and material resources in the implementation of measures and activities in the civil protection system.

(9) The actual costs incurred by legal entities in the situations referred to in paragraph 6 of this Article shall be covered from the budgets of local and regional self-government units and the state budget of the Republic of Croatia.

#### Article 37.

Legal entities are obliged, upon the invitation of the competent authority, to enable their employees assigned to the operational forces of the civil protection system to participate in the implementation of measures and activities in the civil protection system.

#### Article 38 (Official Gazette **118/18** , **20/21** )

(1) Legal entities - operators for their plant area are obliged to establish and maintain an alarm system in the perimeter of real risks for citizens, namely:

- legal entities engaged in activities that, by their nature, may endanger the life and health of citizens, material and cultural assets and the environment, and that use large quantities of hazardous substances prescribed by special regulations in the field of environmental protection and are obliged to prepare safety reports
- legal entities that own or manage water reservoirs and water channels for electricity production and water supply
- legal entities that engage in activities that, by their nature, may endanger the life and health of citizens, material and cultural assets and the environment, and operate within an industrial zone that, according to the acts of the central state administration body responsible for environmental protection, is threatened by a domino effect.

(2) Several legal entities referred to in paragraph 1 of this article that perform activities in the same area may, by agreement, establish and maintain a joint system for alerting and informing citizens in their area.

(3) Legal entities referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article shall be obliged to establish management and supervision of sirens of their alarm system from the operational centre of the legal entity and from the competent 112 centre, and shall bear the costs of establishing and using a communication link for the purposes of managing and supervising sirens from the competent 112 centre.

(4) Legal entities referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article are obliged to obtain the approval of the Ministry for the preliminary design of the alarm system before installing their own alarm system.

#### Article 39 (Official Gazette **118/18** )

(1) Owners and users of buildings in which more than 250 people gather or stay at the same time, as well as educational, health and other institutions, transport terminals, sports halls, stadiums, shopping centers, hotels, motorhomes, production areas and the like, in which due to noise or acoustic insulation it is not possible to ensure sufficient audibility of the public warning system, are obliged to establish and maintain an appropriate internal system for warning and notification and through it to ensure the implementation of public warning and

the reception of communications of the competent center 112 about the type of danger and the protective measures that need to be taken.

(2) Building owners are obliged, at the request of the Ministry, to allow the installation of devices for alerting citizens and the use of electricity, free of charge.

Article 40 (Official Gazette **118/18** )

(1) Obligations of legal entities - operators of public communication networks and publicly available telephone services in connection with enabling calls to the unique European number for emergency services 112 and other obligations of operators towards the Ministry are prescribed by a separate law.

(2) Legal entities owned or majority owned by the Republic of Croatia that have established their own communications system are obliged to enable the Ministry to use it free of charge in the event of major accidents and disasters.

Article 41 (Official Gazette **118/18** )

(1) Legal entities – operators of public communications networks and publicly available telephone services are obliged to display a notice about the single European emergency number 112 in a visible place in public telephone booths.

(2) Notice of the single European emergency number 112 and warning signs must be displayed in a visible place in all public institutions and residential buildings.

(3) Legal entities referred to in Article 38, paragraph 1 of this Act and legal entities responsible for infrastructure and facilities in areas of increased risk of an emergency (motorways, nature parks, national parks, children's playgrounds, marinas, etc.) are required to display a notice in a visible place about the single European emergency number 112.

(4) The Minister shall issue an ordinance on the appearance, manner and location of displaying information on the single European emergency number 112.

**23. Ordinance on the appearance, manner and location of displaying information on the single European emergency number 112**

Article 42 (Official Gazette **118/18** )

The Minister issues:

- rulebook on the procedure for alerting the population
- regulations on technical requirements for the public alert system
- regulations on the method of operation in radio communication activities for the needs of the civil protection system in major accidents and disasters, with the consent of the competent regulatory agency.

**30. Ordinance on technical requirements for the public alert system**

**31. Rulebook on the procedure for alerting the population**

**42. Ordinance on the method of operation in radio communication activities for the needs of the civil protection system in major accidents and disasters**

## V. CITIZENS IN THE CIVIL PROTECTION SYSTEM

Article 43

(1) Every citizen is obliged to take care of his or her personal safety and protection, to implement personal and mutual protection measures, and to participate in the activities of the civil protection system.



(2) Personal and mutual protection measures include, in particular: self-help and first aid, relocation of persons, care for children, sick and infirm persons and members of other vulnerable groups, as well as other civil protection measures that cannot be delayed and that are implemented by order of the competent civil protection headquarters and the civil protection commissioner, including forced evacuation as a preventive measure taken to reduce the possible consequences of a major accident and disaster.

(3) A person who has been injured in a major accident or disaster is obliged to report to the competent body of the local government unit that keeps records of injured persons in order to exercise the right to assistance (material, financial, temporary accommodation, organized food, etc.).

(4) The competent civil protection headquarters shall, through the media or in another appropriate manner, publicly invite citizens to implement activities in the civil protection system.

#### Article 44.

(1) Civil protection subjects are Croatian citizens, citizens of the European Economic Area and third-country nationals who have approved the status of a foreigner with permanent residence in the Republic of Croatia, as well as stateless persons with regulated status in the Republic of Croatia, aged 18 to 65, who are entered into the register of civil protection subjects of local self-government units.

(2) By way of exception to paragraph 1 of this Article, duties in the civil protection system may not be assigned to:

- pregnant women, mothers with a child under ten years of age or single parents of a child under 15 years of age
- persons who care for persons with disabilities, elderly persons or an adult family member who is unable to care for themselves, and who live in the same household, persons with disabilities and persons permanently unable to work
- active military personnel, officials and employees of the Ministry of Defense and the Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia, reservists called up for training, contract reservists, cadets, persons who have entered voluntary military training, conscripts when compulsory military service is in effect, military conscripts mobilized into the Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia, employees who have been introduced to work obligations
- police, emergency services, healthcare workers and professional members of other operational forces of the civil protection system and officials and employees of central state administration bodies
- employees in legal entities and administrative bodies of local and regional self-government units that are part of the operational forces of the civil protection system of local and regional self-government units and central state administration bodies.

#### Article 45 (Official Gazette **118/18** )

(1) A citizen becomes a civil protection service member by being assigned to a specific duty in a civil protection unit.

(2) A civil protection service member is obliged to respond to a call from the competent authority to resolve their status in the civil protection system, participate in training programs and exercises, and participate in the implementation of civil protection measures in major accidents and disasters from the day of mobilization until receiving the demobilization order.

(3) In the event of being prevented from attending, the civil protection service provider referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article shall be obliged to justify his/her absence within 24 hours of receiving the summons.

(4) The civil protection payer referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article is entitled to compensation for salary, travel expenses, insurance, daily allowance and other benefits, in accordance with the provisions of this Act and regulations adopted for its implementation.



(5) The Government of the Republic of Croatia, upon the proposal of the Minister, shall issue a regulation on the manner and conditions for exercising the material rights of mobilized members of civil protection units during their participation in activities in the civil protection system.

#### **40. Regulation on the manner and conditions for exercising material rights of mobilized members of civil protection units during their participation in activities in the civil protection system**

## **VI. MEASURES AND ACTIVITIES IN THE CIVIL PROTECTION SYSTEM**

### Civil protection measures

#### Article 46 (Official Gazette **118/18**)

(1) Civil protection measures are one-time procedures and tasks carried out by all participants in the civil protection system at all levels in order to save the lives and health of citizens, material and cultural assets and the environment, namely: alerting and informing, evacuation, care, shelter, rescue, first aid, CBRN protection, sanitation (human, animal, terrain sanitation), protection of animals and foodstuffs of animal origin, and protection of plants and foodstuffs of plant origin.

(2) The Government of the Republic of Croatia, upon the proposal of the Minister, shall issue a decree on uniform warning signs.

#### **28. Regulation on uniform warning signs**

### Activities and phases in the civil protection system

#### Article 47

(1) Activities in the civil protection system are:

- preparatory activities carried out as preventive and planning activities within the framework of the regular activities of participants in the civil protection system
- operational activities that are carried out in the range from early warning, preparedness to response.

(2) The phases in the civil protection system are:

1. prevention
2. readiness
3. reacting.

## **1. Prevention**

### Preventive activities in the civil protection system

#### Article 48

(1) Preventive activities in the civil protection system include:

- special research of importance for assessing and reducing disaster risks, forecasts of the development of natural processes, and standards of materials, technical and operational solutions of interest for reducing vulnerability
- strengthening the awareness of citizens, vulnerable and special targeted social groups about dangers and measures for protection and the use of the number 112
- education of children on specific content based on existing or special programs
- planning the use of space



- definition and application of special technical rules in construction, industry, transport and other areas that increase the vulnerability of communities through their activity
- special strategies, assessments, action plans and programs
- implementation of international documents in the field of disaster risk reduction
- supporting the policy of sustainable development and management measures for identified risks
- public information and cooperation in the media.

(2) Preventive activities in the civil protection system are carried out by participants and operational forces of the civil protection system and citizens as part of their regular activities in order to reduce risks, threats and dangers to the life and health of citizens, material goods and the environment from all types of natural and technical-technological major accidents and disasters.

#### Planned activities in the civil protection system

##### Article 49 (Official Gazette **118/18** )

(1) Planned activities in the civil protection system are regulated by documents that define disaster risk reduction measures, establish risk assessment, planning, preparedness for response and the response of the civil protection system, and the implementation of civil protection measures.

(2) The Minister, upon previously obtained opinion of the central state administration bodies competent for defense, environmental protection and construction, shall prescribe by ordinance the bearers, content and procedures for the preparation of planning documents in civil protection, and the manner of informing the public about the procedure for their adoption.

(3) The Minister shall issue:

- Ordinance on guidelines for the preparation of disaster risk assessments for the territory of the Republic of Croatia and local and regional self-government units
- rulebook on civil protection measures in spatial planning
- regulation on the conditions that must be met by authorized legal entities to perform professional tasks in the field of civil protection planning.

**29. Ordinance on guidelines for the preparation of disaster and major accident risk assessments for the territory of the Republic of Croatia and local and regional self-government units**

**41. Ordinance on the bearers, content and procedures for the preparation of planning documents in civil protection and the manner of informing the public in the process of their adoption**

**124. Ordinance on the conditions that must be met by authorized persons to perform professional tasks in the field of civil protection planning**

## 2. Readiness

##### Article 50 (Official Gazette **118/18** )

(1) Based on information in the early warning system about the possibility of a major accident, preparedness in the civil protection system is declared by the executive body of the local and regional self-government unit.

(2) Preparedness in the civil protection system shall be declared by the Minister based on information in the early warning system about the possibility of a disaster.

(3) The Minister shall issue a regulation on the procedure for receiving and transmitting early warning, imminent danger and giving instructions to the population.

**123. Rulebook on the procedure of early warning of the population**

## 3. Reacting

## Activation of the civil protection system

## Article 51

(1) The response begins with the activation of participants in the civil protection system from the civilian sector, continues with the declaration of a major accident and disaster, the implementation of civil protection measures and the participation of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia and the police in eliminating the consequences of major accidents and disasters, and ends with the normalization and rehabilitation of the situation and the creation of conditions for the implementation of measures within the regular jurisdiction of government bodies at the local, regional and state levels.

(2) The activation of the operational forces of the civil protection system shall be ordered by decision:

- the executive body of a local and regional self-government unit, independently or at the proposal of the responsible person of the emergency services, the operational forces of the civil protection system or the Ministry, when it determines that an extraordinary event has a tendency to develop into a major disaster and when a major disaster has been declared
- the minister when he determines that an extraordinary event has a tendency to develop into a disaster and when a disaster has been declared.

## Article 52 (Official Gazette 115/18)

(1) When the civil protection system is activated at the local level, the civil protection system at the regional level shall be gradually put on alert according to actual needs.

(2) Based on the requests of the local level, the regional level coordinates the provision of material and other assistance to the local level affected by a major disaster.

(3) When the civil protection system is activated at the regional level, the civil protection system at the state level shall be gradually put on alert according to actual needs.

(4) Based on the requests of the regional level, the state level coordinates the provision of material and other assistance to the local and regional level units affected by a major disaster.

(5) A request for assistance to a higher hierarchical level shall be made only when all capabilities of the operational forces of the civil protection system at a lower level have been used or are insufficient in accordance with the ordinance on standard operating procedures issued by the Minister.

(6) In circumstances where a major disaster has been declared in two or more units of local and regional self-government, the higher level shall take over coordination in the implementation of measures and activities in the civil protection system in the territory of those units.

(7) The higher level of the civil protection system assesses the justification of the request for assistance received from the lower level and, if justified, approves the dispatch of assistance.

(8) Requests from this Article shall be sent, received, considered and approved by the heads of civil protection headquarters with the prior consent of the executive body of the local and regional self-government unit.

## **20. Ordinance on Standard Operating Procedures for Providing Assistance to a Lower Hierarchical Level by a Higher Level of the Civil Protection System in a Major Accident and Disaster**

Declaring a major disaster and stopping the implementation of measures and activities in the civil protection system

## Article 53 (Official Gazette 118/18 )

(1) A major disaster in the area of its jurisdiction shall be declared by the executive body of a local and regional self-government unit upon the proposal of the Chief of Civil Protection Staff or the Ministry.

(2) The executive body of the local and regional self-government unit shall adopt a decision to cease the implementation of measures and activities of the civil protection system in eliminating the consequence

major accident.

Declaring a disaster and stopping the implementation of measures and activities in the civil protection system

Article 54 (Official Gazette **118/18** )

(1) The Government of the Republic of Croatia shall, upon the proposal of the Minister, declare a disaster by decision.

(2) The Government of the Republic of Croatia, upon the proposal of the Minister, shall adopt a decision to cease the implementation of measures and activities in the civil protection system in eliminating the consequences of disasters.

## VII. SPECIAL AUTHORITIES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF NON-DEFERABLE CIVIL PROTECTION MEASURES

Article 55 (Official Gazette **118/18** )

(1) In cases of the need for urgent and immediate implementation of civil protection measures when it is not possible to protect the population, material and cultural assets and the environment in any other way, an official of the Ministry with special powers and responsibilities may orally order:

- activation of every adult citizen of the Republic of Croatia for the purpose of carrying out urgent and urgent measures or activities in the civil protection system, except for persons referred to in Article 44, paragraph 2 of this Act
- temporary seizure of a passenger vehicle, freight vehicle and work machine, with a written confirmation and a record of the condition of the movable property
- temporary restriction of the right to possess real estate or part of it for the purpose of passage or placement of machinery or for the purpose of carrying out necessary works to prevent endangering the life and health of people and property, with a written confirmation and a record of the condition of the real estate
- temporary accommodation (maximum 30 days) of injured, evacuated or displaced persons in a part of the building that the owner does not use for his own needs, with written confirmation and a record of the condition of the property
- temporary placement of evacuated cultural property, with a written confirmation and a record of the condition of the property, of which the body responsible for the protection of cultural property must be notified as soon as possible, and
- issue an order for the construction of a building without a building permit and its subsequent removal or obtaining a building permit for that building, in accordance with a special regulation.

(2) The positions of employees of the Ministry with special powers and responsibilities shall be regulated by the regulations on the internal order of the Ministry.

(3) An official of the Ministry with special powers and responsibilities is obliged to issue a summons in written form for oral orders from paragraph 1, sub-paragraph 1 of this article, no later than within 24 hours of issuing the oral order.

(4) The official of the Ministry with special powers and responsibilities is obliged to make a decision in written form for oral orders from paragraph 1, sub-paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of this article, no later than within 24 hours of issuing the oral order.

(5) No appeal may be filed against the decision referred to in paragraph 4 of this Article, but an administrative dispute may be initiated.

Article 56 (Official Gazette **118/18** )

An official of the Ministry with special powers and responsibilities in performing duties shall prove his official capacity, identity and authority with an official ID card and badge.

Article 57 (Official Gazette **118/18** )

(1) The person referred to in Article 55, paragraph 1, subparagraph 1 of this Act shall be obliged to participate in the activities of the civil protection system from the moment when an official of the Ministry with special powers and responsibilities gives him or her an oral order until the moment of receiving the order to deactivate, in the manner and under the conditions prescribed by this Act and the regulations adopted for the implementation of this Act.

(2) During participation in the civil protection system based on the provisions of this Act, the person referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall exercise the same rights as a person subject to civil protection obligations.

Article 58

The owner or user whose right of possession of the property is temporarily restricted for the purpose of implementing civil protection measures by applying the powers referred to in Article 55, paragraph 1, subparagraphs 2, 3 and 4 of this Act shall be compensated from the state budget for the costs of use and damage caused by the use of his asset or real estate.

## VIII. INSIGNIA, UNIFORMS, ID CARDS AND RECORDS OF MEMBERS AND OPERATIONAL FORCES OF THE CIVIL PROTECTION

### Civil protection sign and other markings

Article 59

(1) The Civil Protection Emblem of the Republic of Croatia is an international civil protection emblem.

(2) The civil protection emblem shall be used to mark uniforms, buildings, vehicles and other means and equipment of the operational forces of the civil protection system.

(3) Special devices for giving light and sound signals shall be installed on civil protection vehicles and operational forces of the civil protection system, which may be used in interventions to ensure priority of passage in accordance with a special regulation in the field of road traffic safety.

### Civil protection uniforms

Article 60 (Official Gazette **118/18** )

(1) Members of the operational forces of the civil protection system shall participate in civil protection activities in the uniforms of members of the civil protection forces and their official uniforms, in accordance with the provisions of this Act and other special regulations.

(2) Members of civil protection units, civil protection commissioners and their deputies shall wear the civil protection emblem, the flag of the Republic of Croatia and the insignia of duty and specialty on their uniforms and work clothes.

(3) The Minister shall issue a regulation on the uniform of members of the operational forces of civil protection and civil servants and employees of the Ministry.

### **125. Regulations on the uniform of members of the operational forces of civil protection and civil servants and employees of the State Administration for Protection and Rescue**

### Civil protection cards

Article 61 (Official Gazette **118/18** )

(1) The Ministry and local and regional self-government units shall issue a civil protection card to civil protection personnel assigned to units and to the duty of civil protection commissioner, based on official records.

(2) The content, appearance and method of use of the civil protection card shall be prescribed by the Minister in an ordinance.

#### Records of members and operational forces of civil protection

##### Article 62 (Official Gazette **118/18** )

(1) The records of members of the civil protection forces are kept by local and regional self-government units, and local self-government units keep a list of Croatian citizens, citizens of the European Economic Area and third-country nationals who have the status of a foreigner with permanent residence in the Republic of Croatia, as well as stateless persons with a regulated status in the Republic of Croatia, aged 18 to 65, who are entered in the records of civil protection service members.

(2) Units of local and regional (regional) self-government are obliged to submit to the Ministry at the request of that body, at least once a year, the records of members of the civil protection forces referred to in paragraph 1 of this article.

(3) The Ministry shall maintain:

- a single record and information database on operational forces, material resources and equipment of the operational forces of the civil protection system
- a geographic information system for the purpose of collecting, processing and storing spatial and alphanumeric data and documents so that participants in the civil protection system at all levels of organization have access to data for planning preventive civil protection measures, developing risk assessments and civil protection plans, civil protection exercises and for the operation of civil protection headquarters in major accidents and disasters.

(4) The Minister shall issue:

- rulebook on keeping records of members of the civil protection forces
- regulations on keeping a single record and information databases on operational forces, material resources and equipment of operational forces of the civil protection system
- regulations on the use of the geographic information system within the scope of the Ministry.

**26. Ordinance on the Geographic Information System of the State Administration for Protection and Rescue**

**37. Ordinance on keeping a single record and information databases on operational forces, material resources and equipment of operational forces of the civil protection system**

## IX. PARTICIPATION OF MEMBERS OF THE OPERATIONAL FORCES OF THE CIVIL PROTECTION SYSTEM IN INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

##### Article 63 (Official Gazette **118/18** )

(1) Members of the operational forces of the civil protection system may, with prior personal consent, participate in international activities in accordance with the provisions of this Act and the obligations of the Republic of Croatia assumed under international treaties.

(2) Members of the operational forces of the civil protection system may participate in providing urgent international assistance, which represents the activities of rescue teams, resources and experts, and units equipped with special equipment, the purpose of which is to eliminate the direct and indirect consequences of disasters in other countries.



(3) The decision on the participation of members of the operational forces of the civil protection system in providing urgent international assistance shall be made by the Government of the Republic of Croatia upon the proposal of the Minister.

(4) The decision on the participation of members of the operational forces of the civil protection system in international training programs and exercises is made by the Minister, in accordance with the obligations assumed from international agreements and the annual work programs of the Ministry.

(5) A member of the operational forces of the civil protection system referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article is entitled to compensation for salary, travel expenses, insurance, daily allowance and other benefits, in accordance with the provisions of this Act and regulations adopted for its implementation.

(6) The Government of the Republic of Croatia, upon the proposal of the Minister, shall adopt a regulation on the rights, obligations, manner and conditions for exercising material rights of members of the operational forces of the civil protection system when they participate in international activities and the provision of international assistance.

## X. TRAINING IN THE CIVIL PROTECTION SYSTEM

### Article 64.

(1) Training in the civil protection system is carried out through formal and informal education, information and promotional activities, exercises, training and exercises, consultations, workshops and courses.

(2) The operational forces of the civil protection system shall conduct training of their members based on the authority from special regulations within their scope of work.

### Article 65

For the needs of the civil protection system, training is carried out for participants and members of the operational forces of the civil protection system, as follows:

- municipal heads, mayors and county prefects
- members of the civil protection staff at all levels of organization
- members of civil protection units
- Civil Protection Commissioners and their deputies
- state administration bodies that perform administrative, professional and other tasks of interest to the civil protection system
- services and units of legal entities for which protection and rescue is a regular activity, upon previously obtained opinion or at the request of the competent authorities
- citizens.

### Article 66 (Official Gazette **118/18**)

(1) The training of participants and members of the operational forces of the civil protection system referred to in Article 65 of this Act may be carried out by the Ministry, a public institution or another legal entity that meets the conditions prescribed by the individual program and regulations in the field of education.

(2) The authorization for training to public institutions and other legal entities referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article is granted by the central state administration body competent for education, with the prior consent of the Ministry.

(3) The decision on the adoption of a program for formal education in the civil protection system shall be made by the Minister.



(4) The decision to adopt a program for informal education in the civil protection system shall be made by the minister, and the head of the public institution and other legal entities referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be subject to prior consent from the head of the State Administration.

(5) The Ministry shall carry out inspection supervision over public institutions and other legal entities regarding the fulfillment of professional, material-technical and other special conditions for the implementation of training programs in the civil protection system.

(6) Professional, material and technical and other special conditions that must be met by the Ministry, public institutions and other legal entities that provide training in the civil protection system are regulated by an individual program.

(7) The list of institutions and legal entities that provide training in the civil protection system shall be published in the Official Gazette.

(8) The Republic of Croatia may establish a state public institution for the implementation of training in the civil protection system, in accordance with special regulations on public institutions.

## XI. PUBLIC INFORMATION

Article 67 (Official Gazette [118/18](#) )

(1) Informing the public about the possible occurrence and development of a disaster is carried out by the Ministry, competent services of other state administration bodies, bodies of local and regional (regional) self-government units and other professional services in their area of competence.

(2) Informing the public referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article must be timely and accessible to everyone.

(3) In the event of a major accident or disaster, public information shall also be provided by civil protection headquarters.

Article 68.

Media outlets through which information referred to in Article 67 of this Act is published are obliged, in the event of a threat or occurrence of a major accident or disaster, to provide the use of their communications network/communications system for the transmission of signals and information and to publish official announcements free of charge.

Article 68a (Official Gazette [20/21](#) )

(1) The Ministry, on the basis of a risk assessment analysis, will make a decision on the non-existence of a cross-border risk of a major accident in the area of the facility near the national territory of another member state.

(2) The Ministry will notify another member state of the decision referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article.

## XII. AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Article 69 (Official Gazette [118/18](#) )

(1) The Ministry shall award recognitions and awards to participants in the civil protection system for exceptional achievements and contributions to the development and improvement of the civil protection system, as well as demonstrated personal sacrifice in actions to rescue citizens and material assets.

(2) The Minister shall prescribe by ordinance the type of awards and recognitions, the criteria and procedure for awarding awards and recognitions, and the appearance and content of the award and recognition templates referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article.



### XIII. FINANCING THE CIVIL PROTECTION SYSTEM

#### Article 70

The civil protection system is financed from the state budget of the Republic of Croatia, the budgets of local and regional self-government units, other sources and donations.

#### Article 71

The state budget of the Republic of Croatia provides financial resources for:

- development and equipping of the civil protection system at the state level
- implementation of measures and activities in the civil protection system at the state level
- providing assistance and receiving assistance from other countries in accordance with the obligations assumed by the Republic of Croatia under international agreements
- other costs in the civil protection system at the state level in accordance with the provisions of this Act and regulations adopted for the implementation of this Act.

#### Article 72

(1) The budget of local and regional self-government units shall provide financial resources for the call-up, deployment, staffing, equipping, training, exercising, activating, mobilizing and operating the operational forces of the civil protection system in accordance with the guidelines and development plan of the civil protection system of the local and regional self-government units.

(2) The budget of local and regional self-government units shall provide financial resources for the implementation of measures and activities in the civil protection system.

(3) Local and regional self-government units may co-finance programs and projects for the development of associations that are important for the civil protection system.

#### Article 73

(1) The Republic of Croatia shall establish an extra-budgetary civil protection fund pursuant to a special law in order to secure financial resources for protection and rescue in major accidents and disasters.

(2) In addition to the extrabudgetary fund from paragraph 1 of this article, the civil protection fund may be established by local and regional self-government units based on a special law in order to provide financial resources for protection and rescue in major accidents.

(3) A special law on the establishment of the civil protection fund referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article shall regulate the organization, activities, sources of funds, purpose and method of using the fund's funds, as well as other issues related to the implementation of the fund's activities.

Costs of operating the operational forces of the civil protection system

#### Article 74 (Official Gazette **118/18**)

(1) All activated and mobilized operational forces of the civil protection system are entitled to reimbursement of actual costs for participation in the implementation of measures and activities of the civil protection system in major accidents and disasters in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

(2) Each level of the civil protection system, at whose request their operational forces are activated and mobilized, shall bear the costs of their operations in major accidents and disasters.

(3) If the executive body of a local and regional self-government unit has not activated its own civil protection forces, but rather the Chief of the Civil Protection Headquarters of the Republic of Croatia has activated the local and regional self-government unit shall bear the costs of their activation and operation.

(4) When a lower level of the civil protection system requests assistance from a higher level, despite not having deployed all of its capabilities, the actual costs of deploying operational forces from the higher level shall be borne by the lower level requester.

(5) When the Minister, based on the principle of solidarity, engages operational forces of the lower-level civil protection system, the costs of their operations shall be covered from the state budget of the Republic of Croatia.

## XIV. SUPERVISION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LAW

### Administrative supervision

#### Article 75 (Official Gazette **118/18**)

(1) Administrative supervision over the implementation of this Act and other regulations in the field of civil protection is carried out over the legality of the work and actions of state administration bodies, bodies of local and regional self-government units, and legal entities that have public powers.

(2) The administrative supervision referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be carried out by the Ministry.

(3) When conducting administrative supervision, a record shall be drawn up, which shall determine which actions were carried out during the administrative supervision.

(4) A report shall be drawn up on the administrative supervision carried out, containing a description of the determined situation and measures that the supervised body must take within a certain period of time to eliminate the identified deficiencies.

(5) The Ministry shall submit a report on the administrative supervision carried out to the supervised body no later than thirty days from the date of the supervision.

### Inspection supervision

#### Article 76 (Official Gazette **118/18**)

(1) Inspection supervision in the civil protection system over the implementation of this Act and regulations adopted pursuant to this Act and other special regulations within the scope of the Ministry shall be carried out by inspectors of the Ministry.

(2) Inspection supervision in the civil protection system is carried out by civil protection inspectors and other inspectors of the Ministry at the headquarters of the Ministry and regional organizational units of the Ministry.

(3) An inspector in a regional organizational unit of the Ministry, due to work needs or more efficient performance of inspection supervision tasks, may be temporarily ordered to perform these tasks in the territory of another regional organizational unit of the Ministry, regardless of the distance between the place of work and the place of residence.

#### Article 77 (Official Gazette **118/18**)

(1) An inspector shall prove his official capacity, identity and authority by means of an official ID card and badge.

(2) The Minister shall issue regulations on the appearance and content of the official identity card and badge of civil protection inspectors and employees of the Ministry with special powers and responsibilities.

### **99. Ordinance on the appearance and content of the official ID card and badge of officials of the Ministry of the Interior with special powers and responsibilities**

#### Article 78 (Official Gazette **118/18**)

(1) The inspection procedure may be regular or extraordinary.



(2) Regular inspections shall be conducted ex officio in accordance with the annual inspection plan of the Ministry.

(3) Extraordinary inspection supervision shall be initiated on the basis of a special order issued by an authorized person of the Ministry, taking into account petitions or other notifications indicating the need to protect the public interest.

(4) In the course of inspection, the inspector shall supervise natural and legal persons who are obliged to implement measures and activities in the civil protection system, the fulfilment of conditions and the manner of operation of the objects of supervision, shall conduct direct inspection of general and individual acts and shall supervise the implementation of measures specified in this Act and regulations adopted pursuant to this Act.

(5) A legal or physical person subject to inspection is obliged to enable the inspector to carry out that inspection, to present to him all the documents and acts that the inspector requests and to provide him with spatial and other conditions for undisturbed work.

#### Article 79

(1) The inspector is obliged to draw up a record of the performed inspection.

(2) One copy of the minutes shall be delivered or delivered to the supervised legal or natural person.

#### Article 80 (Official Gazette [20/21](#) )

(1) If this or another law provides that a certain measure shall be adopted in the event of an established illegality, the inspector shall be obliged to issue a decision imposing such measure.

(2) If, during the course of the inspection, the inspector notices and notes in the minutes any illegalities or irregularities in the implementation of this Act, he shall issue a decision ordering the following measures to be taken by natural and legal persons, bodies of local and regional self-government units and other supervised persons:

- preparation, adoption, amendment and updating of risk assessments, civil protection action plans, operational plans and External Plans in accordance with this Law and the prescribed methodology
- considering the state and analysis of the civil protection system as a whole for the previous period, adopting guidelines for the organization and development plan of the civil protection system for its area for the current year
- establishment, staffing, development and financing of equipping, training and exercising of operational civil protection forces in accordance with adopted planning documents, guidelines and the civil protection system development plan
- providing financial resources for the development and equipping of civil protection forces, as well as for financing the activities of the operational forces of the civil protection system in major accidents and disasters
- implementation of regulations on the establishment of civil protection headquarters, the appointment of civil protection bodies and commissioners, and the implementation of their training
- making a decision on determining legal entities of interest for the civil protection system
- development and adoption of a plan for exercises of the operational forces of the civil protection system
- ensuring the conditions for relocation, disposal, shelter, evacuation and other measures and activities in the civil protection system for the protection and rescue of people and property
- submission of data necessary for the creation of risk assessment, civil protection action plans and external plans
- development, adoption and updating of the operational plan and organization and implementation of measures and activities in the civil protection system determined by the civil protection action plan
- establishing and maintaining an appropriate internal citizen information system

- creating a project and establishing, maintaining and connecting a system for alerting citizens in the perimeter of real risks for citizens in their surroundings
- procurement and installation of a unique poster displaying graphic warning signs in buildings and information about the unique European emergency number 112
- elimination of irregularities in order to meet professional, material-technical and other special conditions for implementing formal and informal education programs in the civil protection system
- elimination of other observed irregularities and deficiencies in the implementation of this Act determined by inspection supervision.

#### Article 81

(1) Unless otherwise prescribed by a special law, the inspector shall not issue a decision referred to in Article 80 of this Act in a situation where the identified irregularities have been eliminated during the inspection or when enforcement is not possible at all, which the inspector shall determine and state in the minutes.

(2) If an inspector notices an illegality during the performance of an inspection, and he is not authorized to act, but another body is authorized to act, he shall inform that competent body without delay and request the initiation of proceedings and the taking of measures to combat the illegality.

#### Article 82

No appeal is permitted against the inspector's decision referred to in Article 80 of this Act, but an administrative dispute may be initiated.

#### Article 83

If the inspector determines the existence of a suspicion that a misdemeanor or criminal offense has been committed, along with the decision he is authorized to make, he must, within 15 days from the day of the end of the inspection, issue a misdemeanor order or file an indictment for the initiation of misdemeanor proceedings with established facts.

#### Article 84 (Official Gazette [118/18](#) )

(1) A register shall be kept of inspections carried out and measures taken.

(2) The Minister shall issue regulations on the content, form and manner of keeping inspection records in the civil protection system.

### **33. Ordinance on the content, form and manner of keeping inspection records in the civil protection system**

#### Article 85 (Official Gazette [118/18](#) )

For the purpose of uniform and proper conduct in the performance of inspection supervision and efficient operation, the Minister issues instructions and opinions on the manner of performing inspection supervision.

## **XV. MINORITY PROVISIONS**

#### Article 86 (Official Gazette [20/21](#) , [114/22](#) )

The executive body of a local and regional self-government unit will be fined EUR 1,320.00 to EUR 3,980.00 for a misdemeanor if:

- fails to adopt a civil protection action plan (Article 17, paragraph 3, subparagraph 1)
- fails to adopt a civil protection exercise plan (Article 17, paragraph 3, subparagraph 2)
- fails to submit to the representative body a proposal for a decision on the designation of legal entities of interest for the civil protection system and a proposal for a decision on the establishment of civil protection units (Article 17, paragraph 3, subparagraph 3)

- when adopting the annual procurement plan for civil protection assets, it does not include material assets and equipment for civil protection forces (Article 17, paragraph 3, subparagraph 4)
- fails to ensure the conditions for the deployment of members to units and to the duties of civil protection commissioners and the keeping of records of deployed members (Article 17, paragraph 3, subparagraph 9)
- does not ensure the conditions for maintaining and updating the database on members, capabilities and resources of the operational forces of the civil protection system (Article 17, paragraph 3, subparagraph 10)
- does not complete the training program for performing civil protection tasks according to the program implemented by the state administration body competent for civil protection tasks (Article 17, paragraph 6)
- fails to make a decision on the establishment of a civil protection headquarters and fails to appoint the chief, deputy chief and members of the headquarters (Article 23, paragraph 1 and Article 24, paragraph 1)
- does not appoint a Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner for Civil Protection (Article 34, paragraph 1).

Article 87 (Official Gazette [20/21](#) , [114/22](#) )

The executive body of a local and regional self-government unit will be fined EUR 2,650.00 to EUR 9,290.00 for a misdemeanor if:

- does not establish, finance, equip, train and exercise operational forces in accordance with the adopted guidelines and the civil protection system development plan (Article 17, paragraph 3, subparagraph 6)
- fails to prepare and propose to the representative body a major accident risk assessment and fails to regularly update the risk assessments and civil protection action plan (Article 17, paragraph 3, subparagraph 7)
- does not ensure the conditions for relocation, shelter, evacuation and disposal and the execution of tasks in the implementation of other civil protection measures in the protection and rescue of citizens, material and cultural assets and the environment (Article 17, paragraph 3, subparagraph 8)
- fails to adopt the External Plan or its amendments for the area of the facility, or a group of areas of the facility determined by the state administration body responsible for environmental protection due to a possible domino effect, within one year of the Ministry's decision to develop the External Plan or its amendments, and fails to provide all persons who could have significant material and health consequences due to a major accident occurring in the area of the facility or a group of areas of the facility, with clear and easily understandable, reviewed and harmonised information on safety measures and necessary behaviour in the event of a major accident in the area of its jurisdiction on a regular basis and in the most appropriate form (Article 17, paragraph 5).

Article 88 (Official Gazette [118/18](#) , [20/21](#) , [114/22](#) )

(1) A legal entity shall be fined EUR 2,650.00 to EUR 6,630.00 for a misdemeanor if:

- does not plan the method of organizing the implementation of measures and activities in the civil protection system (Article 36, paragraph 1)
- fails to provide the 112 center with information on the threat of an emergency, major accident or disaster (Article 36, paragraph 7)
- without a justified reason, does not enable employees assigned to the operational civil protection forces to participate in the implementation of measures and activities in the civil protection system (Article 37)
- fails to establish and maintain an alert system (Article 38, paragraph 1)
- does not obtain the Ministry's approval for the preliminary design of its own alert system before installation (Article 38, paragraph 4)
- fails to display a notice on the single European emergency number 112 in a visible place in public telephone booths (Article 41, paragraph 1)
- fails to display the notice of the single European emergency number 112 and the warning signs (Article

– fails to enable the implementation of inspection supervision, fails to present all documents and acts requested by the inspector and fails to ensure spatial and other conditions for the unhindered work of the inspector (Article 78, paragraph 5).

(2) For the violation referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, the responsible person in the legal entity shall also be fined from 1,320.00 to 2,650.00 euros.

Article 89 (Official Gazette [118/18](#) , [20/21](#) , [114/22](#) )

(1) A legal entity shall be fined EUR 2,650.00 to EUR 9,290.00 for a misdemeanor if:

– fails to provide the Ministry and local and regional self-government units with the data necessary for the preparation of a risk assessment and civil protection action plan, free of charge (Article 36, paragraph 4)

– fails to submit to the Ministry and regional self-government units, within a maximum period of two months from the receipt of the consent of the state administration body responsible for environmental protection to the safety report, the data necessary for the preparation of the External Plan, free of charge (Article 36, paragraph 5)

– in the event of a change in the area of the installation, facility, storage or process or in the type or physical form or quantity of a dangerous substance which could have significant consequences for major-accident hazards, fails to notify the Ministry of the details of such updates prior to such change (Article 36(6))

– fails to act upon the request of the Chief of Civil Protection Headquarters of a local and regional self-government unit and the Chief of Civil Protection Headquarters of the Republic of Croatia and fails to participate with human resources and material resources in the implementation of measures and activities in the civil protection system (Article 36, paragraph 8)

– fails to establish management and supervision of the sirens of its alarm system from the legal entity's operational centre and from the competent 112 centre and if it fails to bear the costs of establishing and using a communication link for the purposes of managing and supervising sirens from the competent 112 centre (Article 38, paragraph 3).

(2) For the violation referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, the responsible person in the legal entity shall also be fined from 1,320.00 to 2,650.00 euros.

Article 90 (Official Gazette [118/18](#) , [114/22](#) )

A fine of EUR 130.00 to EUR 1,320.00 will be imposed on a natural person for the following offense:

– if, without a justified reason, he fails to respond to the call of the competent authority to resolve the status of a person liable for civil protection, training and mobilization, or refuses to participate in the implementation of civil protection measures from the day of mobilization until receipt of the demobilization order (Article 45, paragraph 2)

– if he fails to carry out civil protection measures and activities upon oral order of an official of the Ministry with special powers and responsibilities (Article 55, paragraph 1).

Article 91 (Official Gazette [114/22](#) )

A fine of EUR 660.00 to EUR 1,990.00 will be imposed on a natural person for the following offense:

– if he fails to act in accordance with the decision and order of the person responsible for implementing the forced evacuation (Article 26, paragraph 4)

– if, as the civil protection commissioner or his deputy, he fails to respond to a summons from the chief of the competent civil protection headquarters without a justified reason (Article 34, paragraph 2).

## XVI. TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

## Article 92

(1) The regulations referred to in Article 10, paragraph 1, Article 11, paragraph 2, Article 22, paragraph 1, Article 33, paragraph 2, Article 45, paragraph 5, Article 46, paragraph 2 and Article 63, paragraph 6 shall be adopted by the Government of the Republic of Croatia within one year from the date of entry into force of this Act.

(2) The regulations referred to in Article 13, paragraph 2, Article 21, paragraphs 4 and 5, Article 33, paragraphs 2 and 3, Article 41, paragraph 4, Article 42, Article 49, paragraphs 2 and 3, Article 50, paragraph 3, Article 52, paragraph 5, Article 60, paragraph 3, Article 61, paragraph 2, Article 62, paragraph 4, Article 69, paragraph 2, Article 77, paragraph 2 and Article 84, paragraph 2 shall be adopted by the Head of the State Administration within one year from the date of entry into force of this Act.

## Article 93

Until the entry into force of the regulations referred to in Article 92 of this Act, the following documents and regulations adopted pursuant to the Protection and Rescue Act (Official Gazette, Nos. 174/04, 79/07, 38/09 and 127/10) shall remain in force, insofar as they are not in conflict with this Act:

- 1) **Assessment of the vulnerability of the Republic of Croatia to natural and technical-technological disasters and major accidents (Conclusion of the Government of the Republic of Croatia of 7 March 2013)**
- 2) **Protection and Rescue Plan for the Territory of the Republic of Croatia (Official Gazette, No. 96/10)**
- 3) **Regulation on the amount and conditions for payment of compensation for expenses to mobilized citizens (Official Gazette, No. 91/06)**
- 4) **Regulation on the amount of compensation for persons engaged in protection and rescue outside the borders of the Republic of Croatia (Official Gazette, No. 90/06)**
- 5) **Regulation on the method of determining compensation for temporarily seized movable property for the purpose of implementing protection and rescue measures (Official Gazette, No. 85/06)**
- 6) **Regulation on the manner of crossing the border when receiving and/or sending emergency assistance in protection and rescue (Official Gazette, No. 52/06)**
- 7) **Regulation on unique warning signs ("Narodne novine", no. 13/06 and 49/06)**
- 8) **Ordinance on the official identity card and badge of protection and rescue inspectors, fire inspectors and employees of the State Administration for Protection and Rescue with special powers and responsibilities (Official Gazette, No. 18/06)**
- 9) **Rulebook on the procedure for alerting the population ("Narodne novine", no. 47/06.)**
- 10) **Ordinance on the participation of members of operational protection and rescue forces in the activities of emergency response forces in disasters abroad (Official Gazette, No. 73/06)**
- 11) **Rulebook on the mobilization and operation of operational protection and rescue forces ("Narodne novine", no. 40/08 and 44/08)**
- 12) **Rulebook on uniforms of members of the operational protection and rescue forces of the State Administration for Protection and Rescue ("Narodne novine", no. 81/09 and 115/10)**
- 13) **Ordinance on the organization, staffing and equipment of civil protection units and alert units (Official Gazette, No. 111/07)**
- 14) **Rulebook on the methodology for the preparation of threat assessments and protection and rescue plans ("Narodne novine", no. 30/14. and 67/14.)**
- 15) **Rulebook on the protection of archival and registry materials of the State Administration for Protection and Rescue ("Narodne novine", no. 114/06 and 141/09)**
- 16) **Ordinance on the conditions that must be met by authorized legal entities for performing professional tasks in the field of protection and rescue planning (Official Gazette, No. 91/13)**

17) Regulations on awards and recognitions of the State Protection and Rescue Administration (Official Gazette, No. 23/07 and 126/09)

18) Ordinance on the Geographic Information System of the State Protection and Rescue Administration (Official Gazette, No. 98/12).

#### Article 94 (Official Gazette **118/18**)

(1) In the event of preparedness due to the possible occurrence of disasters or in the event of a declaration of a disaster, the Minister is authorized to take measures and activities and organize a different work schedule, working hours and workplaces of civil servants and employees in the organizational unit of the Ministry responsible for civil protection affairs.

(2) In the event of a major accident or disaster, the provisions of general labor regulations on the limitation of overtime work shall not apply to civil servants and employees of the organizational unit of the Ministry responsible for civil protection.

#### Article 95

The operational forces of the civil protection system are obliged, within six months from the date of entry into force of this Act, to submit to the State Administration data on their operational forces, material resources and equipment, and readiness for operational action, and to develop operational plans for carrying out tasks in the civil protection system.

#### Article 96

On the date of entry into force of this Act, local self-government units take over the management and maintenance of public shelters in their area.

#### Article 97.

(1) Local and regional (regional) self-government units are obliged to adopt a risk assessment of major accidents and a civil protection action plan within two years from the date of entry into force of the rulebook referred to in Article 49, paragraph 2 of this Act.

(2) Threat assessments and protection and rescue plans of local and regional (regional) self-government units adopted on the basis of the Protection and Rescue Act ("Official Gazette", no. 174/04, 79/07, 38/09 and 127/10) remain in force until the adoption of the assessments and plans from paragraph 1 of this article.

#### Article 98.

On the date of entry into force of this Law, the following shall cease to be valid:

- Ordinance on determining cities and towns where shelters and other facilities for protection must be built ("Narodne novine", no. 2/91.)
- Rulebook on technical norms for shelters ("Narodne novine", no. 53/91.)
- Rulebook on maintaining shelters and other protective facilities in peace ("Narodne novine", no. 45/84.)
- Ordinance on the conditions under which shelters may be leased in peacetime (Official Gazette, No. 98/01).

#### Article 99

On the date of entry into force of this Act, Articles 12 and 13 of the Act on the Participation of Members of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia, the Police, Civil Protection, and Civil Servants and Employees in Peacekeeping Operations and Other Activities Abroad (Official Gazette, Nos. 33/02, 92/10 and 73/13) shall cease to be valid in the part relating to members of the Civil Protection.

#### Article 100.

On the date of entry into force of this Act, the Protection and Rescue Act (Official Gazette, Nos. 174/04, 79/07, 38/09 and 127/10) shall cease to be valid.

## Article 101.

This Act shall enter into force on the eighth day following the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

**Transitional and final provisions from OG 118/18**

## Article 54.

Implementing regulations adopted pursuant to the Civil Protection System Act (Official Gazette, No. 82/15) shall remain in force and shall be harmonised with the provisions of this Act within six months of its entry into force.

## Article 55

This Act will be published in the Official Gazette and will enter into force on 1 January 2019.

**Transitional and final provisions from OG 31/20**

## Article 2.

This Act shall enter into force on the first day following its publication in the Official Gazette.

**Transitional and final provisions from the Official Gazette 20/21**

## Article 12

The Minister responsible for internal affairs shall align the Ordinance on the bearers, content and procedures for the preparation of planning documents in civil protection and the manner of informing the public in the process of their adoption (Official Gazette, No. 49/17) with the provisions of this Act within 30 days from the date of entry into force of this Act.

## Article 13.

This Act shall enter into force on the eighth day following the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

**Transitional and final provisions from OG 114/22**

## Article 7.

This Act shall be published in the Official Gazette and shall enter into force on the day of the introduction of the euro as the official currency in the Republic of Croatia.