



LEGAL STATUS OF THE CONSUMER IN THE ROMANO-GERMANIC AND ANGLO-SAXON LEGAL SYSTEMS

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Everyone, at least once in their lives, has purchased a certain product for use, which makes literally all people around the world consumers. A consumer is an individual who wishes to purchase, has purchased or uses goods, works and services for personal purposes unrelated to their business activities. The reason why a consumer is not only a person who has already purchased a product and uses it, but also a person who is just about to do so, is that from the moment such a person is interested in some purchase, he already has the right to receive full and accurate information about it.

The rights and obligations, as well as the actual position of the consumer, established by the legal norms, which, in turn, are enshrined in legislative and other normative-legal acts, form together the legal status of the consumer. Consumers have a rather special status, the reason for which is that, unlike business entities, they are a weaker party in contractual relations. Based on this, the legislation provides consumers with special rights and preferences that allow them to compensate for their "weakness".

Our study attempts to compare the legislation on the regulation of consumer relations of such countries of the Romano-Germanic legal system as the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Russian Federation, France and Germany with such countries of the Anglo-Saxon system as the UK, USA and Australia. This comparison can help to understand the strengths and weaknesses of the listed states in the field of consumer protection, as well as determine what rules can be borrowed by one state from another. The main method of research is the method of comparative-legal analysis.

The following legislative acts were chosen for comparison: the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Consumer Protection" 1996; the Law of the Russian Federation "On Consumer Protection" 1992, the Consumer Code of France, the Civil Code of Germany 1896, Consumer rights Act 2015 and Consumer Protection Act 1987 of the UK, Uniform Commercial Code (model law) and Consumer Product Safety Act 1972 of the USA, Competition and Consumer Act 2010 of Australia.

From the analysis of the listed legislative acts of the countries of the Romano-Germanic legal system we can conclude that in their essence and content the consumer rights on the territory of the countries of the Romano-Germanic system do not have a significant difference.

The most striking difference lies in the provisions that regulate this area. In some countries, like France, there is a single document, the Consumer Code, which is fully devoted to the issue of consumer relations, in other countries, like the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Russian Federation, there are special laws, and in a country like Germany, the provisions on consumer protection are distributed in separate normative acts.



Another difference lies in the definition of "consumer" itself. In countries such as the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Russian Federation and Germany, only natural persons are understood as consumers, but in France legal entities can also claim protection of their rights as consumers if they purchase goods, works or services outside of their professional activities.

In turn, having studied the legislation of the countries of the Anglo-Saxon legal system, we can conclude that despite the fact that precedents are the main sources of law in the countries of the Anglo-Saxon legal system, it is normative legal acts that prevail in the field of consumer rights protection.

In Great Britain and Australia there are similar documents, which for the most part disclose the basic consumer rights and the ways of protecting them. While in the USA there is no special law, which is aimed at regulating consumer relations, and in order to have an idea about the legal status of the consumer in the USA it is necessary to study a number of acts, which refer to different spheres, but in certain parts refer to consumer rights. Also due to the fact that the U.S. is a federal state, it is necessary to keep in mind that each state has the right to adopt its own regulations, which leads to some differences in the status of the consumer from state to state.

If we compare the consumer protection in the countries of the Anglo-Saxon legal system with the countries of the Romano-Germanic system, it should be noted that the UK, Australia, the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Russian Federation and France have the most similar laws among themselves. The reason for this is that these countries have special normative acts, the main sphere of regulation of which is the protection of consumer rights and consumer legal relations, while in such countries as Germany and the USA there are no such acts and in order to determine the legal status of the consumer it is necessary to study normative documents of different nature.