**Commercial law or Mercantile law**, also known as **trade law**, is the body of [law](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Law) that applies to the rights, relations, and conduct of [persons](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Legal_person) and businesses engaged in [commerce](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Commerce), [merchandising](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Merchandising), [trade](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trade), and sales. It is often considered to be a branch of [civil law](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civil_law_(common_law)) and deals with issues of both [private law](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Private_law) and [public law](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Public_law).

Commercial law includes within its compass such titles as principal and agent; carriage by land and sea; [merchant shipping](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maritime_transport); [guarantee](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guarantee); marine, fire, life, and accident [insurance](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Insurance); bills of exchange, [negotiable instruments](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Negotiable_instrument), [contracts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Contract) and partnership. Many of these categories fall within [financial law](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Financial_law), an aspect of Commercial law pertaining specifically to financing and the financial markets. It can also be understood to regulate [corporate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corporation) [contracts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Contract), [hiring practices](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Recruitment), and the [manufacture](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manufacturing) and [sales](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sales) of [consumer goods](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Final_good). Many countries have adopted [civil codes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civil_code) that contain comprehensive statements of their commercial law.