

**[NQO ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 118-C S.
1992, March 06, 1992]**

REVISED QUARANTINE RULES AND REGULATIONS

Part I

SECTION 1. Title - These rules and regulations shall be known as the "Revised Quarantine Rules and Regulations".

SECTION 2. Authority - These rules and regulations are issued to implement Republic Act No. 123 (The Quarantine Law) Executive Order No. 119 (Reorganization of the Ministry of Health) and the International Health Regulations of the World Health Organization (WHO).

SECTION 3. Purpose - These rules and regulations are promulgated to protect and promote the health of people by ensuring maximum security against the introduction or spread of diseases subject to the International Health Regulations from foreign countries into the Philippines and from one port to another within the Philippines.

SECTION 4. Scope - These regulations shall apply to all vessels, aircraft, crew or passengers and cargoes that shall enter any seaport or airport within the territory of the Philippines, whether owned by government or private entities. These regulations shall include all activities mandated by the International Health Regulations of the WHO.

SECTION 5. Regulatory Authority - The Department of Health through the National Quarantine Office (Bureau of Quarantine) in the Office of Standards and Regulation shall exercise the regulatory functions under these Revised Quarantine Rules and Regulations.

SECTION 6. Definition of Terms - For the purpose of these Revised Quarantine Rules and Regulations, the following definitions are adopted:

1. **Aedes egypti index** - means the ratio, expressed as a percentage, between the number of houses in a limited well-defined area on the premises of which actual breeding places of *Aedes egypti* are found, and the total number of houses examined.
2. **Aircraft** means any machine used for aerial navigation.
3. **Aircraft commander** - the person serving in the aircraft having charge or command of its operation and navigation.
4. **Airport/port of entry** - any airport/seaport designated as such by the

competent authorities of the Philippines on which aircraft/seacraft may make their first entry in the Philippines where the formalities incident to customs, immigration and quarantine are carried out.

5. **Airport/seaport of departure** the last place where an aircraft takes off/a vessel leaves port.

6. **Baggage** - means the personal effects of a traveller or of a member of the crew.

7. **Crew** - the personnel of a ship, an aircraft or other carriers, who are employed for duties on board.

8. **Day** - an interval of twenty-four hours.

9. **Detention** - the isolation of a person in a suitable place to be designated by the Director of Quarantine for the purpose of observation and treatment of such person.

10. **Direct Transit Area** - means a special area established in connection with an airport, approved by the National Quarantine Office and under its direct supervision, for accommodating transit passengers and crew in segregation, breaking their air voyage without leaving the airport.

11. **Diseases Subject to the Regulations** (quarantinable diseases) - refer to cholera, plague and yellow fever or any other disease that may be so classified by the World Health Organization.

12. **Disinsection** - means the operation in which measures are taken to kill the insect vectors of human disease present in ships, aircraft, and other means of transport.

13. **Domestic Port** - any airport or seaport situated within Philippine territorial limits generally utilized for local travel.

14. **Foreign Port/Airport** - any seaport/airport situated outside Philippine territorial limits.

15. **Infected Area** - is defined on epidemiological principles by the health administration reporting the disease in its country and need not correspond to administrative boundaries. It is that part of its territory which because of population characteristics, density and mobility and/or vector and animal reservoir potential, could support transmission of the reported disease.

16. **Infected Person** - a person who is incubating or suffering from a disease subject to the health regulation.

17. **In Quarantine** - means that state or condition during which measures are applied by a Quarantine Medical Officer to a ship, an aircraft or other means of transport, to prevent the spread of disease or vectors of disease from the object of quarantine.

18. **Isolation** - the separation of that person or group of persons from other persons except the health staff on duty, in such a manner as to prevent the spread

of infection.

19. **Medical Examination** - a visit to and inspection of a ship, an aircraft or other means of transport, and the preliminary examination of persons on board, but does not include the periodical inspection of a ship to ascertain the need for deratting.

20. **Pratique** - permission for a ship to enter port, disembark and commence operation or an aircraft after landing, to disembark and commence operation.

21. **Controlled Free Pratique** - means permission for a ship to enter a port, disembark and commence operations but does not prevent the health authorities from periodically verifying by boarding and inspecting persons and records to be assured that the conditions have been met for granting such pratique.

22. **Perimeter** - when applied to an airport, means a line enclosing the area containing the airport buildings and any land or water used or intended to be used for the parking of aircraft.

23. **Protective Area** - areas within a distance of at least 400 meters around the perimeter of an airport.

24. **Quarantine Inspection** - the inspection of a carrier together with its crew, passengers and cargo to determine the state of sanitation and health existing therein.

25. **Ship Surgeon** - a registered medical practitioner employed on a vessel.

26. **Person on Surveillance** - individuals under surveillance may move about freely, provided that they report at such intervals and at such places to authorities to be designated by the Director of Quarantine for the purpose of ascertaining their state of health during the period of surveillance.

27. **Suspect** - a person who is considered by the Quarantine Medical Officer as having been exposed to infection by a disease subject to the health regulations and is considered capable of spreading the disease.

28. **Valid Certificate** - means a certificate conforming with the rules and the model laid down by the World Health Organization in the International Health Regulations.

29. **Yellow Fever-Receptive Area** - means an area in which the virus of yellow fever does not exist but where the presence of *Aedes aegypti* or any other vector of yellow fever would permit its development if introduced.

Part II

Vessel Sanitation Requirements

SECTION 7. Passenger Accommodations - Free ventilation and rigorous cleanliness should be maintained. Overcrowding must be avoided.

SECTION 8. Crew Quarters - Working clothes of the crew should be stored in proper lockers or hung on suitable hooks. The quarters should be inspected at least once a day by a responsible ship officer who shall see to it that sanitation is maintained at

all times.

SECTION 9. Provision Storeroom and Refrigeration Room - The decks and bulkheads should be kept clean and painted as may be necessary. Provisions should be in acceptable sanitary containers and kept at prescribed temperature. Perishable provisions should be inspected daily for spoilage. Spoiled food must be disposed of in an appropriate manner.

SECTION 10. Galley (ship kitchen) and Pantry - These areas should be maintained in sanitary condition by frequent cleaning with hot water, lye and disinfectant or any cleaning material. Food should be kept in covered metal containers. Utensils and dishes should be cleaned thoroughly with hot water and soap then dried after use. The galley should be properly lighted, ventilated and fire proofed.

SECTION 11. Mess Rooms - These should be cleaned after each use and the wastes burned or placed in covered garbage cans for proper disposal. The decks should be maintained clean lest they become harboring places for cockroaches, flies and other insects.

SECTION 12. Toilets and Bathrooms - These should be conveniently located, ventilated and lighted but should not open directly into spaces where food is stored, prepared or served. The floors and walls should be cleaned daily. Drainage should be maintained in perfect condition to avoid flooding. Mops and buckets should be stored within convenient lockers. Water must be available at all times for flushing and cleaning.

SECTION 13. Forepeak, Shelter Decks and Holds - These should always be kept clean specially when empty. Canvas, ropes and dunnage should be arranged in a neat and orderly manner and should be moved as often as possible so as to destroy potential rat harborages.

SECTION 14. Medical and Surgical Provisions - Every vessel should carry an ample supply of medical and surgical provisions that may be used for injuries, minor ailments and medical emergencies.

SECTION 15. Sick-bay (ship's hospital) - Every vessel should have a sick-bay or a room where treatment and confinement of the sick may be efficiently effected. It should always be maintained in clean condition and disinfected after being used. It should have its own toilet and bathroom facilities.

SECTION 16. Management of Communicable Disease on Board - If a case of communicable disease should occur on board any vessel, the following measures should be observed and enforced:

- a. The patient should be isolated in the sick-bay or in a cabin that is set aside for his sole use and a member of the crew should be assigned to carry out appropriate nursing procedures;
- b. Contact between the patient and/or his nurse with other persons on board should be reduced to a minimum;
- c. Used clothing, linen and bedding of the patient and the assigned crew should be

immersed at once in boiling water or in acceptable disinfecting solution;

d. The compartment from which the patient was removed should be disinfected and thoroughly cleaned;

e. Any person suffering from malaria, yellow fever or any mosquito-borne disease should be kept under mosquito nets and the room in which he is confined should be screened. Appropriate vector control measures should be undertaken;

f. In case of plague, special measures must be taken to destroy rats, mice, fleas and other vermin on board. In case of pneumonic plague, the body discharges, specially sputum, must be disinfected and the attendant should wear an appropriate mask;

g. In case of cholera, typhoid fever and other gastro-intestinal disease, the drinking water on board should be sterilized by boiling or by acceptable sterilization method. The food should be thoroughly cooked. The discharges from a patient should be immediately disinfected and properly disposed of.

SECTION 17. Death at Sea and Landing of Remains - Whenever possible, a dead body should be retained for post-mortem examination or for burial ashore. The dead should be put in a body bag and packed in ice or placed in a hermitically sealed container. If there is no suspicion of foul play and if for any reason it is not possible to retain the body, the dead may be buried at sea in accordance with maritime regulations and procedures.

The landing at the port or airport of the Philippines of human remains or cadavers shall follow these regulations:

a. Notify the Director of Quarantine through the Quarantine Medical Officer of the port or if there is no Quarantine Medical Officer, through the local health authorities of that port, about the human remains on board.

b. All cadavers/remains for landing at Philippine ports coming from another port should be accompanied by a death certificate or a true copy thereof duly certified by the appropriate authorities from the port of origin.

c. Cadavers/remains shall be accompanied by a certificate of the embalmer stating that the body/remains had been properly embalmed and placed in a sealed casket which is air-tight and waterproof. Bones and ashes shall be placed in a hermitically sealed and unbreakable turn or other similar containers.

d. Certification from the Consul at the country of origin.

e. In addition to the above, the body of a person who died of any disease subject to the Regulations in a foreign port may be allowed to pass through quarantine under the following conditions: The casket shall remain sealed from origin to burial which must take place within 24 hours after arrival and clearance. On the other hand, if a person dies of any of the above named diseases during the voyage, the body should be buried at sea in accordance with maritime regulations and procedures.