

## THE INDIAN PORT HEALTH RULES-1 INTRODUCTION

RULE1: These rules may be called the Indian Port Health Rules, 1989.

RULE2: Due to changing concepts in Epidemiology of diseases, global eradication of small pox, emergence of newer diseases and increasing international traffic following terminology also has been amended for the purposes of these Rules.

EXISTING	AMENDED
QUARANTINABLE DISEASES	DISEASES SUBJECT TO REGULATIONS
“MINICOY”	“%DELETED”
“SMALLPOX”	“ALL RULES RELATED TO SMALLPOX DELETED”
“SANITARY”	“HEALTH”

In these Rules unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context:

- (1) “arrival” means arrival of a vessel at an Indian Port:
- (2) “baggage” means the personal effects of a traveler or of a member of the crew
- (3) “cattle” means horse, camel, sheep, cow, bull, buffalo-bull, buffalo-cow and all other ruminating animals and all swine:
- (4) “contamination” means the presence of undesirable substance or material which may contain pathogenic micro-organisms:
- (5) “container” (freight container) means an article of transport equipment...
  - a) of a permanent character and accordingly strong enough to be suitable for repeated use
  - b) specially designed to facilitate the carriage of goods, by one or more mode of transport, without intermediate re-loading
  - c) fitted with devices permitting its ready handling, particularly its transfer from one mode of transport to another
  - d) so designed as to be easy to fill and empty

The term ‘container’ (freight container) does not include vehicles or conventional packing

- (6) “crew” means the personnel of a vessel employed for duties on board
- (7) “day” means an interval of twenty four hours
- (8) “diseases subject to the regulations”  
(Quarantinable diseases) means Cholera, including cholera to Elator vibrio, plague and yellow fever.
- (9) “disinsecting” means the operations in which the measures are taken to kill the insect vectors of the human diseases present in vessels and container.
- (10) “epidemic” means an extension of a disease subject to the regulations by multiplication of cases in an area.
- (11) “free pratique” means permission for a vessel to enter a port, disembark and commence operation.
- (12) “health administration” means the governmental authority responsible over the whole of a territory to which these regulations apply for the implementation of the health measures provided here in.
- (13) “health authority” means the authority immediately responsible in its jurisdiction for the appropriate health measures permitted or prescribed by these regulations
- (14) “health officer” means any person appointed
- (a) In the case of major ports by the central government and
  - (b) In the case of other ports by the state government concerned to whom the functions of the central government under subsection (1) of section 17 of the Indian ports act 1908(XV of 1908) to appoint a health officer have been entrusted either by name or by the virtue of his office to be the health officer of the port and includes an additional, deputy or assistant health officer appointed by the central or state government to perform the duties of a health officer of a port under these rules.
- (15) “imported case” means an infected person arriving on an international voyage
- (16) “infected area” in relation to diseases subject to the regulations or other infectious disease means any area or port outside India declared by the central government by notification in the official gazette to be infected with such a disease
- (17) “infected person” any person who is suffering from a disease subject to a regulation or other infectious disease or who is considered by the health officer incharge to be infected with such a disease
- (18) “infectious disease” means in addition to the diseases subject to the regulations,
- (a) generally any illness associated by prostration and persisting for several days or attended with glandular swelling or an acute skin rash or eruption with or without fever, severe diarrhoea with symptoms of collapse, jaundice accompanied of fever.
  - (b) And in particular any disease declared specifically as infectious disease by the central government by notification in the official gazette from time to this time. Those that are so far notified are chickenpox, diphtheria, cerebrospinal, meningitis, influenzal pneumonia.

- (19) “International Health Regulations” means the International Health regulations adopted by the World Health Assembly in 1969 as amended or amended from time to time.
- (20) “International voyage” and “in quarantine”  
International Voyage means
- (a) In case of a vessel, a voyage between parts in the territories of more than one state, or a voyage between ports in the territory or territories of a same state. If the vessel has relations with the territories of any state on its voyage but only as regards those relations.
  - (b) In case of a person, a voyage involving entirely into the territory of that state either than the territory of the state in which the person commences his voyage.  
“In Quarantine” means state or condition during which the Health Authority to a vessel or a container to prevent the spread of diseases, reservation of diseases or voyage of diseases with the object of quarantine applies measures.
- (21)
- 1) “Isolation”, when applied to a person or a group of people, means that the separation of a person or group of people from vectors of other persons the health staff on duty, in such a manner as to prevent the spread of infection.
  - 2) When applied to animals means the segmentation of that animal or group of animals from vectors, other animals and persons except the health staff on duty, in such a manner as to prevent the spread of infection.
- (22) “mainland” means the territory of India excluding the Andaman & Nicobar islands and Lakshadweep.
- (23) “medical examination” visit to and inspection of a vessel and container and the preliminary examination of person on board including scrutiny of vaccination. Certificates required but does not include the periodical inspection of vessel to ascertain the need for deratting.  
Note: ‘Preliminary Examination’ may include
- (1) the physical examination of any person but the exercise of the right should depend on the circumstances of the each case.
  - (2) Questioning travelers at their moments prior to disembarkation.
  - (3) Inspection of the passport to trace the movements of the passenger during the course of his voyage which may have involved changes in the mode of transportation and route.
- (24) “Period of incubation” means in respect of “disease subject to the regulations” and the others mentioned below, the period specified against each
- (a) in respect of diseases subject to the regulations

Plague	6 days
Cholera	5 days
Yellow fever	6 days
  - (b) in respect of infectious disease notified by the Central Government

Chickenpox	14 days
Cerebrospinal meningitis	10 days
Diphtheria	5 days
Influenza pre-umonia	5 days

- (c) when illness mentioned under Rule 2(18) is diagnosed as an infectious disease, its incubation period will be the generally accepted incubation period for it.
- (d) In respect of an infectious disease notified by Central Government each period as may be described by the Central Government by notification in the Official Gazette, to be the period of incubation for the disease.
- (e) “period of incubation and surveillance”  
except as otherwise provided with respect to infected persons, where isolation or surveillance is authorized, the period of isolation and surveillance shall not exceed the period of incubation.
- (25) “Port” means seaport or an inland port .
- (26) “Ship” replaced by the word “vessel” in these rules.
- (27) “ship surgeon” means a properly qualified and registered medical practitioner with experience of maritime health, employed for medical services on a vessel or, if there are two or more such medical practitioners so employed, the senior of them.
- (28) “special provisions ” means
  - (a) in respect of disease subject to the regulations (Quarantinable Diseases), the measures specified in parts A, B & C of schedule 1.
  - (b) In respect of infectious diseases, the measures specified in Schedule 2.
  - (c) In respect of malaria or other mosquito born diseases, the measures specified in Schedule 3.
  - (d) In respect of rodent control, deratting certification and deratting exemption certificate, the measures specified in schedule 4.
  - (e) In respect of carriage of dead bodies or cremated remains, the measures specified in schedule 5.
  - (f) In the event of death or board, the measures specified in schedule 6.
  - (g) In respect of importation of monkeys, the measures mentioned in schedule 6.
  - (h) In respect of international health regulations pratique messages as specified in schedule 8
  - (i) In respect to code of health practices for supply of drinking water to vessel as specified in schedule 9.
  - (j) In report of code of health practices or supply of food articles to vessels, specified in schedule 10.
  - (k) In respect of notice of health inspection of vessel as specified in schedule 11.
  - (l) In respect of requirement of issue of certificate of health inspection for departing vessels as specified in schedule 12.
  - (m) In respect of certificate of Medical inspection for vessel departing as specified in schedule 13.
  - (n) In respect of Health and deratting certificate to sailing vessels and fishing vessels as specified in schedule 14.
  - (o) In respect of fumigation certificate for imported used clothing and rags (Annexure 4) as specified in schedule 15.
  - (p) In respect of maritime declaration of health as specified in Annexure I.
  - (q) In respect of international certificate for vaccination or revaccination against yellow fever as specified in Annexure II.
  - (r) In report of deratting or deratting exemption certificate as specified in Annexure III.

- (29) “Suspect” means a person who is considered by the health authority as having been exposed to infection by a disease subject to the regulations or other notified infections, diseases and is considered capable of spreading that disease
- (30) “Valid certificate”, when applied to vaccination, means, a certificate which
- i) Confirms to the requirements and the model laid down in Annexure III to these rules.
  - ii) Is issued only to individuals and in such form that it cannot in any circumstances be used collectively
  - iii) Is issued in case of children separately and is not incorporated in mother’s certificate
  - iv) Is completed in French and/ or English.
  - v) Is signed in the case of an international certificate by the parent or guardian of a child who is unable to sign or which bears, in the case of an illiterate person the mark of such illiterate person duly attested by Health Officer
  - vi) Is signed, in the case of an international certificate issued by India, in his own hand by a qualified medical practitioner or medical officer in charge of an approved center for vaccination who’s name is enrolled in the Indian medical register maintained under section 21 of the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 (102 of 1956)
  - vii) In the case of certificate of vaccination against Cholera issued in India, the approved stamp to be affixed there on shall be such as has been approved by the Central Government and the stamp shall be affixed on the certificate by only those persons who are authorized, either by designation or by name, for this purpose, by the Central Government, in the case of certification of vaccination against yellow fever issued in India the vaccination centers shall also be approved by the Central Government
- (31) “Vector” is arthropod, living temperature and transmitter of the causative agent of a disease as to be susceptible to receiving and maintaining the pathogen and then be able to transfer that pathogen to vertebrate host, for the purpose of these rules, any living carrier, plants or things shall also be treated as Vectors
- (32) “Vessel” includes anything made for the conveyance mainly by water of human beings or of property.
- (33) “Sanitary Port” is defined as any port that shall have at its disposal
- a) an organized medical service with adequate staff, equipment or premises .
  - b) Facilities for the transport, isolation and care of infected persons or suspects.
  - c) Facilities for efficient disinfection and disinsection for the control of vectors and rodents for any other appropriate measures provided for by International Health Regulations

- d) A bacteriological laboratory or facilities for dispatching suspected material to such a laboratory
- e) Facilities within the port area for vaccination against yellow fever and such other diseases notified from time to time by the Health Authority.

## PART II – VESSELS ARRIVING AT INDIAN PORTS

### Part II Sub. Part ‘A’ - General Provisions

Rule 3. the Health Officer may for the purpose of these rules inspect any vessel on arrival or already import.

Rule 4. the master of every vessel arriving at any port shall show, until the vessel has received, pratique under these rules, whichever of the following signals are appropriate

- a) by day, during the whole of the time between sunrise and sunset when the ship is within five kms of the coast
  - i) the flag signal Q: meaning “ my vessel is healthy and I request free pratique ”
  - ii) the 2 flag signal QQ: meaning “ my vessel is suspected ” (wide Schedule 1 and/ or 2)
  - iii) the 2 flag signal QL: meaning “ my vessel is infected ” (wide Schedule 1 and/ or 2 ).
- b) by night, during the whole of the time between sunset and sunrise but only when the vessel is within 5 kms of the coast, a signal which shall be shown at the peak or other conspicuous place where it can best be seen, comprising of red light over a white light, the lights being not more than 2 ms apart and meaning – “ I have not free pratique ” provided that the authorities at a port may with the prevention approval of the Central Government notify alternative signals, not conflicting International code for use by vessels visiting the port frequently

### PART II Sub Part – B – Quarantine Messages and granting pratique

#### RULE 5.

- 1) The master of every vessel arriving at Indian port, from any port outside India shall send the message within 12 hours prior to arrival and not less than 4 hours out from any port to which he is proceeding, send to the health officer of the port, either directly or through an agent approved by the health officer, a wireless message, embodying all such of the items of information set out in the standard quarantine message prescribed in schedule 8 in the International code of signals or plain language, as applicable and cases of sickness or death occurring subsequent to transmission of such message shall be communicated by wireless in like manner before the arrival of the vessel in the port.

Provided that the port trust or like authority administering a port may, with the previous approval of the Central Government, notify alternative signals not conflicting with the international code, for use by vessels visiting the port frequently.

Note: The telegraphic address of the health officer is 'QUARANTENE'.

PART 2 SUB PART-C – Grating of Pratique

RULE 6 :

- a) The health officer may, if authorized by general or special orders of the Central Government grant pratique by radio to a vessel, when on the basis of information received from it, prior to its arrival, if he is of the opinion that its arrival will not result in the introduction or spread of the diseases subject to the regulations or infectious diseases.
- b)
  - i) Sending a standard quarantine message, which is required compulsorily from all vessels arriving at the port, will not entitle a vessel for radio pratique, unless it is specifically sort giving all additional information (Schedule 8).
  - ii) when a radio pratique is granted to a vessel the agent and the port conservator shall be intimated about it and when necessary the assistance may be sought in communicating to the vessel regarding granting the radio pratique.
  - iii) actual changes incurred in sending radio pratique by the health officer may be recovered from agent.
- c) the central government may issue any special instructions for granting of radio pratique.
- d) All vessels granted radio the health officer, as soon a possible should inspect pratique after her arrival.

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RULE 9. every medical practitioner who becomes cognizant that any person on board any vessel in the port is suffering from a disease subject to the Regulations or an infectious disease, shall immediately give notice there of by telephone and in writing to the health officer.

RULE 10.

- 1) all infected or suspected vessels or vessels having on board persons suffering from diseases subject to the regulations shall stop at such place at the port at the appropriate port authority shall, in consultation with the health officer, provided in this behalf, and shall not enter any dock or come along side any wharf or have communication with the shore or with any other vessel in the port until authorized to do so by the health officer.
- 2) Notwithstanding any thing contained in sub-rule
  - (i) above, the health officer may for navigational reasons permit such infected or suspected vessel or vessels to come alongside a specially controlled wharf, where strict vigilance is possible to be maintained to prevent any communication with the shore or with any other vessel in the port until declared safe by him.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS UPON ARRIVAL AT INDIAN PORT

Part III Sub Part-A. Infected & Suspected vessels

Surveillance and isolation of

Persons, restriction & remand of vessels

RULE 11 So long as a signal showing that the vessel is “infected” or “  
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RULE 12

(3) A vessel not allowed communication with the shore shall be subject to such restrictions as the Health Officer acting under these Rules may impose, and the vessel shall be granted only restricted pratique.

RULE 13 In the case of an infected or suspected vessel the Health Officer shall, and in the case of all other vessels the Health Officer may, proceed on board and medically examine the vessel, and the master of the vessel shall give him every facility for the examination of the passengers, crew, baggage, cargo, provisions, water supply and any part of the vessel which the Health Officer may consider it necessary to examine. This examination shall not be undertaken sunrise and sunset except in such unusual circumstances as, in the opinion of the Health Officer justify doing so. After every medical examination the Health Officer shall classify the vessel as infected, suspected or healthy in accordance with the special provisions relating to diseases in these rules.

RULE 14 (1) Further Health measures which may be applied to the vessel shall be determined by the conditions which existed on the board during the voyage, or which exist at the time of the medical examination, without prejudice, however, to the measures which are permitted by these rules to be applied to the vessel if it arrives from an infected area. The application of the measures in the case of vessels arriving from an infected area shall be limited to the vessel, person or article, as the case may be, arriving from such an area, provided that the Health Officer for the port of arrival is satisfied that the Health Authority for the port of departure in the infected area took all practicable measures for checking the spread of the disease.

(2) Where special problems constituting a grave danger to public health exists, a person on an international voyage may, on arrival, be required to give a destination address in writing.

RULE 15 (1) Any health measures, other than medical examination, which has been applied to a vessel at a previous port, shall not be repeated unless...

a) after the departure of a vessel from the port where the measures were applied, an incident of epidemiological significance calling for a further application of any such measure has occurred either in that port or on board the vessel or

b) the Health Officer has reason to believe that the individual measures so applied was not substantially effective.

- c) In applying these health measures the Health Officer shall attach due importance to the presence on board of a ship's surgeon and to the provision on board of suitable apparatus for disinfecting, disinsecting, and deratting and shall, in general, apply the principles laid down in these rules with regard to their necessity and practicability in the particular circumstances of each case.

RULE 16 (1) All persons suffering from a disease subject to the regulations shall be disembarked from the vessel and isolated. The persons suspected to be suffering from a disease according to the Regulations or other infectious diseases may be disembarked for the purpose of surveillance.

- (2) Where any person is required under these