

(Rules under the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 (the Ports of Rangoon, Moulmein, Akyab, Bassein, Tavoy, Mergui and Kyaukpyu))

No. 67

The 23rd February 1910.

No.67. - In exercise of the power conferred by section 2 of the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897, and by Notification No. 2256, dated the 22nd December 1906, of the Government of India in the Home Department, the Lieutenant-Governor of Burma is pleased to prescribe the following rules to guard against the importation of plague and to provide for the medical inspection, isolation, observation, and surveillance of persons suffering from, or suspected of being infected with, plague, in supersession of the rules prescribed in this Department Notification No. 321, dated the 7th October 1909.

These rules shall apply to the Ports of Rangoon, Moulmein, Akyab, Bassein, Tavoy, Mergui and Kyaukpyu.

1. In these rules-

Definitions.

- (1) Health Officer means the Health Officer of the port concerned, and includes an Additional or Assistant Health Officer and any person appointed by name or in virtue of his office to perform any of the duties of a Health Officer.
- (2) Infected vessel. - Any vessel with plague on board, or on which one or more cases have taken place within seven days before her arrival, will be considered infected.
- (3) Suspected vessel. - Any vessel on board which there has been a case of plague at the time of departure, or during the voyage, but on which no fresh case has occurred for seven days before her arrival, will be considered suspected.
- (4) Healthy vessel. - Any vessel, even though coming from an infected port, which has had no death from or case of plague on board, either before departure, during the voyage, or on arrival, will be considered healthy.
- (5) Observation. - The term "observation" means that the persons subjected to it will be segregated in a lazaretto or isolation camp till they have obtained free pratique.

(6) Surveillance. - The term “surveillance” means that the persons subjected to it will not be isolated: they will at once obtain free pratique, but on arriving at their destination they will be kept under medical supervision.

(7) Infected port means any port which the Government of Burma may declare to be infected.

2. Hoisting of yellow flag. - The Commander of every vessel, including buggalows, or other native craft, (a) having plague on board, or (b) on board of which one or more cases of plague or cases showing symptoms commonly associated with plague or an unusual number of deaths among rats have occurred during the vessel's voyage or within seven days of her arrival, whichever is longer, shall, on arrival at the pilot station at Rangoon, Moulmein or Akyab, or within the port limits of Mergui or Kyaukpyu or, in the case of Bassein and Tavoy, on arrival at Diamond Island roadstead or at Sinbyubin, hoist a yellow flag, or, if the vessel arrives at night, show three lights, red, white and red, at the main, and indicate by signal the port from which she has come, and shall keep up such flag by day or lights by night and signal until permitted in writing by the Health Officer to haul them down. The pilot, if there is one, or the Health Officer, on going alongside such vessel shall direct the flag or lights prescribed above to be hoisted if such action has not already been taken.

N. B. - Pilotage is compulsory for all vessels over 100 tons in the Port of Rangoon and for all vessels over 200 tons in the Port of Moulmein.

3. Prohibition of communication. - The Commander of any vessel required to hoist a yellow flag under Rule 2 shall not, without first having obtained permission as hereinafter provided, allow any but oral communication with the shore or with any other vessel or boat, excepting only, in the cases of Rangoon, Moulmein, Bassein and Akyab, with the boat supplying the pilots from the pilot brig, when such communication shall be limited to receiving on board the pilot, his servant and baggage, and at Mergui and Kyaukpyu with the boat conveying the Health Officer and Preventive Officer and in that case communication shall be limited to receiving on board the Health Officer and Preventive Officer. At Rangoon, Moulmein and Bassein pilots (including the Commander or mate of the pilot vessel at Rangoon) will be permitted to proceed to town as passengers on healthy vessels only. Customs Officers and Assistant Harbour-masters will be permitted to board vessels before “the vessels are given pratique by the Health Officer on the same conditions as apply to pilots.

4. Stoppage by the Pilot or the Custom-house Officer-

- (i) At Mergui and Kyaukpyu all vessels required to hoist a yellow flag under Rule 2 may proceed to the usual anchorage within port limits.

At Tavoy all such vessels shall be stopped at Sinbyubin by the Custom-house Officer, who will at once report to the Health Officer at Tavoy by telegraph the arrival of the vessel.

- (ii) In the case of such vessels arriving at Rangoon, Moulmein, Akyab and Bassein-

- (a) If there is any case of sickness on board and the pilot has reason to believe that it is plague, he shall telegraph the news to the Health Officer (or, in the case of Akyab, send him a message by the quickest means available) and shall not, without the permission of the Health Officer, proceed above the Burma Oil Company's moorings below the Hastings Shoal, the north and of Mupun Island, the quarantine anchorage at Walekeon or Taking as the case may be.

- (b) All other vessels required to hoist a yellow flag under Rule 2 shall be brought to the point mentioned below and shall anchor there till they have been visited by the Health Officer.

At Rangoon - to the Lower Anchorage above the Hastings Shoal (i.e., that part of the harbour below the swinging moorings, the upper boundary of which may be taken as an imaginary line drawn from the lower Dalla buoy to the lowest buoy in the middle tier of moorings) or the bulk oil loading berth of the Burma Oil Company below the Hastings in the case of vessels belonging to the Company.

At Moulmein - to the anchorage abreast of Kyauktan creek.

At Akyab - to a point not higher than the Stone Pier.

At Bassein - to any anchorage below the wharves.

5. Visit by Health Officer. - The Health Officer, as soon as he has received information of the stoppage of the vessel at any of the places mentioned in Rule 4, shall visit the vessel and ascertain by enquiry from the Commander or Medical Officer or any one else on board, whether any person on board is suffering or has suffered from plague or from any disease showing symptoms commonly associated with plague or whether there has been an unusual mortality among the rats.

The visit should ordinarily be paid between sunrise and sunset. If for urgent reasons it is necessary that any vessel should be visited between sunset and sunrise, the Commander, Agents or Owners of the vessel should make application to the Health Officer of the port before 4 P. M. on the day on which the vessel arrives, stating the nature of the reasons.

6. Rules relating to infected vessels-

- (1) If any infected vessel has, under Rule 4, clause (i) or sub-clause (a) of clause (ii), anchored at any of the points mentioned therein, she shall await the orders of the Health Officer there. If under Rule 4, clause (ii), sub clause (b), the vessel has been brought up to the point mentioned in that clause, the Health Officer shall direct the Commander to take her to the sanitary station at the place mentioned in Rule 4, clause (ii), sub-clause (a), or elsewhere as may be appointed by Government, and to await orders there.
- (2) The passengers and officers and crew shall be medically inspected by the Health Officer.
- (3) The sick shall be disembarked and isolated under the orders of the Health Officer. The officers and crew, other than the sick, shall be placed under surveillance on board the vessel and shall not land, without the written permission of the Health Officer, for five days from arrival of the vessel.
- (4) The other persons on board shall be disembarked and kept under observation for a period varying, in the discretion of the Health Officer, according to the sanitary condition of the vessel and the date of the last case. Such period shall not exceed five days from the date of the last case, whether that occurred on board ship or during the period of observation on shore. The Health Officer may at his discretion issue to any such person a passport in Form binding him to submit himself to surveillance by a Medical Officer appointed for the purpose at his destination for a period of five days from the date of the arrival of the vessel, and such person may then be permitted to proceed to his destination. In the case of incapacitated persons and those under 12 years of age, the obligation to take out passports for them and comply otherwise with the requirements of these rules shall rest in their legal guardians or persons in whose charge they travel or who receive them at the place of their destination.
- (5) The soiled linen and personal effects of the officers and crew and passengers, which in the opinion of the Health Officer may be considered as infected, shall be disinfected by the Health Officer in accordance with the rules contained in Appendix B to this notification.
- (6) The rats on board must be destroyed, either before or after discharge of cargo, and, in any case, within a maximum time of forty-eight hours, and so as to avoid damage to merchandise and to the vessel's plating and engines. In the case of vessels in ballast, this process must be carried out as soon as possible before taking cargo.
- (7) All parts of the vessel which have been inhabited by plague-patients shall be disinfected by the Health Officer, and the other parts of the vessel may also be disinfected at the discretion of the Health Officer.

- (8) Passengers are entitled to receive from the Health Officer a certificate showing the date of their arrival and the measures taken as regards themselves and their baggage.
- (9) When these rules have been fully complied with, the Health Officer shall, by an order in writing under his hand, to be delivered to the Commander, permit the yellow flag to be hauled down.

7. Rules relating to suspected vessels-

- (1) If a suspected vessel has, under Rule 4, clause (i), or sub-clause (a) of clause (ii), anchored at any of the points mentioned therein, she will await the orders of the Health Officer there. If under Rule 4, clause (ii), sub-clause (c), she has been brought up to the point mentioned in that clause, the Health Officer will go on board of her there.
- (2) The passengers and officers and crew shall be medically inspected by the Health Officer.
- (3) The soiled linen and personal effects of the passengers, officers and crew, which in the opinion of the Health Officer may be considered as infected, shall be disinfected by the Health Officer in accordance with the rules contained in Appendix B to this notification.
- (4) At the discretion of the Health Officer the rats on board may be destroyed in the manner and under the conditions prescribed for **infected** vessels.
- (5) All parts of the vessel which have been inhabited by plague-patients shall be disinfected by the Health Officer, and the other parts of the vessel may also be disinfected at the discretion of the Health Officer.
- (6) Passengers or officers or members of the crew who are suspected by the Health Officer to be infected with plague may be disembarked and detained under observation at the observation station appointed by Government for five days from arrival of the vessel, or, if plague occurs among them while under observation, from the date of the last case, and may at the discretion of the Health Officer be sent to any hospital appointed for the purpose. The remaining passengers may be allowed to proceed to their destination. The rest of the officers and crew shall not land, except on duty, for five days from the arrival of the vessel.
- (7) When these rules have been fully complied with, the Health Officer shall, by an order in writing under his hand, to be delivered to the Commander, permit the yellow flag to be hauled down.

8. Rules relating to healthy vessels. - Healthy vessels come within the scope of the preceding rules only if they have had on board cases showing symptoms commonly associated with plague or an unusual number of deaths among rats either during the voyage from the last port of call or within seven days of

their arrival, whichever is longer. In the case of such vessels the Health Officer may, at his discretion, apply any of the rules applicable to suspected vessels.

Healthy vessels coming from an infected port which have not had on board any cases showing symptoms commonly associated with plague or an unusual number of deaths among rats during the voyage or within seven days of their arrival, are not required to hoist the yellow flag or to be visited by the Health Officer. But the Commander or Medical Officer of any such vessel shall send to the Health Officer, immediately on the arrival of the vessel at her moorings or at the wharf, a declaration in the form shown in Appendix A to these rules.

For the purposes of this and of the succeeding rule a vessel is considered to have come from an infected port if her original port of departure or any port at which she has since touched on her voyage is an infected port.

9. Powers of Health Officer in respect of vessels coming from an infected port which do not hoist the yellow

flag. - The Health Officer may visit any vessel coming from an infected port which has not hoisted the yellow flag, for the purpose of satisfying himself that the vessel is not an infected or suspected vessel and has not had on board any cases showing symptoms commonly associated with plague or an unusual number of deaths among rats during the voyage or within seven days of her arrival, whichever is longer; but such vessel shall not be liable to suffer any detention by reason of the Health Officer's visit:

Provided that if the Health Officers has reason to believe that any vessel which has come from an infected port and has not hoisted a yellow flag or shown the lights referred to in Rule 2, is an infected or suspected vessel, or has had on board cases showing symptoms commonly associated with plague or an unusual number of deaths among rats during the voyage or within seven days of her arrival, whichever is longer, he may visit such vessel at any time and demand from the Medical Officer of the ship or, if there is no Medical Officer, from the Commander, a written declaration in the form appended to these rules (Appendix A), if such declaration has not already been received by him, that there has been no case of plague or of suspicious sickness on the vessel since her departure from the last port of call, and that unusual mortality has not been observed among the rats; and he may take such steps as he may think fit to verify the correctness of such declaration. If such declaration is not made or is found to be incorrect, the Health Officer may direct that the vessel shall be treated as an infected or as a suspected vessel, and the Commander of the vessel shall be proceeded against for breach of Rule 2.

Measures to be taken in case of plague or unusual mortality among the rats on a healthy vessel.

10. When rats on a healthy vessel have been shown by bacteriological examination to have plague, or when unusual mortality among rats has been observed, the following measures will be taken:-

(1) Vessels with rats having plague-

- (a) medical inspection;
- (b) the rats will be destroyed, either before or after discharge of cargo, as quickly as possible, and, in any case, within a maximum time of forty-eight hours, and so as to avoid damage to merchandise and to the vessel's plating and engines. Vessels in ballast will undergo this process as soon as possible and, in any case, before taking cargo;
- (c) such parts of the vessel and such articles as the Health Officer regards as infected will be disinfected;
- (d) the passengers and officers and crew may be subjected to surveillance during a period which must not exceed five days reckoned from the date of arrival, save in exceptional instances in which the Health Officer may prolong the surveillance up to not more than ten days.

(2) Vessels on which unusual mortality among rats has been observed-

- (a) medical inspection;
- (b) the rats will be examined for plague as far and as quickly as possible;
- (c) if it be considered necessary to destroy the rats, such destruction will take place subject to the conditions specified above as regards vessels with rats having plague;
- (d) until all suspicion shall have been removed, the passengers and officers and crew may be subjected to surveillance for a period which shall not exceed five days reckoned from the date of arrival, save in exceptional instances in which the Health Officer may prolong the surveillance up to not more than ten days.

The Health Officer will, whenever requested, furnish the captain, the ship-owner, or the ship-owner's agent, with a certificate stating the measures of rat-destruction which have been carried out, and giving the reasons why they were resorted to.

11. **Rules relating to vessels on which human plague or unusual rat mortality occurs after arrival.** - If a case of human plague occurs or unusual mortality among rats is observed on any vessel after her arrival at the port and while she is still in the harbour-

- (a) if the passengers have not been disembarked, the vessel shall be treated as an infected vessel, and the measures laid down in Rule 6 shall be taken;

(b) if the passengers have disembarked, the Health Officer shall hold an enquiry into the state of health of the officers and crew and ascertain if the rats on board are infected with plague. If human plague is detected the vessel shall be treated as an infected vessel and all measures laid down in Rule 6, other than the detention and surveillance of passengers and the disinfection of their clothing and effects, shall be taken. If rat-plague is detected communication between the vessel and the shore or other vessels shall be stopped and the measures prescribed in Rule 10 shall, as far as possible, be taken.

12. **Medical inspection and disinfection to be conducted ordinarily by daylight.** - Medical inspection and disinfection shall ordinarily be conducted between sunrise and sunset, but may be conducted between sunset and sunrise if the Health Officer is satisfied that sufficient artificial light is available for the purpose.
13. **Vessels carrying a medical officer or stove or apparatus for rat-destruction.** - In exercising the discretion vested in him by Rules 6, 7 and 8, the Health Officer shall take into consideration the presence of a medical officer or existence of a disinfecting apparatus (stove) and apparatus for the destruction of rats on board the vessel in question.
14. **Crowded and insanitary vessels.** - Crowded vessels, vessels carrying emigrants or pilgrims, and vessels which appear to be in an insanitary state, may, at the discretion of the Health Officer, be treated as suspected vessels under Rule 7.
15. **Right of vessels to put back to sea.** - Any vessel objecting to submit to the obligations imposed by these rules shall be permitted to put back to sea. Such objection shall be notified as soon as possible and if possible before arrival at the point mentioned in Rule 4, clause (i), or clause (ii), sub-clause (a).
16. **Rules applying to vessels claiming right to put back to sea.** - Vessels which claim the right to put back to sea, but desire to disembark passengers or land goods, shall submit to the rules relating to suspected vessels.
17. **Provisions and stores.** - It shall be the duty of the Port Officer (in the case of Rangoon, of the Commissioners for the Port of Rangoon) to facilitate the conveyance to all vessels detained under the above rules of such supplies of provisions, stores, and other articles as may be required by those on board. Such supplies shall be placed on the boats of such vessels to be subsequently removed by members of their crew.

F. LEWISOHN,

----- Attachment -----

[ATTACH LIST 1] 01 APPENDIX A. FORM OF DECLARATION PRESCRIBED BY RULE 8.

[ATTACH LIST 2] 02 APPENDIX B. INSTRUCTIONS FOR DISINFECTION AND FOR DESTRUCTION OF RATS IN
HOLDS.

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