



شعبة الترجمة الرسمية
Official Translation Department

Law of Health Control at Ports of Entry

Royal Decree No. M/47
June 27, 2012

Translation of Saudi Laws



NOTE:

The translation of Saudi laws takes the following into consideration:

- Words used in the singular form include the plural and vice versa.
- Words used in the masculine form include the feminine.
- Words used in the present tense include the present as well as the future.
- The word “person” or “persons” and their related pronouns (he, his, him, they, their, them) refer to a natural and legal person.



Law of Health Control at Ports of Entry

Article 1

The following terms and expressions, wherever mentioned in this Law, shall have the meanings assigned thereto unless the context requires otherwise:

International Health Regulations: A set of health regulations constituting the international legal framework of the World Health Organization for the purpose of preventing, protecting against, controlling and providing a public health response to the international spread of disease in ways that are commensurate with and restricted to public health risks, and which avoid unnecessary interference with international traffic and trade.

Regulations: The Implementing Regulations of this Law.

Competent Authority: The authority responsible for the implementation and application of health measures at ports of entry.

Affected Area: Any geographical location for which the World Health Organization specifically recommends certain measures to be implemented.

Public Health Emergency of International Concern: An extraordinary event which is determined to constitute a public health risk through the international spread of disease, and which potentially requires a coordinated international response.

Quarantine: The restriction of activities and/or separation from others of suspect persons or of suspect baggage, containers, conveyances or goods in such a manner as to prevent the possible spread of infection or contamination.

Isolation: Separation of ill or contaminated persons or affected baggage, containers, conveyances, goods or postal parcels from others in such a manner as to prevent the spread of infection or contamination.

Contamination: The presence of an infectious or toxic agent or matter in or on a human or animal body, in or on a product prepared for consumption or on other inanimate objects, including conveyances, that may constitute a public health risk.

Decontamination: A procedure whereby health measures are taken to eliminate contamination.

Medical Examination: The preliminary assessment of a person by an authorized health worker or by a person under the direct supervision of the competent authority, to determine the person's health status and potential public health risk to others, and may include the scrutiny of health documents, and a physical examination when justified by the circumstances of the individual case.

Under Observation: Observing the health condition of a passenger for a certain period to determine potential risk of infection.

Inspection: The examination, by the competent authority or under its supervision, of areas, baggage, containers, conveyances, facilities, goods or



postal parcels, including relevant data and documentation, to determine if a public health risk exists.

Conveyance Operator: A natural or corporate person, or agent thereof, responsible for the operation of a conveyance.

Suspect: Persons, baggage, cargo, containers, conveyances, goods or postal parcels which have been exposed, or possibly exposed, to a public health risk and that could be a possible source of spread of disease.

Health Declaration: A statement executed by the operator of a conveyance concerning the health condition thereof, including persons therein.

Free Pratique: Permitting a ship, aircraft or vehicle, upon arrival, to embark or disembark, or discharge or load cargo or stores.

Quarantined Conveyance: An isolated ship, aircraft or vehicle which cannot be accessed except with the permission of the competent authority and under its supervision.

Health Measures: Measures applied to prevent the spread of disease, contamination or infection. Such measures do not include law enforcement or security measures.

International Transit: Movement of persons, baggage, cargo, containers, conveyances, goods or postal parcels through international borders without the intention of entering the Kingdom.

Vectors and Reservoirs: Any insect or other animal which normally carries an infectious agent that constitutes a potential public health risk.

Article 2

The Ministry of Health (National Contact Center) shall be the authority responsible for the coordination of matters relating to this Law with the World Health Organization through the contact point concerned with the International Health Regulations.

Article 3

The competent authority shall take necessary precautions with every conveyance arriving in the Kingdom if there are clinical signs, symptoms or information based on facts or data indicating a potential public health risk, including sources of infection, contamination or otherwise, on board any conveyance deemed affected.

Article 4

Without prejudice to any laws or international treaties to which the Kingdom is party, every ship anchored in Saudi ports shall implement necessary measures as the competent authority may deem fit to prevent contamination of water by means of wastewater, waste or any other contaminated matter.



Article 5

The competent authority shall implement at ports of entry the necessary procedures to combat vectors and reservoirs.

Article 6

A shipmaster shall conduct periodic deratting and disinsection and shall hold a valid health certificate to this effect, unless granted a Ship Sanitation Control Exemption Certificate. If neither certificate is available, the competent authority may carry out the deratting or disinsection of the ship or have this procedure carried out under its supervision and control following applicable technical methods as provided for in the Implementing Regulations of this Law.

Article 7

An operator of a conveyance arriving at a Saudi port of entry shall, upon arrival and departure, comply with health procedures provided for in the Implementing Regulations of this Law.

Article 8

An operator of a conveyance arriving at a Saudi port of entry shall provide the competent authority with required health information in accordance with the International Health Regulations, using the form provided for in the Implementing Regulations of this Law.

Article 9

The competent authority at all ports of entry may, in coordination with the Customs Authority and other relevant agencies, inspect various conveyances and subject any suspect person to medical examination upon arrival to the Kingdom.

Article 10

The competent authority may, if necessary, conduct health investigations of any ship in the port. It may also conduct health investigations if the ship in question comes from a port of an affected area or travels through such a port during its journey. If a period of more than four weeks has elapsed since the beginning of such journey, the data relating to the last four weeks shall suffice.

Article 11

Marine units belonging to the port and vessels used for private leisure or local rent shall be exempted from health inspection, provided they have not been in contact with non-Saudi ports.

Article 12

When suspecting the presence of vectors and reservoirs on board an aircraft,



based on information indicating a public health emergency of international concern, the competent authority may exterminate or supervise and monitor the extermination thereof in accordance with applicable requirements as provided for in the Implementing Regulations of this Law.

Article 13

No conveyance may leave a port of entry in a potentially affected area before it undergoes the measures required by the competent authority in accordance with the provisions of this Law and its Implementing Regulations.

Article 14

If an aircraft coming from an affected area needs to make an emergency landing, the pilot or operator of the aircraft shall notify the competent authority or the nearest public authority. The competent authority may, upon notification, take any quarantine measures following technical standards. The pilot or operator of the aircraft may take any necessary measures to protect the health and safety of passengers. The aircraft may not leave the area without the permission of the competent authority.

Article 15

Upon arrival of any conveyance to the Kingdom, any ill person on board shall be transported for treatment if requested by the operator of said conveyance and accepted by the physician in charge at the competent authority.

Article 16

The competent authority may place under observation any suspect person coming from an affected area abroad. It may subject said person to a medical examination and conduct necessary investigations to verify the condition of his health. When said person is allowed to move to another area, the competent authority shall notify the competent authority in the destination area to monitor said person. The observation shall continue until the end of the incubation period. The competent authority shall isolate the suspect person if it determines that a serious risk of infection exists.

Article 17

In the event of public health emergency of international concern or for public health purposes of preventing the spread of a disease at an international level, the competent authority at the various ports of entry may conduct medical examination on any affected or suspect person arriving from abroad and may ban said person from travelling.

Article 18

No health measures may be applied to any international transit aircraft passing through a Saudi airport. The transit of said aircraft may be restricted to a certain



area of the airport without boarding, loading or offloading. Said aircraft may be provided with fuel, water and food as well as other supplies under the supervision of the competent authority.

Article 19

The necessary precautions provided for in the Implementing Regulations shall be taken during the burial of a person who died during isolation as a result of being infected by a disease of serious impact on public health.

Article 20

Baggage, cargo, containers, conveyances, goods, postal parcels and human remains arriving from an affected area or which the competent authority believes to be contaminated by an agent that may constitute potential threat to public health, shall be subjected to the health measures provided for in the Implementing Regulations of this Law.

Article 21

All travelers arriving to the Kingdom and officials in charge of various conveyances or operators thereof at ports of entry, shall comply with international and local health regulations and conditions to prevent importing diseases of serious impact on public health. In the event of a public health emergency of international concern, the competent authority shall take all the necessary preventive and remedial measures provided for in detail in the Implementing Regulations of this Law.

Article 22

If there is a need to impose additional measures on conveyances, the operators of said conveyances shall be notified of such measures prior to implementation and be provided with information on methods to be followed, if available.

Article 23

1. Except for travelers seeking temporary or permanent residence, and subject to paragraph 2 of this Article, no charge may be imposed for the following measures for the protection of public health:
 - a) Any medical examination provided for in the International Health Regulations, or any supplementary examination which may be required by the competent authority to ascertain the health condition of the traveler being examined.
 - b) Any vaccination or other prophylaxis provided to a traveler upon arrival that is not a published requirement or is a requirement which was published less than 10 days prior to the provision of the vaccination or other prophylaxis.
 - c) Appropriate isolation or quarantine requirements of travelers.



- d) Any certificate issued to the traveler specifying the measures applied and the date of application.
 - e) Any health measures applied to baggage accompanying the traveler.
2. The competent authority may impose charges for health measures other than the measures referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, including those primarily taken for the benefit of the traveler. The Implementing Regulations shall specify the necessary conditions.

Article 24

The competent authority may impose charges for public health protection measures applied to baggage, cargo, containers, conveyances, goods or postal parcels, subject to conditions provided for in the Implementing Regulations.

Article 25

Without prejudice to any harsher penalty provided for in other laws, any person who violates any of the provisions of this Law and its Implementing Regulations shall be punished by a fine not exceeding five hundred thousand (500,000) riyals. The violator, operator or owner of the relevant conveyance shall be liable for any damage resulting from such violation.

Article 26

Pursuant to a decision by the Minister of Health, a committee comprising not less than three members and chaired by a legal advisor shall be formed to consider violations of the provisions of this Law and its Implementing Regulations, determine the appropriate penalty in accordance with this Law and submit its decision to the Minister for approval. Any person sentenced to a penalty may appeal before the Board of Grievances in accordance with its Law. If the violation is coupled with a criminal act, the case shall be referred to the Bureau of Investigation and Public Prosecution to investigate and prosecute before the competent court.

Article 27

Upon coordination with the Ministry of Interior (Border Guards), Ministry of Finance (Customs Authority), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Agriculture, Ports Authority, Presidency for Meteorology and Environment, General Authority of Civil Aviation and the Saudi Food and Drug Authority, the Minister of Health shall issue the Implementing Regulations of this Law within 90 days from the date of its publication.

Article 28

This Law shall supersede the Law of Quarantine promulgated by Royal Order No. (21/1/1112) on 6/5/1376 H and shall repeal any provision to the contrary.



Article 29

This Law shall enter into force 90 days following the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.