

LAWS OF THE GILBERT ISLANDS  
REVISED EDITION 1977

CHAPTER 80

PUBLIC HEALTH

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

Section

1. Short title
2. Interpretation
3. Regulations

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**An Ordinance relating to public health**

*Commencement: 1st December 1926*

8 of 1926  
(Cap. 39 of  
1952)  
L.N. 7/68  
8 of 1971  
9 of 1971  
(Cap. 38 of  
1973)  
14 of 1974

1. This Ordinance may be cited as the Public Health Ordinance.

Short title

2. In this Ordinance unless the context otherwise requires—  
“sanitary district” means any such part of the Gilbert Islands as may be declared and defined by the Secretary to be a sanitary district for the purposes of this Ordinance;

Interpreta-  
tion

“sanitary inspector” means any such person as may be appointed in writing by the Secretary to be a sanitary inspector under this Ordinance and includes any medical officer;

“infectious disease” means cholera, plague, yellow fever, small-pox, diphtheria, typhoid fever, croup, puerperal fever, dysentery, measles, mumps, whooping cough, leprosy, typhus fever, meningitis in all its forms, tuberculosis in all forms, poliomyelitis, yaws in all its forms, gonorrhoea and other venereal diseases, and any other disease which the Secretary may from time to time by notice declare temporarily or permanently to be an infectious disease for the purposes of this Ordinance.

3. (1) The Minister may make regulations for the purpose of

Regulations

protecting and advancing the public health of the Gilbert Islands and in particular as regards the following—

- (a) latrines, dustbins and drains;
- (b) scavenging, cleaning and disinfecting;
- (c) the removal and disposal of night-soil and house refuse;
- (d) the abatement of nuisances injurious to public health;
- (e) the prevention of the spread of infectious diseases including the segregation, isolation and removal of persons suffering from any such disease or of persons who have been in contact with any such persons;
- (f) regulating the carrying on of any trade declared by any such regulations to be an offensive trade;
- (g) regulating the sale of milk;
- (h) securing the cleanliness and freedom from pollution of tanks, vats, cisterns and other receptacles for storing water used or likely to be used by man for drinking or domestic purposes, and for the purification of water intended to be used in commodities offered for sale;
- ~~(i) regulating or prohibiting the use of any rain, stream, well or other water supply and for the prevention of the pollution thereof;~~
- (j) common lodging-houses;
- (k) bakehouses;
- (l) mosquitoes;
- (m) the protection of food offered for sale;
- (n) the manufacturing for sale of aerated waters;
- (o) slaughter-houses; and
- (p) laundries.

(2) Any person who acts in contravention of any such regulations shall be liable to a fine of \$20 or in default of payment to imprisonment for 1 month and in respect of any subsequent offence to a fine of \$50 or in default of payment to imprisonment for 3 months.

[Subsidiary]

#### SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION

##### Parts of the Gilbert Islands declared under section 2 to be sanitary districts

Notice dated  
13/2/43

- (a) Ocean Island, to be known as the Ocean Island Sanitary District;
- (b) the islands and atolls, namely Tarawa, Maiana, Abemama, Kuria, Aranuka, Abaiang, Marakei, Butaritari and Little Makin to be known together as the Northern Gilbert Islands Sanitary District;
- (c) the islands and atolls, namely Beru, Nonouti, Tabiteuea, Nikunau,

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Onotoa, Arorae and Tamana to be known together as the Southern Gilbert Islands Sanitary District;

- (d) the islands and atolls, namely Fanning Island, Washington Island and Christmas Island to be known together as the Fanning Island Sanitary District; and
- (e) the islands and atolls, namely Birnie, Canton, Enderbury, Gardner, Hull, McKean, Phoenix and Sidney to be known together as the Phoenix Islands Sanitary District.

#### Appointment of sanitary inspectors under section 2

1. The persons whose names appear from time to time in Part I or Part II or Part IV of the Medical and Dental Register are appointed sanitary inspectors and publication of those persons names in the *Gazette* pursuant to section 31 of the Medical and Dental Practitioners Ordinance shall be publication of their appointment as sanitary inspectors. L.N. 62/76  
Cap. 55

2. The persons from time to time holding office as health inspectors and assistant health inspectors are appointed sanitary inspectors and publication in the *Gazette* of their appointment shall be publication of their appointment as sanitary inspectors.

#### Regulations under section 3

##### PUBLIC HEALTH REGULATIONS

(1st December 1926)

8 of 1926

Sch.

8 of 1971

9 of 1971

14 of 1974

Citation

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Public Health Regulations.
2. All houses, buildings and premises, and the land in which they stand shall be kept clean. Premises to be kept clean
3. No stagnant water shall be allowed to lie in such lands for more than 24 hours unless treated to the satisfaction of a sanitary inspector by efficient drainage or with petroleum or other suitable oil. Stagnant water
4. No tins, bottles or other receptacles capable of holding water shall be allowed to remain upon any such premises or lands. Tins, etc.
5. All tanks, vats and vessels used for retaining water shall be efficiently covered with mosquito-proof gauze, or shall be treated with petroleum or other suitable oil to the satisfaction of a sanitary inspector. Tanks, etc.
6. No stagnant water shall be allowed to lie in any boat or vessel whether afloat or ashore. Water in boats
7. The guttering and downpipes connected with the roofs of all houses, buildings and premises shall be kept clean and efficient. Guttering, etc.
8. A sanitary inspector or any member of his staff thereto authorised by him in writing may, at all such times as he shall think fit, enter upon any premises for the purposes of inspection. Inspection

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- Inspection, etc., of unoccupied land 9. A sanitary inspector together with his assistants may enter upon any unoccupied or apparently unoccupied lands for the purpose of inspecting and cleaning the same; and the owner of such lands shall be liable for any expenses thereby incurred.
- Rubbish in streets, etc. 10. No person shall deposit or cause to be deposited any empty tin, bottle or other receptacle in any street, road, or other public place.
- Latrines 11. Every house or building in daily occupation shall be provided by the owner thereof with latrine accommodation as approved by a sanitary inspector.
- Cleaning of latrines 12. (1) Latrines shall be kept thoroughly clean.  
(2) Occupiers of houses and buildings shall immediately report to the sanitary inspector should the latrine pans at their houses or buildings not be removed daily.
- Destruction of latrine 13. A sanitary inspector may order the destruction without payment of compensation of any latrine which is, in his opinion, unfit for use, and a latrine approved by him shall thereupon be provided by the owner.
- Disposal of rubbish 14. All garbage and rubbish which can readily be destroyed by fire shall be so destroyed; and all other garbage and rubbish shall be placed in tins and covered with fly-proof covers, and such tins shall be placed daily in positions convenient for collection.
- Liability 15. (1) For any offence in contravention of any of regulations 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 12 and 14 the person primarily liable shall be the occupier of the house, building, premises or lands or the person in command of, or in charge of the boat or vessel upon which or in respect of which such offence was committed; and if there be no such occupier or person in charge, the owner of the said house, building, premises, land, boat or vessel as the case may be shall become liable in respect of such offence.  
(2) The liability imposed as aforesaid upon any occupier, person in charge or owner as aforesaid shall be in addition to the liability of any other person who aids or abets any contravention of the provisions of the regulations mentioned in paragraph (1).
- Food-stuffs 16. All persons who sell or deal in food-stuffs of a perishable nature shall keep such food-stuffs properly protected from flies; and if a sanitary inspector be satisfied that any such food-stuffs have not been so protected he may order the immediate destruction thereof without payment of compensation.
- Mineral waters and ice-cream 17. Only boiled or efficiently filtered water shall be used in operations connected with the manufacture and bottling of aerated waters and the making of ice-cream offered for sale; and any person failing to comply with the provisions of this regulation shall be deemed guilty of a contravention of these Regulations.
- Powers of Secretary 18. The Secretary, on the recommendation of a sanitary inspector, may order the destruction, without payment of compensation, or drainage of banana, pomecana, or other trees or plants that retain water.
- Power to prohibit sale of food 19. A sanitary inspector may prohibit the sale of any meat, fish, poultry, fruit, vegetables and other foods of any kind whatsoever that in his opinion are unfit for human consumption, and any person selling any commodities of which the

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sale has been so prohibited shall be deemed guilty of a contravention of the provisions of these Regulations.

20. Any well or water supply which is injurious to health may be closed by order of a sanitary inspector. Closing of wells

21. Every case of infectious disease shall be at once notified, in the case of a sick child, by the parent or guardian, and, in the case of a sick adult, by the householder in whose house the illness occurs, or by any other adult inmate of the house, to the nearest sanitary inspector: Notification of infectious disease

Provided that where any person required to notify a case of infectious disease is a labourer under contract of service, such labourer shall at once notify the case to the nearest person who may be in authority over him whether as his employer or as an agent of his employer or otherwise, and such person shall in turn at once notify the case to the nearest sanitary inspector:

And provided further that where any person under a duty of notification as aforesaid shall have failed in such duty the person in charge of the premises in which the case of infectious disease has occurred shall as soon as he shall have become aware thereof notify the case to the nearest sanitary inspector.

22. A sanitary inspector shall have power to order the isolation or removal to hospital of persons suffering from an infectious disease, and no person so isolated or removed to hospital shall leave or be taken from the place where he has been isolated or leave the hospital or be taken from it unless so ordered by a sanitary inspector. Isolation

23. Any person who has been in contact with a person suffering from any infectious disease, or who is known to have rendered himself liable in any other way to infection by an infectious disease, shall, if so ordered by a medical officer, remain in such place as such officer may direct for such period not exceeding 14 days as such officer may direct. Contacts

24. A medical officer may order without payment of compensation for any loss or damage suffered by the owner the removal, disinfection, or destruction of any boat, vessel or building or anything therein that has been exposed to infection. Disinfection

25. If any person shall be suffering from an infectious disease on any boat or vessel, notification shall be made at once to the nearest sanitary inspector by the person in charge of such boat or vessel. Infectious disease on boat

26. A sanitary inspector may at any time enter and inspect any boat, vessel or building in which he has reason to believe that there is a case of infectious disease. Power of entry

27. If any person obstructs any sanitary inspector acting under these Regulations in the execution of his duty or any assistant of any such sanitary inspector he shall be deemed guilty of a contravention of these Regulations. Obstruction of officer

28. (1) Regulations 2 to 16 inclusive shall apply only to such parts of the Gilbert Islands as are situate within a sanitary district. Application

(2) Regulations 17 to 27 inclusive shall apply throughout the Islands.