

N° 144.

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**ARGENTINE, BRÉSIL,  
PARAGUAY ET URUGUAY**

**Convention sanitaire internationale,  
signée à Rio-de-Janeiro le 21 avril  
1914.**

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**ARGENTINE, BRAZIL,  
PARAGUAY AND URUGUAY**

**International Sanitary Convention  
signed at Rio-de-Janeiro, April  
21, 1914.**

<sup>1</sup> TRANSLATION.

## No. 144. — INTERNATIONAL SANITARY CONVENTION SIGNED AT MONTEVIDEO, APRIL 21, 1914.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT OF THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC,  
HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF BRAZIL,  
HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF PARAGUAY,  
HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT OF URUGUAY.

desiring to safeguard the Public Health without causing unnecessary inconvenience to commercial transactions or to the transit of passengers, have resolved to conclude a Health Convention for this purpose, and have named as their plenipotentiaries :

## FOR HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT OF THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC :

Dr. Nicolas LOZANO, The Technical Secretary of the National Department of Health ;  
Dr. Wenceslao E. ACEVEDO, Director of the Division for Maritime and River Health Questions ;

## FOR HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF BRAZIL :

Dr. Oswaldo Gonçalves CRUZ, Director of the „ Oswaldo Cruz ” Institute ;  
Dr. Alberto Baez CONRADO, Consul General attached to the Brazilian Legation at Montevideo ;

## FOR HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF PARAGUAY :

Dr. Benigno ESCOBAR, Director of Public Relief and of the Free Hospital ;  
Dr. Manuel PÉREZ, Surgeon to the Free Hospital ;

## FOR HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF URUGUAY :

Dr. Alfredo Vidal Y FUENTES, President of the National Health Council ;  
Dr. Ernesto Fernández ESPIRO, Director of Health and of the International Health Office, and Member of the National Health Council ;  
Dr. Jaime H. OLIVER, Professor of the Faculty of Medicine and Member of the National Health Council.

The above having exchanged full powers, which were found in good and due form, have agreed to the following provisions.

<sup>1</sup> Translated by the Secretariat of the League of Nations.

## CHAPTER I.

## GENERAL PROVISIONS.

*Article 1.*

Each of the Contracting Governments undertakes to communicate to the others the discovery of the first case or cases of Asiatic Cholera, of Oriental Plague, or Yellow Fever, as soon as these diseases tend to spread. Information shall be similarly communicated, without delay, whenever cases of these diseases occur at places other than those which were originally infected.

*Article 2.*

The communication referred to above shall be made immediately by the Government of the infected State to the diplomatic representatives of the other Contracting States.

*Article 3.*

The communication in question shall give information on the following points: notification of the place in which one of the above-mentioned diseases appeared; the date when it commenced, its ascertained or probable cause; the number of cases or deaths; the symptoms of the disease; the means adopted to combat it. In the case of plague, it will further be stated whether the first cases were preceded by a marked mortality among rats, and if the presence of this disease has been proved among them.

*Article 4.*

The Health authorities of the infected country, after transmitting the statement referred to in Article 2, will forward each week to the Health authorities of the other Contracting States detailed statements regarding the course of the epidemic, giving the following information: the number of cases and deaths since the last statement, and the means employed to prevent the dissemination of the disease and its extension to the other Contracting States, without prejudice to the rights of the Health authorities of the States which are free from infection to demand the same information if it should be necessary.

*Article 5.*

The Health authorities of the infected State, after fulfilling the requirements of Article 2, shall furnish to the Consular Agents of the Contracting States such information as they may require regarding the course of the disease.

*Article 6.*

The Government of a State which seeks to guard itself against infection, shall communicate to the infected State the measures which it proposes to take against persons and goods coming from the latter State, and the date on which these measures will come into force.

*Article 7.*

A locality shall be considered as infected if repeated cases of cholera, yellow fever or plague occur there, without having been introduced from abroad.

*Article 8.*

The appearance of the first cases of cholera, plague or yellow fever at any place whatsoever shall not be sufficient grounds for the immediate application of defensive measures against persons and goods coming from that place, unless cases of plague or yellow fever should recur ; and, in regard to cholera, unless new cases occur in addition to the original cases, thus showing that the disease has not been mastered.

*Article 9.*

Prophylactic measures cannot be taken against persons or goods coming from localities in the neighbourhood of those which have been declared infected, or which are in communication with such places, from the moment that they have adopted the necessary precautions to guard themselves against infection.

*Article 10.*

Measures shall not be adopted against a vessel coming from an infected place, if such vessel can be shown to have sailed five days (in the case of cholera or plague), or six days (in the case of yellow fever) before the outbreak of the epidemic.

*Article 11.*

A place will cease to be considered as infected when ten days have elapsed since the last case of cholera or plague, or twelve days since the isolation of the last yellow fever case ; and when, further, the necessary means for disinfection have been taken, including, in the case of plague, measures for the extermination of rats, and, in the case of yellow fever, for the extermination of mosquitoes.

*Article 12.*

The High Contracting Parties undertake to adopt no other prophylactic measures, either in regard to sea or land transport, than those which are expressly specified in this Convention.

*Article 13*

The Governments of non-infected States shall be entitled to send Health Delegates to the State which is regarded as infected, with the object of collecting information and data relating to the course of the disease, and to the prophylactic measures taken against it.

*Article 14.*

The term " Health Security Service " is understood to mean the medical inspection carried out by the authorities concerned in respect of passengers arriving or passing through when coming from the infected places, during a period which may not exceed the period of incubation of the disease against which defensive measures are being taken :

(a) As regards first and second class passengers the " Health Security Measures " will be carried out on land and in suitable places.

The transfer of these persons from one point to another of the territory, or their departure from the country, shall be subordinated to the measures adopted by the respective authorities who furnish them with their Health Passports.

To guarantee the effectiveness of this Security Service, special Passports will be issued to the passengers before they disembark, and they will be required to deposit a sum of money, which will be refunded to them when they cease to be under supervision, or recourse may be had to some other method which will ensure the same results.

(b) As regards third class passengers, the Health Security Measures may be put in force in such places, and subject to such restrictions as the respective authorities may think fit.

#### *Article 15.*

The Contracting Parties undertake to receive, without any distinction, in their establishments for relief or isolation, sick persons in transit who are infected with cholera, plague or yellow fever, without regard to their place of origin or destination, except in so far as their remaining on board may constitute, in the opinion of the Health authorities, a danger to the other passengers.

## CHAPTER II.

### DEFENSIVE MEASURES ON LAND.

#### *Article 16.*

When the infected locality is situated near the frontiers of the Contracting States, measures for the protection of health shall be adopted in conformity with the following principles :

(a) Communication shall not be interrupted between the infected country and uninfected States, and health cordons and quarantine measures on land shall be abolished :

(b) The High Contracting Parties reserve the right to limit the number of points on the frontier through which the transit of passengers and goods may take place, the same principles being applied in regard to these places as in regard to maritime and river prophylaxis.

## CHAPTER III.

### MARITIME AND RIVER PROPHYLAXIS.

#### *Article 17.*

The Contracting Governments agree that they will not close their ports, no matter what may be the hygienic condition of the vessels or of the places from which they have come. They also reserve the right to limit the number of ports to be used for commercial operations with the infected countries.

#### *Article 18.*

No vessel may be refused admission, no matter what may be its port of clearance or its hygienic condition, provided that it complies with the provisions of this Convention.

*Article 19.*

The Health authorities shall take steps, at least once in three months, for the extermination of rats on the vessels which travel between the ports of the Contracting States.

*Article 20.*

Postal correspondence shall be admitted without any restrictions, except that, in cases of cholera or plague, postal packages containing articles which have been used and are liable to infection may be the subject of appropriate measures.

CHAPTER IV.

CLASSIFICATION OF VESSELS.

*Article 21.*

The High Contracting Parties agree to recognise as :

(a) *Vessels with a clean bill of health* : Any vessel which, though coming from an infected port, shall not have had any cases or deaths from plague, cholera or yellow fever, nor any epidemic among the rats, before her departure, during the passage or at the moment of arrival.

(b) *Infected vessels* : Any vessel which shall have had cases or deaths from cholera, plague or yellow fever, or an epidemic among the rats at the moment of departure, during the passage, or at the time of arrival.

*Article 22.*

In order to benefit by the privileges and advantages of the present Convention, all vessels intended for the transport of passengers must carry Health Inspectors, apparatus for disinfection and for the extermination of rats, mosquito nets, supplies of medical stores, disinfectants, and places suitable for isolating sick persons.

CHAPTER V.

HEALTH INSPECTORS.

*Article 23.*

The Contracting Governments agree to establish a Corps of Health Inspectors of a permanent character.

*Article 24.*

Each country reserves to itself the right to fix the number of Inspectors in accordance with the requirements of its health services on land, sea and rivers.

*Article 25.*

Only certified doctors, who have been qualified in the recognised medical services of their respective countries, and who, in the opinion of the Contracting Governments, possess special knowledge of bacteriology, epidemiology and hygiene, may occupy the post of Health Inspector

*Article 26.*

Appointments of Health Inspectors shall, in all cases, be communicated to the Health authorities of the other countries, together with the name of the Inspector and the date of his appointment.

*Article 27.*

It shall be the duty of Health Inspectors to furnish the authorities at the ports of call and destination respectively, with a detailed statement of incidents which have happened on the journey; these will be recorded in their clinical diaries, together with the health measures which were adopted in the port of departure and during the passage.

*Article 28.*

The declarations and statements made by the Inspectors, no matter of what nationality, shall be accepted as valid by the Health authorities of the Contracting States, and must be taken into consideration with a view to the application of appropriate measures.

*Article 29.*

Passenger vessels which do not carry a Health Inspector shall not benefit by the advantages granted by this Convention, and the Health authorities retain the right of applying to them such measures as they may think fit.

## CHAPTER VI.

## TREATMENT OF ORIENTAL PLAGUE.

## MEASURES TO BE ADOPTED IN THE INFECTED PORT BEFORE DEPARTURE.

*Article 30.*

The Health authorities of the infected port, whether a port of departure or of call, shall take the necessary steps to prevent:

(a) the introduction of rats on board a vessel by means of hawsers, cables, chains and other means of communication with the land.

(b) The embarkation of persons showing obvious or suspicious symptoms of plague, or persons who have been in contact with others suffering from this disease.

(c) The taking on board of personal or other effects which are regarded as infected, and which have not been previously disinfected on land under the supervision of the authorities concerned.

(d) The extermination of rats must also be effected, this operation being carried out, whenever possible, before the vessel is loaded.

#### MEASURES WHICH MUST BE ADOPTED DURING THE PASSAGE.

##### *Article 31.*

During the passage the Health Inspector must exercise the most scrupulous vigilance with regard to the health of the passengers and crew. He will make investigations and ascertain whether dead rats have been found on the ship, and he will collect all the material necessary in order to describe, as clearly as possible, the hygienic condition of the vessel.

##### *Article 32.*

If cases of plague should occur on board a ship during the passage, the Health Inspector shall cause these cases to be strictly isolated in a suitable spot and will see that all articles which the patient has used are disinfected. He will also take steps, if this course should be agreed to, for the inoculation of the other passengers and of the crew of the vessel.

#### MEASURES TO BE ADOPTED AT THE PORT OF DESTINATION.

##### *Article 33.*

Ships with a clean bill of health shall be received, with free permission for landing, provided always that they have complied with the provisions of Article 30, and that a certificate to this effect has been furnished by the Health authority at the infected port.

The passengers and crew will remain subject to quarantine supervision for a period which must not exceed 5 days, including the date of departure from the last place.

##### *Article 34.*

Vessels with a clean bill of health which have not complied with the provisions of §§ (a) and (d) of Article 30 shall also be received, with free permission for landing, and shall remain subject to the provisions of the second paragraph of the previous Article, and must further proceed to exterminate their rats before or after discharging their cargo.

##### *Article 35.*

Infected vessels shall be subjected to the following treatment :

(a) Persons suspected or diagnosed as suffering from a disease shall be disembarked and suitably isolated.

(b) The remaining passengers shall be disembarked after having been first inoculated, and will be subjected to quarantine supervision which must not exceed 5 days, counting from the hour of disembarkation,



(c) Passengers who refuse to be inoculated shall be subjected to quarantine supervision in such places and also under such restrictions as the Health authorities shall determine for the period laid down in the preceding sub-paragraph.

(d) The crew may not disembark, without having been first inoculated, until 5 days have elapsed since the arrival of the ship, except on condition of being subjected to the provisions of the preceding sub-paragraph.

(e) After the disembarkation of the passengers, the vessel shall be disinfected and steps shall be taken to exterminate the rats before or after the cargo has been discharged.

(f) Linen and other personal effects of the passengers shall be suitably disinfected.

#### Article 36.

Cargo vessels coming from an infected port shall be subjected to the measures laid down in Article 35, sub-paragraph (e), no matter what treatment they may have received at their port of clearance or at the last infected port at which they have touched. When these proceedings have been carried out, the cargo shall be accepted without any restrictions whatever, no matter what may be its nature.

### CHAPTER VII.

#### TREATMENT OF YELLOW FEVER.

##### STEPS TO BE TAKEN AT THE PORT OF CLEARANCE.

#### Article 37.

The Health authorities of the infected port, whether a port of clearance or of call, shall take the necessary steps to prevent :

(a) The introduction on board the vessels of mosquitoes from the land ; steps will be taken for the extermination of any mosquitoes which may be in the vessel ;

(b) The embarkation of persons showing obvious or suspicious symptoms of yellow fever, or who have been in contact with persons suffering from that disease.

##### STEPS TO BE TAKEN DURING THE PASSAGE.

#### Article 38.

During the passage, the Health Inspector shall exercise the most scrupulous supervision over the health of the passengers and crew ; he will make investigations with a view to discovering the presence of mosquitoes, larvæ or chrysalises on board the ship and will employ all means which he thinks fit to destroy them, and will collect all the information required to give as clear a description as possible of the hygienic condition of the vessel.

#### Article 39.

If, during the passage, cases occur which are suspected or diagnosed as yellow fever, the Health Inspector will protect the isolation ward by means of adequate mosquito nets, so as to avoid any possibility of the sick persons being bitten by mosquitoes.

## STEPS TO BE TAKEN AT THE PORT OF DESTINATION.

*Article 40.*

At the port of destination, the vessels arriving from places infected with yellow fever shall be subjected to the following treatment :

(a) Vessels with a clean bill of health which, when in the infected port, shall have taken the precautions laid down in §§ (a) and (b) of Article 37 if a certificate to that effect is furnished by the Health authorities concerned, shall be received, with free leave to disembark, on condition that the passengers and crews shall be placed in quarantine, which may not exceed 6 days reckoned from the date of departure.

(b) Vessels with a clean bill of health which have not taken the precautions laid down in § (a) of Article 37, shall also be received with free leave to disembark, but all the provisions of the previous paragraph must be complied with and steps must be taken before the cargo is discharged, to exterminate any mosquitoes which may be on board.

*Article 41.*

Infected vessels shall be subjected to the following treatment :

(a) Suspected or diagnosed cases shall be disembarked under conditions which will prevent their being bitten by mosquitoes and suitably isolated.

(b) The remaining passengers shall be disembarked and shall be subjected to quarantine supervision not exceeding 6 days reckoned from the time of disembarkation.

(c) As soon as the passengers have disembarked, steps shall be taken to exterminate the mosquitoes, larvae and chrysalises on board.

*Article 42.*

The cargo shall be received without any restrictions whatever, no matter what may be its description or the health classification of the vessel in which it was carried.

*Article 43.*

The vessels referred to in § (b) of Article 40, and also infected vessels, must anchor at the places assigned to them by the Health authorities of the respective countries.

## CHAPTER VIII.

## TREATMENT OF ASIATIC CHOLERA.

## MEASURES TO BE ADOPTED AT THE PORT OF DEPARTURE.

*Article 44.*

Vessels coming from an infected port must proceed to clean and disinfect their water-tanks, and must take in water before sailing, under conditions which will ensure its purity, and under the control of the Health authorities.

*Article 45.*

The Health authorities at the infected port, whether a port of departure or of call, shall take the necessary steps to prevent :

(a) The embarkation of persons showing obvious or suspected symptoms of Asiatic cholera or who have been in contact with persons suffering from that disease.

(b) The export of personal effects or other infected articles which have not been disinfected on land under the supervision of the Authorities concerned.

(c) The landing of members of the crew and the reembarkation of passengers in transit, who have been landed from a ship with a clean bill of health.

## STEPS TO BE TAKEN DURING THE PASSAGE.

*Article 46.*

During the passage, the Health Inspector will exercise the most scrupulous supervision over the health of the passengers and crew and will collect all the information required to give as clear a description as possible of the hygienic condition of the vessel ; and whenever possible, will carry out bacteriological investigations of the excreta.

*Article 47.*

If suspected or diagnosed cases of Asiatic cholera occur during the passage, the Health Inspector will take steps for the isolation and thorough disinfection of the excreta, together with linen and personal effects — the latter operation to be extended to the linen and personal effects of persons who have been in contact with the patients.

## STEPS TO BE TAKEN AT THE PORT OF ARRIVAL.

*Article 48.*

At the port of arrival, vessels coming from places infected with Asiatic cholera, shall undergo the following treatment :

(a) Vessels with a clean bill of health which shall have taken the precautions laid down in Articles 44 and 45, while in the infected port, and have certificates to that effect from the Health authorities of the port of departure or of call, shall be received with free leave for disembarkation, but the passengers and crew must be subjected to quarantine supervision which must not exceed 5 days reckoned from the date of leaving the last port or of the last contact with infection.

(b) Vessels with a clean bill of health which have not complied with the provisions of Article 44 and §§ (a) and (b) of Article 45, shall have free leave to disembark the passengers and crew after they have been disinfected. The passengers and crew shall be subjected to quarantine supervision for a period not exceeding 5 days reckoned from the time of disembarkation.

*Article 49.*

Infected vessels shall be subjected to the following treatment :

(a) They must comply with the instructions of the Health authorities in order to avoid infecting the water of the port.

(b) Suspected or diagnosed cases must be disembarked and suitably isolated.

(c) Passengers who, according to the statement of the Health Inspector, have been in contact with sick persons, must be landed and conducted to suitable places where their excreta shall be subjected to bacteriological tests.

If the result of these tests is positive, the quarantine supervision shall be prolonged, in the case of germ-carriers, for a period to be determined by the Health authorities.

If the contrary is the case, this supervision shall not exceed 5 days reckoned from the time of disembarkation. The remaining passengers shall be subjected to the same supervision.

(d) The Health authorities at the port of arrival may arrange that the quarantine supervision of the crew shall be carried out on board ; for the rest, the crew will be subject to the same measures as laid down for the passengers.

(e) Linen and other personal effects of the passengers and crew shall be suitably disinfected.

(f) After the passengers have been disembarked, the vessel shall be unloaded and thoroughly disinfected.

(g) The cargo, no matter what its description, shall not be subject to any special treatment unless the Health authorities have good reasons to consider it infected.

## CHAPTER IX.

## SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS.

*Article 50.*

The Contracting Governments undertake to standardise the health measures which shall apply, in every case, to vessels coming from infected countries which are not participants in this Convention, with a view to bringing such treatment into harmony with the principles laid down therein.

*Article 51.*

In case progress of science should bring to light new methods for the protection of health, the Health authorities of the Contracting States shall have power, by common agreement, to embody them in this Convention.

*Article 52.*

The present Convention shall be valid for a period of 4 years, and if it is not denounced 6 months before the expiration of this period by any of the Contracting States, it shall be considered as prolonged for a further period of 4 years.

*Article 53.*

The present Convention shall be ratified and the ratifications shall be deposited at Montevideo at the earliest possible date.

The Government of the Republic of Uruguay will notify the deposit of the ratifications to the Signatory Governments through diplomatic channels.

This Convention shall come into force as soon as it is promulgated, in conformity with the legislation of the Signatory States, and shall replace the Health Convention signed at Rio de Janeiro on June 12, 1904.

In faith of which, the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed it and have thereto affixed their seals.

Done at Montevideo on April 21, 1914, in the Spanish and Portuguese languages, in one original, which will be deposited in the Archives of the Foreign Office of the Republic of Uruguay, true copies being sent by diplomatic channels to each of the High Contracting Parties.

(L. S.) (Signed) NICOLAS LOZANO  
(Signed) WENCESLAO E. ACEVEDO.  
(L. S.) (Signed) OSWALDO GONÇALVES CRUZ.  
(Signed) ALBERTO BAEZ CONRADO.  
(L. S.) (Signed) BENIG. ESCOBAR.  
(Signed) MAN. PEREZ.  
(L. S.) (Signed) ALFREDO VIDAL Y FUENTES.  
(Signed) E. FERNANDEZ ESPIRO.  
(Signed) J. H. OLIVER.

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