
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1979 No. 1434

The Public Health (Aircraft) Regulations 1979

PART III

INCOMING AIRCRAFT

Inspection of aircraft

7.—(1) An authorised officer may, for the purposes of these regulations, inspect any aircraft at a customs airport.

(2) The medical officer or other authorised officer acting on the medical officer's instructions shall—

- (a) inspect on arrival any aircraft in respect of which the commander has sent a message under regulation 12; and
- (b) inspect any aircraft at the airport when he has reasonable grounds for believing that there is on board a case or suspected case of infectious disease.

(3) The medical officer or other authorised officer acting on the medical officer's instructions may require any aircraft which he intends to inspect under this regulation to be taken to some safe and convenient part of the airport for such inspection if it cannot otherwise be carried out effectively.

(4) For the purposes of this regulation, the inspection of an aircraft may include the taking from the aircraft of samples of food and water for the purposes of analysis or examination with a view to the treatment of persons affected with any epidemic, endemic or infectious disease and for preventing the spread of such diseases.

Examination, etc., of persons on aircraft

8.—(1) The medical officer may, and if so requested by the commander or required by the Secretary of State shall examine any person on board or leaving an aircraft at a customs airport, when there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that—

- (a) the person is suffering from an infectious disease;
- (b) the person has been exposed to infection from an infectious disease;
- (c) the person is verminous.

(2) The authorised officer may—

- (a) detain any such person for such examination at a place appointed for the purpose;
- (b) require the clothing and other articles belonging to any person so examined to be disinfected and, where necessary, disinfected and any person found to be verminous to be disinfected;
- (c) except as provided in regulation 21, prohibit any person so examined from leaving the aircraft or airport, or permit him to leave it on such conditions and subject to the taking

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of such measures, under these regulations, as the medical officer considers reasonably necessary for preventing the spread of infection; and

- (d) require the commander to take or assist in taking such steps as in the opinion of the medical officer are reasonably necessary for preventing the spread of infection, for disinfection and the destruction of vermin, and for the removal of conditions on the aircraft likely to convey infection, including conditions the existence of which might facilitate the harbouring of insects or vermin.

(3) The medical officer or other authorised officer or a customs officer may, and if so required by the Secretary of State shall, require any person on board or leaving an aircraft at a customs airport to produce a valid International Vaccination Certificate.

(4) A customs officer or other authorised officer may detain until the arrival of the medical officer or for three hours, whichever is the shorter period, any such person who has been required to produce such a certificate and is unable to do so.

(5) Where any such person fails to satisfy the medical officer that he possesses such a certificate, the medical officer may detain him for examination at a place appointed for that purpose, and may apply in his case the additional measures mentioned in paragraphs (1) and (2) of Part IV of schedule 2.

(6) The medical officer, customs officer or other authorised officer shall immediately notify the responsible authority of any directions given to him by the Secretary of State under this regulation.

Powers in respect of persons leaving aircraft

9.—(1) Where a person intending to leave an aircraft at a customs airport is suffering, or the medical officer suspects that he is suffering, from an infectious disease or tuberculosis, the medical officer may—

- (a) in the case of an infectious disease, cause such person on leaving the aircraft to be isolated, or to be sent to a hospital or to some other suitable place approved for that purpose by the responsible authority, as may be appropriate; or, except as provided in regulation 21, the medical officer may, by notice in writing to the commander, prohibit the person from leaving the aircraft without the consent in writing of the medical officer;
- (b) in the case of tuberculosis, if the person leaves the aircraft, send information to that effect to the medical officer for the area in which the intended destination and address of the person is situated.

(2) Where the Secretary of State is satisfied that a grave danger to public health exists by reason of infectious disease and notifies medical officers accordingly, the medical officer may, and if the Secretary of State so directs shall, require a person leaving an aircraft at a customs airport to state in writing his name and intended destination and address.

Notice to customs officer by authorised officer

10. The authorised officer at a customs airport shall inform the customs officer of any measure applied by him or at his direction, under these regulations, to an aircraft, any person thereon, or its stores, equipment or cargo.

Supply of information, etc., by commanders

11.—(1) The commander of an aircraft at a customs airport shall—

- (a) answer all questions as to the health conditions on board which may be put to him by an authorised officer or a customs officer visiting the aircraft, and furnish any such officer

with all such information and assistance as he may reasonably require for the purposes of these regulations;

- (b) in addition to any message sent under regulation 12, notify immediately on arrival to an authorised officer any death on the aircraft during its voyage caused otherwise than by accident, any case of infectious disease on the aircraft, or any circumstances on board which are likely to cause the spread of infectious disease, including in his notification particulars as to the presence or suspected presence on board of any animals or captive birds of any species;
 - (c) comply with these regulations, and with any directions or requirements of an authorised officer given or made for the purposes of these regulations.
- (2) For the avoidance of doubt, the expression “captive birds” includes poultry.

Notification of infectious disease, etc., on board

12.—(1) Where a member of the crew of an aircraft becomes aware that there is on board the aircraft during a flight a person who is suffering from an infectious disease, or who has symptoms which may indicate the presence of infectious disease, he shall report the details to the commander of the aircraft who shall send a radio message to that effect to the authorised officer at the first customs airport at which the aircraft is due to land, or to the owner or manager of such airport.

(2) If such radio message is sent to the authorised officer, he shall immediately notify the customs officer of its contents.

(3) If such radio message is sent to the person in charge of the customs airport he shall immediately notify the authorised officer and the customs officer of its contents.

(4) The owner or manager of an aerodrome or any person deputed to act on his behalf, shall inform the authorised officer of any aircraft arriving at that aerodrome which during its flight last landed at

- (a) an aerodrome within an infected area; or
- (b) such aerodrome as may be notified by the medical officer.

(5) The information required under paragraph (4) shall be given to the authorised officer before or immediately after the arrival of the aircraft mentioned therein.

(6) The medical officer may require the commander of an aircraft, or, as the case may be, all such commanders flying the aircraft of a specified airline, to complete an Aircraft Declaration of Health in the form set out in Schedule 1.

(7) The Aircraft Declaration of Health completed in accordance with paragraph (6) shall be delivered to the authorised officer by the commander of the aircraft, or by a member of the crew deputed to act on his behalf.

Deratting and disinfection of aircraft

13.—(1) Where—

- (a) the presence of rodents is suspected on board an aircraft, or
- (b) an aircraft is infected because a plague-infected rodent is found on board on arrival,

the authorised officer may require the aircraft to be deratted in such a manner as he may determine.

(2) The authorised officer may require an aircraft, together with such of its contents as he may specify, to be disinfected in such manner as the officer may determine where the aircraft is infected because an animal infected or suspected of being infected with plague, lassa fever, viral haemorrhagic fever or marburg disease is found on board on arrival.

(3) The commander of an aircraft which is at an aerodrome or a member of the crew deputed to act on his behalf, or in the absence of the crew the person for the time being in charge of the aircraft shall inform the authorised officer of the presence or suspected presence of rodents on the aircraft.

(4) Where an aircraft has been deratted the commander of the aircraft or a member of the crew deputed to act on his behalf, or in the absence of the crew the person for the time being in charge of the aircraft shall inform the authorised officer of the arrangements made for the disposal of the rodents.

Detention of aircraft

14.—(1) When on the arrival of an aircraft at a customs airport the medical officer has reasonable grounds for believing that the aircraft may be an infected aircraft or a suspected aircraft, or an aircraft which, although not falling within either of such categories, has had on board during the voyage a case of a disease subject to the International Health Regulations in respect of which the aircraft has not outside the United Kingdom been subjected to appropriate measures equivalent to those provided for in these regulations, he may cause the aircraft to be detained for medical inspection.

(2) If the medical officer has caused an aircraft to be so detained, he shall inform the person in charge of the customs airport of such detention and send a notice in writing of such detention to the customs officer.

15. If a customs officer receives in respect of an aircraft a notice in writing from the medical officer under regulation 14, he shall, if he visits the aircraft before the medical officer, deliver the notice to the commander and take all reasonable steps to secure compliance therewith.

16. Where on the arrival of an aircraft at a customs airport it appears to the customs officer that during the voyage of the aircraft—

- (a) there has been on the aircraft a death caused otherwise than by accident, or a case of illness which is or is suspected to be of an infectious nature; or
- (b) the aircraft has been in an infected area; or
- (c) death not attributable to poison or other measures for destruction has occurred amongst rodents on the aircraft,

he shall, unless the authorised officer otherwise directs, give such directions as seem necessary to him to secure the detention of the aircraft, the persons carried thereon, and its stores, equipment and cargo.

17. The detention of an aircraft by a customs officer under these regulations shall cease as soon as the aircraft has been inspected by an authorised officer or, if such inspection has not commenced within 3 hours after the aircraft has been so detained, on the expiration of that period:

Provided that nothing in this regulation shall affect the power of the medical officer to continue the detention of an aircraft under regulation 18.

18.—(1) The medical officer shall inspect any aircraft and the persons carried thereon as soon as possible and in any case within 3 hours after it has been detained under these regulations.

(2) If the aircraft is one to which the authorised officer is required by these regulations to apply any further or additional measure, or if after such inspection the medical officer considers it necessary to apply any further or additional measure under these regulations, the medical officer may continue the detention of the aircraft, if such continued detention is necessary for the application of that further or additional measure.

Release of aircraft

19. When the authorised officer releases an aircraft from detention he shall give notice in writing to the customs officer, to the commander of the aircraft and to the person in charge of the customs airport that, so far as control under these regulations is concerned, the aircraft is free to proceed at or after a date and time stated in the notice.

Persons from infected areas

20. On the arrival of an aircraft at a customs airport, the medical officer may place under surveillance for the appropriate period specified in regulation 30(1)—

- (a) any person disembarking from the aircraft who has come from an infected area other than an area infected with yellow fever or plague, and
- (b) any suspect disembarking from the aircraft who has come from an area infected with yellow fever, plague, lassa fever, viral haemorrhagic fever or marburg disease.

Removal of infected persons from aircraft when required by commander

21. The medical officer shall, if so required by the commander of an aircraft on arrival at a customs airport, cause any infected person to be removed from the aircraft.

Removal to sanitary airport

22. If the authorised officer considers that there should be applied to an aircraft which alights elsewhere than at a sanitary airport, or to any person carried thereon, measures under these regulations which can be applied only at a sanitary airport, he may direct that the aircraft or any such person shall proceed to a sanitary airport, and he shall give the commander notice in writing of the direction and of the reasons for the direction.

Additional measures

23. Without prejudice to any other provision in these regulations, the additional measures in Schedule 2 shall be applicable on the arrival at a customs airport of—

- (a) any infected aircraft or suspected aircraft;
- (b) any aircraft which has during its voyage been in an area infected with plague, cholera, yellow fever, lassa fever, rabies, viral haemorrhagic fever or marburg disease;
- (c) any suspect for smallpox on an aircraft other than an infected aircraft;
- (d) any other aircraft or person, when the authorised officer is satisfied that, notwithstanding that measures equivalent to such additional measures have been applied to the aircraft or person previously during its voyage, there is on board or has been on board since such previous application an infected person or suspect and that it is necessary again to apply any such measure, or the authorised officer has reasonable grounds for believing that such previous application was not substantially effective.

Avoidance of delay

24. In applying any measures under these regulation, the authorised officer shall have regard to the need for freeing aircraft from control under these regulations as quickly as possible.

Aircraft alighting elsewhere than at a customs airport

25.—(1) Where an aircraft alights elsewhere than at a customs airport—

- (a) the commander shall forthwith give notice to that effect to the responsible authority or a customs officer or an immigration officer or a police officer and, if the aircraft has alighted at an aerodrome, to the person in charge thereof;
- (b) except for the purpose of the preceding sub-paragraph, no person carried by the aircraft shall leave its vicinity unless authorised so to do by the authorised officer, and any person so authorised shall inform such officer of his name and his intended destination and address, but this sub-paragraph shall not be construed as dispensing with the necessity to secure any consent arising under any other enactment;
- (c) subject as aforesaid, these regulations shall apply, with any necessary modification, in relation to the aircraft, the persons carried thereon, and its stores, equipment and cargo, to the extent to which they are not required by a police officer or customs officer to proceed or, as the case may be, to be taken to a customs airport, as if the aircraft had alighted at a customs airport and for the purposes of such application the list of infected areas kept under regulation 6 shall be any list so kept by the medical officer of the responsible authority or, if there is no such list, any list so kept by the medical officer for the customs airport nearest to the place where the aircraft has alighted.

(2) If any person who has informed an officer under this regulation of his intended destination and address arrives within fourteen days thereafter at some other address, he shall forthwith send particulars of that address to the medical officer of the responsible authority for the place at which he left the aircraft.

Saving for certain aircraft

26. In the case of an aircraft which has commenced its voyage at a place within the excepted area and has not during its voyage alighted at any place outside that area—

- (a) the commander shall not be bound to comply with the provisions of regulations 11 or 25(1) (a) unless he has been notified by the medical officer that compliance with those provisions is necessary because of danger to public health;
- (b) no person carried by the aircraft shall be bound by the provisions of regulation 25(1)(b) or (c) unless he has been notified by the medical officer that those provisions apply to him because of danger to public health;
- (c) the powers and duties conferred or imposed on the medical officer by regulations 7, 8(1) (2)(3) and (5), 9, 14(1), 18(2), 20, 21, 22 and 23 shall not be exercised or performed unless the medical officer is satisfied, or the Secretary of State has directed, that the exercise of the powers or the performance of the duties conferred or imposed by those provisions is necessary because of danger to public health;
- (d) the powers and duties conferred on a customs officer or authorised officer by regulations 8(3) and (4) and 16 shall not be exercised or performed unless the Secretary of State has directed, or the medical officer is satisfied and has so informed the customs officer or authorised officer, that the exercise of the powers or the performance of the duties conferred or imposed by those provisions is necessary because of danger to public health.