

SANITARY RULES AND REGULATIONS

GOVERNING THE HEALTH OF OPERATIVES, AND CONDITIONS
WHICH SHOULD PREVAIL IN THE BUILDINGS OR PLACES
DEVOTED TO THE MANUFACTURE OF CIGARS,
CIGARETTES, ETC.

Administrative Bulletin No. 127.

BY THE GOVERNOR OF PORTO RICO—A PROCLAMATION

Sanitary Rules and Regulations No. 54.—The health of operatives and conditions which should prevail in buildings or places devoted to the manufacture of cigars and cigarettes, etc; Regulations governing; Promulgated.

The following regulations having been approved by the Insular Board of Health on April 18, 1917, and by the Executive Council on May 15, 1917, in accordance with the provisions of Act 81, approved March 14, 1912, are hereby promulgated for the information and guidance of all concerned:

REGULATION OF THE HEALTH OF OPERATIVES AND THE CONDITIONS WHICH SHOULD PREVAIL IN THE BUILDINGS OR PLACES DEVOTED TO THE MANUFACTURE OF CIGARS, CIGARETTES, CUT TOBACCO, SNUFF, PLUG TOBACCO AND OTHER MANUFACTURED FORMS OF TOBACCO LEAF.

Article 1.—The owners, managers, administrators or agents of any factory in which tobacco is used or handled, before admitting any operative work shall verify by means of a medical certificate the state of health of said employee and shall not admit in the factory any operative or employee suffering from acute venereal diseases, syphilis of the skin, open tuberculosis, diphtheria, skin and scaling diseases, leprosy or any other transmissible disease that may leave contagious germs upon the objects handled or on the persons who go to the factory. The examination of the state of health shall be held at the time and place appointed by the Commissioner of Health and shall be conducted by the physicians of the Service, for which they shall receive no remuneration. All regulations, ordinances and dispositions relating to the Certificate of Health shall be in force, until new certificates are issued.

Article 2.—Henceforth from the date of the promulgation of this regulation, no factory of cigars, cigarettes, plugs, snuff, rolled or chewing tobacco, etc., shall be established in Porto Rico unless under the conditions herein prescribed. Factories already established at the promulgation of this regulation shall adapt themselves to the disposition of the same within a maximum period of five years, in gradual order as may be necessary for sanitary requirements as the Commissioner of Health shall order from time to time; *Provided*, That the provisions of this regulation shall be applicable to all buildings or parts of buildings

occupied by the factory already established in accordance with the dispositions in force at the promulgation of this regulation. None of these dispositions shall be applicable to those factories employing less than ten operatives.

Article 3.—The workshops or factories shall consist of as many departments independent one from another as the series of treatments to which the tobacco leaf is to be subjected. Each department shall contain as many windows as shall be necessary for perfect lighting, easily shut and opened to secure proper ventilation without causing strong draughts.

Article 4.—The height between the floor and the ceiling of each department shall in no case be less than three meters and a half ($3\frac{1}{2}$), except only when a small number of operatives are employed or where they work only from time to time. This height may be reduced to three meters if the ventilation of the place is according to plans approved by the sanitary authorities.

Article 5.—Each workshop shall contain at least eight cubic meters of air to every operative working in said shop. In factories already established, the ventilation, lighting and other conditions being satisfactory, especially that of cleanliness, the Commissioner of Health may reduce the air space required to seven cubic meters to each operative working in said space: *Provided*, That nothing herein contained shall be interpreted as authorizing a violation of Act 42 of 1913.

Article 6.—Smoking shall be prohibited in the workshops during working hours.

Article 7.—Twice a day, for at least half an hour at a time, before beginning work, the workshops shall be ventilated by opening all the windows. During such times no operative shall remain within the shop.

Article 8.—No spitting shall be allowed in any gallery, vestibule, passage, stairway, latrine or any building attached to a workshop, excepting in spittoons placed for this purpose, sufficient in number, and which shall be washed and disinfected daily.

Article 9.—When the walls and ceiling are not smooth enough to be cleaned by the use of hose, or when not painted with oil paint they shall be white-washed at least once a year. Those painted with oil paint shall be revarnished every two years. The floors shall be constructed of materials approved by the Commissioner of Health. There shall be no cracks in walls or floors and they shall be kept in good repair.

Article 10.—Every afternoon after working hours the floors of the workshops shall be sprinkled and swept. This shall never be done during working hours, and every two weeks the floors as well as the windows shall be carefully scrubbed. At least twice a year the ceiling and walls shall be thoroughly scrubbed. Sweeping without sprinkling is prohibited.

Article 11.—Every operative shall wear a suitable blouse, large enough and adapted to the climate and his work. These blouses shall be kept in a suitable closet, to be provided by the employer at the factory.

Article 12.—There shall be a sufficient number of convenient wash basins in each workshop. When the water is not constantly removed there shall at least be a basin for every five operatives. Pure water shall be provided in abundance, and a proper method for disposing of the dirty water. Paper towels shall be hung near the basins. The operatives shall wash their hands and faces before beginning work.

Article 13.—In the places where stripping is done the highest conditions of lighting and ventilation shall prevail in the old as well as the new workshops.

Article 14.—In no workshop shall the operatives work in front of each other, but shall be placed side by side, two and a (2½) meters apart. The teeth shall not be used for cutting off the tobacco after forming the cigars. Each table shall be provided with a mechanical apparatus for holding gum, or a tin box divided in the center, with a place on one side for a washable metal jar such as is commonly used. Said gum is to be used exclusively for sealing wrappers; the use of saliva is strictly prohibited. *Provided, However,* That the provision in respect to the placing of operatives shall take effect ninety days after promulgation.

Article 15.—The privies of the factories shall be kept perfectly clean, well ventilated and in perfect running order. One shall be provided for every fifty (50) operatives. The sexes shall be separated.

Article 16.—The storing and drying of tobacco of the inside wrappers of cigars, as well as the mixture and sifting of the same, shall take place in different departments designed for this sole purpose. If there are doors between those departments they must remain closed. In the corridors and other departments for working and sorting tobacco, only such an amount of filling and inside wrappers shall be kept as is considered necessary for use during the day. The sifting of tobacco shall not be done in closed receptacles. The boilers used for preparing the mixture for chewing tobacco shall be provided with evaporating tubes. No person less than fourteen years of age shall be employed in the work of preparing smoking and chewing tobacco.

Article 17.—When gas or other combustibles that vitiate the air are used in the motors of tobacco factories, they should be installed in separate and well-ventilated places. The mills used for grinding tobacco that is to be made into powder consist of an apparatus that will prevent the dust from flying about the workshop.

Article 18.—A copy of this regulation as well as the number of operatives permitted in each department and the cubic space allotted to each, shall be posted in such place as may be easily read by said operatives.

Article 19.—Every infraction of any of the provisions of these regulations shall be punished in accordance with the provisions of section 33 of "An Act to reorganize the Service of Sanitation", approved March 14, 1912.

Article 20.—All regulations or ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Article 21.—These regulations shall take effect from and after their approval by the Executive Council and promulgated and published as provided in section 13 of "An Act to reorganize the Service of Sanitation", approved March 14, 1912.

Being so promulgated and having been published in two newspapers of general circulation in the Island, in accordance with the provisions of section 13 of Act 81, approved March 14, 1912, the said regulation entitled "Regulation of the health of operatives and the conditions which should prevail in the buildings or places devoted to the manufacture of cigars, cigarettes, cut tobacco, snuff, plug tobacco and other manufactured forms of tobacco leaf", on and after this date have the force and effect of law.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused

the seal of the Government of Porto Rico to be affixed at the city of San Juan this fifth day of June, one thousand nine hundred and seventeen.

ARTHUR YAGER,
Governor.

[SEAL]

Promulgated according to law, June 5, 1917.

R. SIACA PACHECO,
Executive Secretary.

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

This REVIEW will be glad to receive articles for publication but will reserve the right to publish only those adapted to its purposes.

It is especially interested in contributions from the medical profession particularly from those who are competent to discuss public health matters.

Manuscripts are not returned. All articles should be addressed to:

PORTO RICO HEALTH REVIEW,
Department of Health,
San Juan, Porto Rico.

