

SANITARY RULES AND REGULATIONS No. 68

REGULATION TO PREVENT THE CONTAMINATION OF SOIL IN RURAL DISTRICTS

THE PEOPLE OF PORTO RICO
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

SAN JUAN, P. R., October 7, 1920.

Administrative Bulletin No. 202.

BY THE GOVERNOR OF PORTO RICO
A PROCLAMATION

Sanitary Rules and Regulations No. 68—Contamination of soil, regulation to prevent the, in rural districts; promulgated.

The following rules and regulations, having been approved by the Insular Board of Health on August 30, and by the Executive Council on September 13, 1920, in accordance with the provisions of Act No. 81, approved march 14, 1912, are hereby promulgated for the information and guidance of all concerned:

REGULATION TO PREVENT CONTAMINATION OF THE SOIL IN RURAL DISTRICTS

Section 1.—The deposit of human excrement in the open fields or any place other than a latrine is hereby strictly prohibited.

Section 2.—It is the duty of every owner of a rustic house or shack in the rural districts to provide a latrine for the same, which latrine shall be of sufficient capacity to serve the number of persons living in the house or shack.

Section 3.—Latrines shall be located at a distance of not less than 15 meters from water-wells, cisterns, rivers and creeks, and 10 meters from the house or shacks.

Section 4.—The construction of said latrines shall be subject to such conditions as the Commissioner of Health may decide, the following to be indispensable requisites in their construction:

- (a) They shall not contaminate the soil nor drinking water;
- (b) They shall be protected from inundation by pluvial or fluvial waters;
- (c) They shall be made fly- and mosquito-proof.

Section 5.—Latrines shall be cleaned whenever the deposits are full. In cases of discontinuance or condemnation they shall be cleaned and the deposit refilled.

Section 6.—The fecal matter taken out shall be placed in covered metal receptacles, and shall in no case be dumped into rivers, lakes, gutters or draining ditches, but shall be buried at a depth of no less than one meter at a place previously designated by the Municipal Commissioner of Health.

Section 7.—Owners, merchants, industrials or managers, as the case may be, of any agricultural property where laborers are employed, shall provide stationary or portable latrines for the use of said laborers.

Section 8.—Owners of rustic houses or shacks already constructed in the rural zones, shall provide the same with latrines within a period of not more than three months after the approval of these regulations.

Section 9.—Violations of these regulations shall be punished by a fine of not less than one nor more than one hundred dollars, or by imprisonment of from one to thirty days, or by both penalties in the discretion of the court.

Section 10.—These regulations shall take effect upon their approval by the Executive Council and their promulgation and publication in accordance with section 13 of "An Act to reorganize the Sanitation Service," approved March 14, 1912.

Being so promulgated and having been published in two newspapers of general circulation in the Island, in accordance with section of Act No. 81, approved March 14, 1912, the said regulations entitled "Regulations to prevent contamination of the soil in rural districts, approved by the Executive Council on September 13, 1920, on and after this date have the effect and force of law.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of The People of Porto Rico to be affixed at the city of San Juan, this seventh day of October, A. D. nineteen hundred and twenty.

[SEAL]

ARTHUR YAGER,
Governor,

Promulgated according to law, October 7, 1920.

R. SIACA PACHECO,
Executive Secretary of Porto Rico.

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.