

If a ship is to discharge a part of its cargo only, and if the port authorities consider that it is impossible to carry out complete deratisation, the said ship may remain in the port for the time required to discharge that part of its cargo, provided that all precautions, including isolation, are taken to the satisfaction of the sanitary authority to prevent rats from passing from the ship to the shore, either during unloading or otherwise.

The discharge of cargo shall be carried out under the control of the sanitary authority, who shall take all measures necessary to prevent the staff employed on this duty from becoming infected. This staff shall be subjected to observation or to surveillance for a period not exceeding six days from the time when they have ceased to work at the unloading of the ship.

ARTICLE 26

Plague-suspected ships shall undergo the measures specified in (1), (4), (5) and (6) of Article 25.

In addition, the crew and passengers may be subjected to surveillance, which shall not exceed six days reckoned from the date of arrival of the ship. The crew may be prevented during the same period from leaving the ship except on duty notified to the Sanitary Authority.

ARTICLE 27

Healthy Ships.—Ships free from plague shall be given free pratique immediately, with the reservation that the sanitary authority of the port of arrival may prescribe the following measures with regard to them:—

- (1) Medical inspection to determine whether the ship comes within the definition of a healthy ship;
- (2) Destruction of rats on board, under the conditions specified in (6) of Article 25, in exceptional cases and for well-founded reasons, which shall be communicated in writing to the captain of the ship;
- (3) The crew and passengers may be subjected to surveillance during a period which shall not exceed six days reckoned from the date on which the ship left the infected port. The crew may be prevented during the same period from leaving the ship except on duty notified to the sanitary authority.

ARTICLE 28

All ships, except those employed in national coastal service, shall be periodically deratised, or be permanently so maintained that any rat population is kept down to the minimum. In the first case they shall receive *Deratisation Certificates*, and in the second, *Deratisation Exemption Certificates*.

Governments shall make known through the Office International d'Hygiène Publique those of their ports possessing the equipment and personnel necessary for the deratisation of ships.

A *Deratisation Certificate* or a *Deratisation Exemption Certificate* shall be issued only by the sanitary authorities of ports specified above. Every such certificate shall be valid for six months, but this period may be extended by one month in the case of a ship proceeding to its home port.

If no valid certificate is produced, the sanitary authority at the ports mentioned in the second paragraph of this Article may after inquiry and inspection—

- (a) Themselves carry out deratisation of the vessel, or cause such operations to be carried out under their direction and control. On the completion of these operations to their satisfaction they shall issue