

**Health Services**

Cap. 44.

**HEALTH SERVICES (LODGING HOUSES AND  
BARRACKS) REGULATIONS, 1970**

S.I. 1970/74.  
1978/111.

Made by the Minister under section 10 of the Health Services Act. Cap. 44.

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Health Services (Lodging Houses and Barracks) Regulations, 1970.

2. For the purposes of these regulations—

“barrack” means any building not being an hotel, guest-house or inn, divided into rooms occupied singly or in sets to which there are common conveniences and any yard appurtenant to such building;

“common conveniences” include bathing, washing and sanitary facilities provided for use by the occupants of more than one room or set of rooms;

“lodging house” means that class of house or building not being an hotel, guest-house or inn in which persons on payment of a fee are received for short periods and, though strangers to one another, are allowed to inhabit one common room, and in any case in which only part of a house is used as a lodging-house the part so used;

“room” means a room in which persons are permitted to sleep;

“sanitary facilities” means any receptacle for the disposal of human excreta and includes a cesspit, suckwell, septic tank, drain or sewer used in connection therewith.

3. (1) The owner, keeper or person in charge of a lodging house or barrack shall apply in writing to the Medical Officer of Health for the area in which such lodging house is situated for registration of the lodging house.

**THE LAWS OF BARBADOS**

- (2) The application for registration shall state—
  - (a) the name and address of the keeper or owner;
  - (b) the name and address of the person in charge;
  - (c) the location;
  - (d) the number and dimensions of each room.
  
4. (1) A Medical Officer of Health on receiving an application for the registration of a lodging house or barrack shall satisfy himself that such lodging house or barrack complies with the provisions of these regulations, and on being so satisfied shall cause to be entered in a register to be kept by him for the purpose the particulars of such lodging house or barrack set out in the application.
  - (2) The Medical Officer of Health shall deliver to the keeper or owner or to the agent of every lodging house or barrack which has been registered a certificate of registration and such certificate shall state—
    - (a) the name and address of the owner or keeper;
    - (b) the name and address of the person in charge;
    - (c) the location of the lodging house or barrack;
    - (d) the number of rooms therein;
    - (e) the maximum number of persons that may be accommodated at any one time in each room of the lodging house or barrack.
  
5. The person in charge of every lodging house or barrack shall cause the certificate to be displayed in some conspicuous part thereof.
  
6. No person shall keep a lodging house or barrack or receive a lodger therein or permit any room therein to be occupied unless such lodging house is registered in accordance with these regulations.
  
7. A certificate issued in accordance with these regulations may be cancelled by a Medical Officer of Health if he is satisfied that the premises in respect of which such certificate was issued fails to comply with the provisions of these regulations.

**8.** No person shall at any time cause to be received into a lodging house or barrack or permit any room therein to be occupied by a greater number of persons than is specified in the certificate.

**9.** (1) The number of lodgers received at any one time in a lodging house or barrack and the number of persons permitted to sleep in any room therein shall not be greater than will allow forty square feet of floor space for each person over the age of ten years and twenty square feet for persons of ten years of age and under.

(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), if the sleeping facilities provided are in the form of bunks constructed in tiers, sufficient air space shall be available for the occupier of each bunk to have not less than 300 cubic feet of air space.

(3) In calculating the floor area, no part of a floor under a ceiling of less than eight feet in height shall be taken into account, and in calculating air space no ceiling of less than eight feet or of more than fourteen feet in height shall be taken into account.

**10.** (1) The owner, keeper or person in charge of a lodging house or barrack shall to the satisfaction of the Medical Officer of Health provide sufficient and suitable beds or bunks for all persons permitted to occupy any room therein, and where there is more than one such bed or bunk in a room there shall be a clear space of not less than two feet six inches between such bed or bunk and another.

(2) If the sleeping facilities provided are in the form of bunks constructed in tiers, the following provisions shall apply—

- (a) no tier shall consist of more than three bunks;
- (b) the lowest bunk shall be no less than eighteen inches above the level of the floor;
- (c) the vertical distance between any two bunks in a tier shall not be less than three feet;
- (d) there shall be a space of not less than two feet six inches between any two tiers of bunks.

**THE LAWS OF BARBADOS**

**11.** (1) Subject to paragraph (2), where persons of both sexes are to be accommodated in a lodging house or barrack, the owner, keeper or person in charge of the lodging house or barrack shall provide separate sleeping accommodation for persons of each sex who are over the age of seven years.

(2) Paragraph (1) shall not apply to the accommodation in a lodging house or barrack of persons who are members of the same family.

**12.** The keeper or person in charge of a lodging house shall to the satisfaction of the Medical Officer of Health—

- (a) provide such house with adequate lighting facilities;
- (b) sweep at least once every day before the hour of ten in the morning and wash at least once a week all floors and stairs in the house;
- (c) cleanse as often as may be necessary windows and fixtures of wood, stone or metal;
- (d) keep the house free of vermin;
- (e) keep all beds, bunks, bed-clothes and bedding clean and free of vermin;
- (f) cause every bed or bunk with its bedding and bed-clothes to be exposed to the air for at least two hours a day;
- (g) cause the bed-clothes of every bed or bunk to be removed as soon as may be convenient after the bed has been vacated by a lodger and in any case before the bed or bunk is occupied by any other lodger;
- (h) provide and maintain for the use of lodgers sufficient basins or other receptacles for water of adequate capacity which are conveniently accessible, sufficient towels, keep such basins or receptacles clean and in good order, and renew the supply of towels as often as may be necessary;
- (i) remove all filth or refuse before the hour of ten in the morning from the house and afterwards cleanse all vessels, utensils or other receptacles which contain such filth or refuse;
- (j) keep fully open for at least two hours a day windows in

each room unless reasonably prevented from doing so by the state of the weather or any other sufficient cause.

**13.** The owner or person in charge of a lodging house or barrack shall, to the satisfaction of the Medical Officer of Health—

- (a) provide and maintain such lodging house or barrack with—
  - (i) a proper and sufficient supply of potable running water;
  - (ii) adequate bathroom and sanitary facilities, and where such house is intended to be occupied by persons of both sexes, separate bathroom and sanitary accommodation for persons of each sex;
  - (iii) suitable and sufficient receptacles for the collection of garbage and refuse;
- (b) cause every yard, area, forecourt or other open space within the curtilage of such house to be maintained in a clean condition;
- (c) cause all drains and sanitary facilities in such house to be maintained in a clean condition, to be in good repair and in good working order;
- (d) cause all means of ventilation provided in such house to be maintained in good working order;
- (e)
  - (i) cause the inside walls and ceilings of such house (whether or not such walls or ceilings are plastered) and all passages or staircases of such house to be painted with oil, paint or varnish;
  - (ii) cause any oil, paint or varnish to be washed at least once every six months or more often if necessary with hot water and soap or detergent and to be renewed at least once every four years.

**14.** Where any act is by these regulations prohibited or prescribed, the duty of seeing that such prohibition or prescription is complied with shall rest upon both the owner and the person in charge of the lodging house; and in the event of a breach of the regulations either the owner or the person in charge or both shall be liable to be prosecuted.

**THE LAWS OF BARBADOS**

**15.** Any person who contravenes these regulations shall be guilty of an offence and on summary conviction shall be liable to a fine not exceeding five thousand dollars or to a term of imprisonment, not exceeding twelve months or to both such fine and imprisonment and in the case of a continuing offence to a further fine not exceeding two hundred dollars for each day or part thereof that the offence continues after a first conviction is obtained.