

**CORPORATION OF LONDON**  
**PUBLIC HEALTH (SHIPS) REGULATIONS 1979**  
**DIRECTIONS AND REQUIREMENTS**

These directions and requirements are made by the London Port Health Authority in pursuance of the Public Health (Ships) Regulations 1979 and compliance therewith is required by virtue of Regulation 35 of the said Regulations.

**THE MASTER OF ANY SHIP APPROACHING THE PORT OF LONDON FROM A FOREIGN PORT**

- I Should ascertain the state of health of all persons aboard
- II Must report:
- (1) the occurrence on board during the 28 days before arrival of:-
    - a) death, other than by accident, or
    - b) illness where the PERSON who is ill has or had a temperature of 38°c or greater which was accompanied by a rash, glandular swelling or jaundice, in the case where such temperature persisted for more than 48 hours, or
    - c) illness where the PERSON has or had diarrhoea severe enough to interfere with work or normal activities.
  - (2) the presence on board of:-
    - a) a PERSON suffering from an infectious disease or who has symptoms which may indicate the presence of infectious disease.
    - b) Any ANIMAL or CAPTIVE BIRD of any species including RODENTS and POULTRY or mortality or illness among such animals or birds.
  - (3) any other circumstances which are likely to cause the spread of infectious disease.
- III If there is NOTHING TO REPORT under II above there is no need for the Master to obtain health clearance unless s/he is otherwise directed.
- IV If there is SOMETHING TO REPORT under II above, other than the presence on board of animals or captive birds, the following procedure must be carried out in order to obtain free pratique:-
- A) Contact London Port Health Authority on +44 (0)7050 389861 not less than four hours or not more than twelve hours before the expected time of arrival of the ship, stating:-
    - 1) Name of ship
    - 2) place of berth
    - 3) Ports of call during the last 4 weeks
    - 4) Provisional diagnosis of patient(s) or symptoms of patient(s)
    - 5) Number of patients
    - 6) Name, age, sex and nationality of patient(s)
    - 7) Date of onset or illness
    - 8) Expected time of arrival at Gravesend Reach. (If the ship is berthing or anchoring below Gravesend Reach or, in the River Medway or Swale, give the expected time of arrival and the name of the berth or anchorage).
  - B) If intending to berth in the River Thames show the following signals from No. 1 Sea Reach Buoy (or No. 1 Mucking Buoy if berthing up-river of that buoy). If intending to berth in the River Medway or Swale show the same signals from the Medway Buoy: -
    - a) "QQ" flag hoist by daylight; and
    - b) a red light over a white light 2 metres apart during darkness
  - C) Complete the Maritime Declaration of Health and a list of passengers and crew, giving the address(es) of immediate destination in the United Kingdom, ready to hand to the Authorised Officer.
- V If there is/are on board any ANIMAL(S) or CAPTIVE BIRD(S) of any species including RODENTS and POULTRY or Mortality or illness among such animals or birds, the Port Health Authority MUST be notified not less than 4 hours or not more than 12 hours before arrival, of the presence of such an animal(s) or birds and any mortality or illness. Such animal(s) or bird(s) shall be kept securely confined whilst the vessel is in port.
- VI If there are any doubts or difficulties over Port Health Regulations, advice may be obtained directly from the Port Health Authority, through the relevant Port Control.

**NOTE:** In accordance with Regulation 17(1) of the Public Health Ships Regulations 1979 where the Authorised Officer so directs or where the master is required to make a report in accordance with the above, no person other than the Pilot, Customs Officer or an Immigration Officer shall, without the permission of the Authorised Officer, board or leave a ship until free pratique has been granted, and the Master shall take all reasonable steps to secure compliance with this provision.