

Serial Number **1951/259**

THE ANTHRAX PREVENTION REGULATIONS 1951

B. C. FREYBERG, Governor-General

ORDER IN COUNCIL

At the Government House at Wellington, this 14th day of
November 1951

Present :

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL IN COUNCIL

PURSUANT to the Health Act 1920, His Excellency the Governor-General, acting by and with the advice and consent of the Executive Council, hereby makes the following regulations.

REGULATIONS

1. (1) These regulations may be cited as the Anthrax Prevention Regulations 1951.

(2) These regulations shall come into force on the 1st day of December 1951.

2. (1) No person shall import into New Zealand any brush designed for use in contact with the human body if it is manufactured in any of the countries specified in the Schedule hereto and is made wholly or partly from hair or bristle obtained from any animal.

(2) No person shall import into New Zealand any wool, hair, bristle, or skin, or any skin bearing wool, hair, or bristle, obtained from any animal in any of the countries specified in the Schedule hereto.

(3) This regulation shall not apply to any wool, hair, bristle, or skin, or any skin bearing wool, hair, or bristle, which, notwithstanding its origin, has been so processed or dressed in a country other than one specified in the Schedule hereto that in the opinion of the Medical Officer of Health the risk of any anthrax spores surviving in the material is negligible.

3. (1) If in the opinion of the Minister of Health anthrax is likely to be conveyed by wool, hair, bristles, or skins, or skins bearing wool, hair, or bristle, obtained from animals in any country other than one specified in the Schedule hereto he may at any time, by notice under his hand, prohibit the importation of such articles from that country. Any such notice may at any time, in like manner, be revoked.

(2) After such date as may be specified in that behalf in any such notice as aforesaid, no person shall, while the notice continues in force, import into New Zealand from any country named in the notice any wool, hair, bristle, or skin, or any skin bearing wool, hair, or bristle.

4. (1) If in the opinion of the Medical Officer of Health any animal skin, or any animal wool, hair, or bristle, imported into New Zealand from any country is likely to convey anthrax, the Medical Officer of Health may at any time require that the skin, wool, hair, or bristle be effectively disinfected, at the expense and risk of the importer, in accordance with this regulation.

(2) In the case of wool, hair, or bristles, the disinfection shall be carried out by one of the following methods :—

- (a) The wool, hair, or bristles shall be thoroughly washed with soap and warm water containing 2 per cent of sodium carbonate, and then allowed to stand for half an hour in a 5 per cent solution of warm sodium carbonate. They shall then be placed in a warm solution of formaldehyde, consisting of one part of 40 per cent formalin and sixteen parts of water, for half an hour, and allowed to dry :
- (b) The bundles shall have the wrappings removed from the ends. They shall then be placed in a sealed chamber, and a partial vacuum equal to 15 in. of mercury shall be created. Steam shall then be admitted to the chamber until a pressure of 5 lb. to the square inch is created in the chamber. That pressure shall then be maintained for at least forty minutes :
- (c) The bundles shall have the wrappings removed from the ends. They shall then be placed in an autoclave to which steam is admitted or in which water is brought to boiling point. Steam shall be permitted to escape through the outlet valve until a strong and even current of steam has been flowing for at least five minutes. The outlet valve shall then be closed, and saturated steam at a pressure of 5 lb. to the square inch shall be maintained in the autoclave for at least forty minutes :
- (d) The wool, hair, or bristles shall be boiled in water for not less than two hours.

(3) In the case of animal skins, or animal skins bearing wool, fur, hair, or bristles, the disinfection shall be carried out in the following manner :—

- (a) The skins shall be sent in the original unopened package to a fur-processing factory approved by the Medical Officer of Health, and shall remain unopened until preparations are completed for their immediate processing :
- (b) The packages shall be opened in the presence of an Inspector of Health or a Sanitary Inspector, and the skins shall immediately be immersed in a 1/10,000 solution of sodium bisulphate for a period of not less than five hours :
- (c) The dyeing and processing of the skins shall then be immediately proceeded with, and the liquid contents of the vats shall be disposed of in a manner approved by the Medical Officer of Health.

(4) In every case, as soon as the material to be disinfected under this regulation has been removed from its wrappings, all packaging material shall be burnt.

(5) It shall be the duty of the importer to do all things necessary to ensure that the requirements of this regulation are complied with.

5. Every person commits an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £50 who contravenes or fails to comply in any respect with any of the provisions of these regulations or any requirement thereunder.

6. Regulation 3 of the regulations under the Health Act 1920 (governing the importation of certain articles into New Zealand), made on the 27th day of April 1923, and published in the *Gazette* of the 3rd day of May 1923, Volume II, at page 1259, is hereby revoked.

SCHEDULE

COUNTRIES FROM WHICH IMPORTATION OF CERTAIN ARTICLES IS PROHIBITED

Iran.	Indo-China.
Afghanistan.	Thailand.
India.	The Malayan Union.
French possessions in India.	Singapore.
Portuguese possessions in India.	Indonesia.
Pakistan.	Netherlands New Guinea.
Ceylon.	Portuguese Timor.
Burma.	The Philippine Islands.
China.	Korea.
Hong Kong.	Japan.
Macao.	

T. J. SHERRARD,
Clerk of the Executive Council.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

[*This note is not part of the regulations, but is intended to indicate their general effect.*]

These regulations replace those enacted in 1923 for the control of imported animal products likely to convey anthrax. Direct importation of these articles, and of brushes containing them, if produced in any of the countries named in the Schedule, is prohibited. Importation from other countries is permitted only if there is satisfactory evidence that the articles have undergone such processing or dressing that the risk of anthrax spores surviving is negligible. The regulations also empower the Medical Officer of Health to require the effective disinfection, by prescribed methods, of animal material imported from any country, if in his opinion it is likely to convey anthrax. The regulations come into force on 1 December 1951.

Issued under the authority of the Regulations Act 1936.

Date of notification in *Gazette*: 15th day of November 1951.

These regulations are administered in the Department of Health.

(H.H. 51/14.)