

BENIN

Public Health Code

I. Public Hygiene:

1. Dumping of refuse or of rubbish on the pavement, roadway and other public places is prohibited.
2. The dumping of scrap, old vehicles, old barrels, debris and rubble on public roads is prohibited.
3. All control discharge sites is to be situated 5km or less of habitations and 50m or less of water points.

II. Hygiene of housing units

1. In relation to the promotion of physical, mental, and social health of each citizen, the agents of hygiene service is charged with inspections of housing units, to advice the population to assure hygiene and permanent health of the residence.
2. The periodic visits of housing units are to be organized with the assistance of hygiene agents responsible for sanitary inspections. The visits are to sensitize the occupants on the maintenance of the norms of hygiene.
3. The keeping of objects or recipients of all nature, empty boxes, debris, wreck of vehicles or other susceptible to the breeding of mosquito larvae is prohibited.
4. All persons desiring to install septic tanks to address the request by the authorization or service in charge of hygiene and sanitation or management of provincial health.
5. A defect of construction is the responsibility of the installer and of the constructor.
6. Provision of safe water supply and protection of the water supply systems against pollution is advocated.
7. The proper disposal of household waste and refuse is emphasized.
8. All individuals who are in the constant presence of rodents, fleas, coakroaches, bats or other insects within the dwellings should solicit the complete destruction of the vectors by the hygiene service.

III. Hygiene of food products

1. Through the services in charge of Hygiene, Food and Nutrition, the state applies a system of surveillance and control of food hygiene.
2. The present law applies to the recipients, its packaging, apparatus, installations, locations and equipments in line with food products and their environment.
3. All the installations and equipments of production, handling of food products should be ensured that they are maintained, cleansed and disinfected.

4. All food handlers are to oblige or to work appropriately. The handling of food products by person susceptible to contaminations of infectious respiratory diseases or intestinal diseases is prohibited.
5. The introduction of all food additives should be by conjoint order of the Ministry of Public Health, Ministry in charge of Food Control and Nutrition and the Ministry of Commerce.

IV. Hygiene on markets and commercial activities

1. The markets should permit the efficient protection of food products from the heat, dust, flies and other insects.
2. The distribution of food products not packaged is prohibited.
3. All the establishment characterised for food should install sanitary facilities.
4. The use of non-potable water is prohibited in food products.
5. Personnel employed should ensure that they serve meals in healthy conditions as defined by the regulation.

V. Hygiene of public places and of seaside resorts/beaches

1. The control of the state of property of beaches and public places is the relevant activity of sanitary agents.
2. The installation and maintenance of bathing rooms, public lavatories and garbage dumps in public places is emphasized.
3. It is prohibited to urinate and defecate in public places and beaches.
4. It is prohibited for dogs, cattle or all other animals to be in beaches.
5. It is prohibited to dump in beaches and public places all objects, plastic materials, rubbish or all sorts of wrecks and other objects likely to alter the property.
6. The creation of all swimming pools should be by authorization or Ministry of Public Health.

VI. Hygiene concerning the diverse use of water

1. The norms of safe water use is fixed by order of the Ministry of Public Health in line with the regulations of WHO.
2. It is prohibited to:
 - a. Degrade public water works or commercial reservoirs or other water sources for drinking water.
 - b. Discharge of excreta or all other materials susceptible to cause unhealthy conditions of water sources, fountains, wells or water reservoirs for human food.
 - c. Abandoning of animal cadavers, debris or fecal materials and all general animal residues that will contaminate water for human consumption.

VII. Hygiene of industrial installations.

1. All industrial units should properly dispose of solid and liquid waste and install sanitary facilities that permit the hygiene of the individual personnel.
2. Combustion, incinerators should not release dust and fumes that may pollute the atmosphere.
3. The personnel of enterprises should visit medical systems for at least twice a year.

VIII. Hygiene relative with sanitary control of frontiers

1. The control of sanitation of frontiers is a rule for the national territory by the international sanitary regulations adopted by WHO.
2. The Ministry of Public Health will assure the: control of the hygiene and general health of the frontiers.

IX. Hygiene relative to the control of noise and the pollution of the natural environment.

1. The following are considered as atmospheric pollutants:
 - a. The domestic household fumes.
 - b. Fumes from automobiles and engines
 - c. Fumes emitted from industries.
 - d. Dust and other emissions in nature that cause a nuisance to man and animals.
2. The following are considered to be principle sources of noise.
 - a. Motorist vehicles with a defective silencer.
 - b. Boiler-making shops, mills, sawmills.
 - c. Discotheques
 - d. Factories
 - e. Airports, garages

The code has further set out some standards that limit noise level to a certain acceptable degree.

X. Regulations for towns

1. It is prohibited to oppose hygiene measures namely, disinfection of residences ordered by the competent authority.