

7

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GOVERNMENT ISSUES SHIP-INSPECTION REGULATIONS

The Government Administration Council has issued regulations concerning inspection of incoming and outgoing domestic and foreign ships, ships' crews, passengers, and passengers' luggage, which became effective on 27 November 1950.

The Canton Harbor Control Bureau issued a directive to prevent Chinese ships from staying at Macao and Hong Kong to avoid being commandeered by the government to transport military supplies.

REGULATIONS DEFINE AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY -- Canton, Nan-fang Jih-pao, 12 Dec 50

Peiping, 28 November (Hsin-hua) -- The Government Administration Council has issued the following regulations, dated 27 November 1950, concerning inspection of incoming and outgoing ships, ships' crews, passengers, and passengers' luggage.

1. These regulations were especially enacted to promote unified inspection of incoming and outgoing ships, ships' crews, passengers, and passengers' luggage; to assure safe navigation; to maintain order within the national boundary; and to prevent smuggling and the spreading of contagious diseases and epidemics.
2. The following departments will perform the inspections under their jurisdiction:
  - a. The Harbor Control Bureau will be responsible for inspection of the ships' documents, logs, machinery, equipment, and safety devices, and the crew's certificates.
  - b. The Customs House will be responsible for the inspection of passengers, passengers' luggage, and the searching of ships for smuggling. They are also authorized to question smuggling suspects.

- 1 -

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c. The Peace-Preservation Office will be responsible for the inspection of passengers' credentials, certificates, and tickets, and, in cooperation with the Customs House officials, perform inspection of passengers' luggage, and personal belongings to be taken ashore by the crew. This office is also authorized to question persons suspected of possessing illegal articles.

d. The Health Department will be responsible for the physical examination of crews and passengers, and for the inspection of ships' sanitation systems, fumigation of ships and cargo, extermination of rodents and insects, and the issuing of certificates of inspection.

No other organization, unless especially authorized by the Government Administration Council, shall be allowed to perform the above-mentioned duties.

3. The control of incoming and outgoing ships is the sole responsibility of the Harbor Control Bureau, and no other organization shall interfere. When the entrance or departure of a ship must be disapproved by other organizations due to special reasons, all procedures must be made through the Harbor Control Bureau. The Harbor Control Bureau shall notify other inspection organizations of information concerning entrance or departure of ships, and place of berth and anchorage, so that the inspections will be performed according to the regulations provided in Section 2.

4. For all incoming ships, the Health Department will dispatch inspectors for preliminary inspection prior to inspection by other organizations.

5. The Harbor Control Bureau will obtain the names of the crew and passengers from the captain of a ship, and distribute them to the other organizations. No other organization is permitted to obtain them directly from the captain.

6. Inspection of ships, crews, and passengers shall be performed at ports of departure, arrival, and at intermediate ports; only under special circumstances will inspection be allowed at sea.

7. Examination of foreign diplomats will be carried out according to the regulations set forth by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

8. All crews of Chinese ships, when going ashore, will be provided with seamen's handbooks or seamen's badges issued by the Harbor Control Bureau for identification. All crews of foreign ships, when going ashore, must carry numbered permits issued by the Peace-Preservation Office.

9. The Chinese inland waterways ships and coastal vessels do not come under these regulations, except under the following circumstances:

- a. When the Peace-Preservation Office deems inspection necessary.
- b. When the Custom House deems inspection necessary to prevent smuggling.
- c. When the Health Department deems inspection necessary due to illness or death aboard ship.

10. Included also in the duties of the Harbor Control Bureau is the responsibility to hold meetings of representatives of the Health Department, Peace-Preservation Office, Customs House, and Seamen's Union to discuss and improve operations.

- 2 -

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11. When additional inspection organizations are established, their duties will be carried out according to the rules of the respective organization.

12. The above regulations apply only at international ports designated by the Central People's government, and supersede all previous regulations.

FORBIDS CHINESE SHIPS TO STAY IN FOREIGN PORTS -- Hong Kong, Hsin-tao Jih-pao,  
14 Dec 50

Canton, 13 December -- On 12 December 1950, the Canton Harbor Control Bureau issued a directive to prevent Chinese ships from staying at Macao and Hong Kong to avoid being commandeered by the government. According to this directive, all commercial ships engaged in service on the inland waterways around Canton are prohibited from docking at Macao and Hong Kong as terminal points. When unable to sail because of engine trouble, they must request the Harbor Control Bureau to send an inspector, and only after the inspector has determined that repairs cannot be made in Chinese territory, will they be allowed to go to Macao and Hong Kong.

It was revealed that although there are many commercial ships in and around Canton, due to lack of business and to avoid being used for transporting military supplies, most of them are tied up in Macao and Hong Kong so they cannot be taken over by the Chinese government.

- E N D -

- 3 -

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