

Public (1898) Department.

ORDINARY PRINTED.

G.O., No. 1062

Dated 20 - 8 - 98

INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Chemico - legal Examinations

Coming to the Chemical
Examr., through the Sg., resolution of the Govt issuing
revised rules for the preservation & transmission of
human & other viscera to Chemical Examiners
for analysis, and requesting all Dms to
submit proposals, in communication
with the Dm & Sg's, regarding the officer
to be appointed to act under rule in
stations where there is no Civil Surgeon.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
21/8/88 C.O. 3014 (1888) (Dy. Chemist)							

Government { 1898 } of Madras. PUBLIC.

Recd.

Enclosures

Regd.

1898.

Spare copies

G.O., No. 1062, 20th August 1898.

AUGUST.

Chemico-legal Examinations.

Communicating to the Chemical Examiner, through the Surgeon-General, resolution of the Government of India issuing revised rules for the preservation and transmission of human and other viscera to Chemical Examiners for analysis, and requesting all District Magistrates to submit proposals, in communication with the District Medical and Sanitary Officers, regarding the officers to be appointed to act under rule 7 in stations where there is no Civil Surgeon.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper :—

From N. BONHAM-CARTER, Esq., Officiating Under Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department (Medical), to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated Simla, 9th August 1898, No. 1087.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 370, Public, dated 5th March 1898, forwarding a report from the Chemical Examiner, Madras, on the proposal to substitute formaline for salt as a preservative of *viscera* intended for transmission by post to the Chemical Examiner.

2. I am to forward for the information of the Governor in Council a copy of a Resolution No. 1077—1086, dated 9th August 1898, with a copy of the revised rules framed by the Government of India for the preservation and transmission of human and other *viscera* to Chemical Examiners for analysis.

ENCLOSURE.

No. 1077—1086.

EXTRACT from the Proceedings of the Government of India in the Home Department (Medical),—under date, Simla, the 9th August 1898.

Read—

Home Department Resolution No. 472—481, dated the 14th May 1897, promulgating rules for the preservation and transmission by post of packages containing human or other *viscera* for chemical examination.

Read also—

The following correspondence on the same subject :—

Letter from the Government of the Punjab, No. 1484-S., dated the 17th September 1897, and enclosure.

Letter to the Government of the Punjab, No. 1350, dated the 30th October 1897.

Letter from the Government of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, No. 3100, dated the 23rd September 1897.

Circular letter to the Governments of Madras, Bombay, Bengal and the Punjab, No. 1346—49, dated the 30th October 1897, and the replies of those Governments to the Circular.

Resolution.—With the Resolution No. 472—481, dated the 14th May 1897, the Government of India circulated a revised set of rules for preserving and packing human or other *viscera* for transmission by post to Chemical Examiners for analysis. Experience in the working of these rules has shown that the quantity of spirits of wine prescribed in Rule 2 (i) has not always been sufficient to prevent decomposition. In the revised rules attached to the present resolution it is laid down that sufficient spirit must always be used to cover the *viscera* in whatever position the vessel containing them may be held, and that in no case must the proportion of spirit be less than one-third of the bulk of the material to be preserved.

2. In Rule 2 (ii) of the rules of the 14th May 1897 it was laid down that a solution of common salt should be used as a preservative in the following cases instead of spirits of wine :—

- (a) all cases of suspected alcoholic poisoning in man; and
- (b) all cases of suspected cattle poisoning.

It has been suggested that in these cases a solution of formaldehyde should be used instead of one of common salt, and the views of Chemical Examiners on this subject have been invited. A consideration of their replies reveals great divergence of opinion; but it seems to be clear that the advantages attending the use of formaldehyde do not outweigh the possible disadvantages.

3. The rules have been revised in some minor respects in addition to those mentioned in paragraph 1 above, and the rules attached herewith supersede the rules promulgated with the Resolution of the 14th May 1897.

Order.—Ordered that a copy of this Resolution, with a revised copy of the rules, be forwarded to Local Governments and Administrations in the Bengal Presidency for information and guidance, and to the Department of Finance and Commerce for communication to the Director-General of the Post Office of India.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. P. HEWETT,
Secy. to the Govt. of India.

RULES for preserving and packing human and other *viscera* for transmission to the Chemical Examiners for analysis.

- (1) The suspected *viscus* or other material to be sent for examination should be enclosed in a glass bottle or jar, fitted with a stopper or sound cork.
- (2) If the material sent is liable to decomposition, it should invariably be preserved by one of the following methods :—
 - (i) In cases of suspected poisoning in man, other than alcoholic poisoning, the material sent should be immersed in spirits of wine. The spirit should be sufficient in quantity to cover the material immersed in whatever position the vessel containing it may be held, and should not bear a less proportion to the bulk of such material than one-third. Care should be taken that common bazar spirit is not used.
 - (ii) In cases of suspected alcoholic poisoning in man, the contents of the stomach and its washings in pure water should be placed in a bottle with a sufficient quantity of clean table salt to saturate the solution and leave a little salt undissolved. The stomach itself, after being washed in pure water, as above, may be preserved in alcohol as in (i).
 - (iii) In cases of suspected cattle poisoning the *viscera* or other material may be preserved in spirit or in a solution of common salt, as the Local Government may direct. If a solution of salt is used it should be prepared as follows :—Common salt should be added to pure water at the temperature of the air and stirred until no more salt dissolves, when the solution should be filtered through a plug of cotton-wool. The bottle containing the *viscus* or other material should be filled up with the solution to within one-quarter of an inch from the stopper. To obviate any danger from the solution of salt being tampered with, a separate sample of the solution should in every case be sent to the Chemical Examiner by the officer despatching the *viscus*, and another sample should be retained in a sealed bottle in his office.
- (3) Great care should be taken that the stopper or cork of the bottle fits tightly. This precaution is especially necessary when alcohol is used as a preservative; in such cases a ring of bees'—or candle—wax should be placed round the lip of the bottle so as to cover the shoulder of the stopper. The stopper should be carefully tied down with bladder or leather and sealed.
- (4) The glass bottle or jar should then be placed in a strong wooden or tin box, which should be large enough to allow of a layer of raw cotton, at least three-fourths of an inch thick, being put between the vessel and the box.
- (5) The box itself should be encased in common *gurañ* cloth, which should be securely closed and sealed. The seals should be at intervals not exceeding three inches along each line of sewing. All the seals must be of the same kind of wax and must bear distinct impressions of the same device. The device should ordinarily be the office seal of the officer despatching the parcel. The device must in no case be that of a current coin or merely a series of straight, curved or crossed lines.

- (6) Despatching officers will be held personally responsible that these instructions are carefully followed. Whenever practicable, such parcels should be packed under the immediate supervision of the Civil Surgeon.
- (7) At all stations where there is a Civil Surgeon the parcels should invariably be sent to the Post Office by that officer, and not by a subordinate officer; but where there is no Civil Surgeon, they may be sent by an officer appointed by the Local Government for that purpose.
- (8) A declaration of contents to the officials of the Postal Department is unnecessary, and should not be made.

ORDER—No. 1062, Public, dated 20th August 1898.

Communicated to the Chemical Examiner, through the Surgeon-General.

2. All District Magistrates will be requested to submit proposals, in communication with the District Medical and Sanitary Officers, regarding the officers to be appointed to act under rule 7 in stations where there is no Civil Surgeon.

(True Extract.)

G. STOKES,
Chief Secretary.

To the Chemical Examiner, through the Surgeon-General.
" the Local and Municipal Department.
" all District Magistrates.

Exd. A. F. Eccleston.

Public (1898) Department.

CURRENT No. 1087

From

The Govt of India
(Home.)

Order No. 1062, 20th August 1898

Communicated to the
Chemical Examiner, through the S.G.

No. 1087

2. The ~~Chemical Examiner~~ is requested to submit
proposals regarding rule 7 in stations
where there is no Civil Surgeon.

Dated 9th Aug 98

Received 1

Registered 16

Enclosures 1.

Spare copies of back of L & 9 notes.

SUBJECT.

All this will be repeated
to ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~Chemical Examiner~~ ^{the} ~~Chemical Examiner~~
18/8/98 with the D.H. & S.G. ^{the}
regarding the officers to be
appointed to act under rule 7
in stations where there is no Civil Surgeon.

The Chemical Examiner can
but ascertain the officers for the purpose of rule 7. It is the duty of the
Dist Magistrate to submit the list of names in 8 or 10

Forwarding for information
copy of a Resolution No. 1077 dated 9th
August 1898, with a copy of the
revised rules framed by the Govt of India
for the preservation and transmission
of human and other viscera to
Chemical Examiners for analysis.
Submitted with it was
thought that the Chem.
Examiner must submit
+ Submit a certificate of
the 18/8/98

Station where there are no Civil Surgeons and in each District and the Officers will generally be of the I.M.S. or D. I.M.S. grade. When he is not a medical Officer the Dist. Magistrate or the Sub-Divisional Magistrate in communication with the Dist. Medical Officer.

19.8.87

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
	369-70	Pub:	5.3.98 sent
	1474	"	11.11.97 sent

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LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

ATTACHMENT WITH DITTO.

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