



XV Pan American Sanitary Conference

San Juan, Puerto Rico
September-October, 1958

X Meeting Regional Committee



CSP15/19 (Eng.)
15 September 1958
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

Topic 31: MINIMUM SANITATION STANDARDS FOR HOTELS, RESTAURANTS,
TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES, AND TOURIST CENTERS

Background

The Sixth Inter-American Travel Congress, held in San José, Costa Rica, in April 1956, in a special resolution on "Minimum Sanitation Standards for Tourist Accommodations" (Resolution XXXI), requested the Organization of American States to invite the Pan American Sanitary Bureau to appoint a technical committee, composed of experts in this field and representatives of the Inter-American Travel Congresses, to prepare a set of minimum sanitation standards applicable to tourist accommodations. The Government of Costa Rica proposed that this topic be placed on the agenda of the IX Meeting of the Directing Council (Antigua Guatemala, 1956), recognizing that although sanitary regulations for hotels and restaurants constitute but one phase of the general environmental sanitation problems, it deserves special attention because of its importance to the tourist trade.

The Director informed that meeting of the Directing Council of the measures taken by the interested organizations in connection with this problem, and of the appointment of the Technical Committee of Experts, made in conformity with the request of the OAS. In Resolution XVI the Council approved this action and requested the Technical Committee to prepare a manual of recommended minimum standards of sanitation in hotels, restaurants, transportation facilities, and tourist centers, and for this purpose to take into account any recommendations that might be made by the Joint ICAO/WHO Committee on the Hygiene and Sanitation of Airports.^{1/}

The Director presented another report to the X Meeting of the Directing Council (Washington, D. C., September 1957) on the work carried out by the Technical Committee of Experts. The members of the Council, after reiterating the importance of the task entrusted to the

^{1/} See PASO Official Document No. 18, pp.12 and 88-89.

Committee, agreed that the manual under preparation should contain recommendations, but not international regulations, even though the countries should be able to use the manual's standards as a guide in preparing sanitary regulations on the subject. The Council in Resolution XI, took note of the report and requested the Director to inform the Technical Committee of Experts of the observations made by the Directing Council and to report to the governing bodies, in due course, on the progress of the work in connection with the preparation of a manual.^{1/}

The Technical Committee was composed of the following members: Mr. Francisco Hernández, Chief, Travel Division, Pan American Union; Mr. Malcolm C. Hope, Chief, Sanitary Engineering Division, U.S. Public Health Service; Mr. Elmer Jenkins, Director, National Touring Department, American Automobile Association, Washington, D. C.; Mr. H. H. Kelly, Director, International Travel Division, Office of Trade Promotion, U.S. Department of Commerce (Representative designated by the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Travel Congresses); Mr. W. C. LaBaugh, Director of Engineering, International Road Federation, Washington, D. C.; Mr. Luis Mantilla F., Chief, Sanitary Engineering Department, Ministry of Public Health and Welfare of Peru, and Dean of the Sanitary Engineering School, National University of Engineering, Lima, Peru; Mr. Humberto Olivero, Consultant Engineer of the Ministry of Public Health and Welfare of Guatemala and Civil Engineer of the University of Guatemala; Mr. John A. Paine, Superintendent of Facilitation System, Pan American World Airways, New York; Mr. George O. Pierce, Chief, Environmental Sanitation Branch, Pan American Sanitary Bureau; Mr. Guillermo Rodríguez, Professor of Sanitary Engineering, National University of Panama; Mr. Joaquín Segura Gutiérrez, Director General of Sanitary Engineering, Ministry of Public Health and Welfare of Mexico.

Mr. Olivero ceased to be a member of the Committee in July 1957, and Mr. Pierce at the end of the same year.

The Communicable Disease Center of the U.S. Public Health Service also collaborated with the Committee on the chapter related to insect and rodent control; PASB staff members assisted in various phases of the manual's preparation.

Report

Pursuant to Resolution XI of the X Meeting of the Directing Council, the Director has the honor to report the following information to the Conference. The Technical Committee of Experts, after an exchange of views held in San Juan, Puerto Rico, on 20 May 1958, at the time of the Sixth Inter-American Congress of Sanitary Engineering,

^{1/} See PASO Official Document No. 22, pp. 281-283.

submitted to the Director, at the end of August, a draft manual containing eight chapters:

- I. Water Supply
- II. Plumbing Standards
- III. Sewage Disposal
- IV. Food Sanitation
- V. Insect and Rodent Control
- VI. Swimming Pools
- VII. Refuse Handling
- VIII. General Considerations

In the preparation of the manual, the recommendations of the Joint ICAO/WHO Committee on the Hygiene and Sanitation of Airports were taken carefully into account.

Following a review by engineers and other experts from the different countries, in the light of the different health conditions and administrative practices prevailing in all parts of the Continent, it is hoped that the general standards contained in the manual may be readily used as a guide that can be adapted to the different countries and localities.

It should be pointed out that during the time the manual has been in the process of preparation, the health administrations of various countries have shown great interest in this subject, as evidenced by the discussions held during the X Meeting of the Directing Council.^{1/} The information furnished by the national public health services of Member Governments in reply to the questionnaire prepared by the Technical Committee of Experts, as well as the discussions of Committee members with experts of the different countries, have made it possible both to improve the contents of the manual and to arouse increased interest in this problem in different countries.

The Director has submitted the draft manual for study by the Bureau's technical staff. Once it has been reviewed and revised, it is proposed to transmit the manual to Member Governments for possible use as a general guide in the preparation of national sanitation standards. The Director further proposes to transmit the manual to the different organizations interested in improving sanitation standards in hotels, restaurants, transportation facilities, and tourist centers, to serve as a guide for protecting the health of travellers.

^{1/} See PASO Official Document No. 22, pp. 77-79

In view of the foregoing, the Conference may wish to consider a resolution along the following lines:

Proposed Resolution

The XV Pan American Sanitary Conference,

Having examined the report of the Director on the work performed by the Technical Committee of Experts assigned to prepare a manual containing recommended minimum standards of sanitation in hotels, restaurants, transportation facilities, and tourist centers,

RESOLVES:

1. To approve the report presented by the Director, in which it is stated that the Technical Committee of Experts has completed a draft of the manual, and that once it has been reviewed the manual will be transmitted to the Member Governments and to interested organizations.

2. To express to the members of the Committee its appreciation of the valuable collaboration they are rendering in this task.