

# Environmental Health Act 1975

## Chapter I

### Preliminary provisions

#### (Definitions)\*

Environmental health: the health conditions of human and animal life, vegetation, as well as everything relevant to human life within the environment where it exists.

Health authority: the health authority to which the Executive Council of the Governorate entrusts the competence to protect environmental health and to apply the conditions stipulated in such Regulations issued in accordance with the present Act, and to take any measures necessary to ensure the observance of such conditions.

Buildings\*\* any construction used for man's housing, work, entertainment, or for any public service.

Drinking water: water suitable for human and animal use.

Health conditions for drinking water: conditions declared by the competent authority in order to be applicable taking into account the different situations in various zones and by which the percentage of chemical material, the extent of pollution, and the physical and bacteriological properties of the drinking water are defined.

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\*Arabic word used is equivalent to "interpretations", and the text added: "Unless the context requires another meaning".

\*\*The underlined word is the equivalent of the word in the original text.

Public water sources: all rivers, lakes, canals, springs, rain sewers, inundations, "haffirs",\* and wells which may exist in any common land.

Private sources of water: all sources of drinking\*\* owned by one or more persons for their own use.

A well: any artificial, manual, or mechanic cavity reaching the level of water reservoir in the subterrain and from which usable water is drilled.\*\*\*

"Haffirs": any artificial hole dug to an appropriate depth in a zone, defined by the People's Council, situated at a distance from human settlement and animal pasture, to pool rainfall water and inundations in order to use it in accordance with the conditions declared by the health authorities.

Drinking water project: all major engineering activities concerned with any drinking water sources, its treatment or supplies.

Water pollution: the discharge or accretion of any dirt or unclean material or liquids or gas or any chemical or bacteriological material in a public or a private source of drinking water, or in any well or a haffir; which affects the quality of drinking water and its various uses or which may impair environmental health.

Waste disposal: all undesirable public waste material produced by human activities in habitat, factories, or public places.

Industrial chemicals: any chemical material used in any industrial activity.

Raw sewerage water: waters discharged from toilets, kitchens, bathrooms, and closets.

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\*Any artificial hole dug to an appropriate depth in a zone, defined by the People's Council, situated at a distance from human settlement and animal pasture, to pool rainfall water and inundations in order to use it in accordance with the conditions declared by the health authorities.

\*\*The word "water" is not mentioned in the original text.

\*\*\*The Arabic word does not necessarily imply drilling in a technical sense and it seems to mean "obtaining".

Industrial wastes: accumulation of any undesirable solid, liquid, or gas material resulting from various industrial processes.

Oxygen requirement: quantity of oxygen required for bacterial in order to decompose in five days, the organic and chemical material under specific temperature.

Carried material: the ratio of the weight of material carried in water to the total weight of water.

Irrigation Canals: canals used for the irrigation of cultivated land, with water, derived directly from the Nile or a principal canal without adding any sewage water or industrial wastes [or treated](?)

Treated Water Irrigation Canals: irrigation canals flowing sewage water and wastewater used only for irrigation.

Mixed irrigation canals: irrigation canals carrying treated sewage water or industrial wastes mixed with natural waters and used for the irrigation of cultivated land.

Evaporation basins: basins used for taking water away through evaporation by means of sun rays or by exposure to air.

A part of a million: the ratios\* of parts of material which is measured within each one million part of water.

Air pollution: pollution of the atmosphere to a harmful extent with any foreign material such as the existence of vapour, smoke, gas, bad odour, or wastes, in such a concentration which may be harmful to environmental health and which affects properties.\*\*

Natural Air Pollution: pollution of the air with such natural factors as storms and volcanoes.

Gases: Volatile gas compositions such as nitrates, oxides.

Pollution caused by population: pollution caused by such human activities as in factories, kitchens, by the burning of dirt and by motor vehicles, etc.

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\*Or "percentages"

\*\*The word seems to refer to "objects possessed" liable to be affected with pollution

### Chapter III

#### Water

##### Water Pollution Control

8. Nobody (no person) may discharge or throw or assist in the discharge or throwing of any solid, liquid, or gas material in sources of drinking water or in the courses of rivers or their tributaries, haffirs, wells, or in the sea, in such a way harmful to human and animal life or to the use of water by the population for other purposes; and, without impairment to the generality of what is mentioned above, (nobody) may discharge any of the following material in sources of drinking water:

- (a) any solid, liquid, or gas industrial wastes, whether treated or not;

- (b) any chemicals used in any kind of industry, whether treated or not;
- (c) any untreated sewage water or treated sewage water accumulated in toilets, kitchens, bathrooms, or closets;
- (d) any undesirable solid wastes, whether treated or not, and which result from population activities in habitat, factories, or any other public place;
- (e) any dead animals, their remaining parts, or dung near to, or in any sea, river, stream which runs into a river, haffir, or any natural pond, or well, or any canal.

Control of drinking water

9. The health authorities, in any Department, should undertake:

- (a) the supervision of public and private water sources as well as drinking water projects; samples of water should be taken to ensure its quality and that it is unpolluted;
- (b) inspection of water networks or any other water sources in towns and villages in order to ensure the supply of unpolluted water to the population;
- (c) regulation medical examination of personnel working in source networks, or in supply (units) of drinking water in order to ensure that they are free from any communicable diseases which may be widely transmitted through the water;
- (d) purify water sources from pollution so that they can be exploited.

Conditions for storage and supply of water

10. (1) Any person or (institution) responsible for storing or supplying the population with drinking water, whether belonging to the public or the private sector, should conform to the health conditions as laid down by the Minister of Health (from time to time).

(2) subject to the generality of the above item, any person or (institution) in either the public or the private sector is prohibited from:

- (a) supplying the population with drinking water without its analysis by the Technical Committee set up by the competent authority, and the issuance by this Committee, of a certificate prescribing that the water is suitable for drinking purposes;
- (b) supplying the population with any drinking water to which is added any solid, liquid, or gas material which may be harmful to human health;

- (c) constructing houses, camps, or farms near to the area specified for the collection of rainwater, or near to the sewers which supply it with drinking water or from which engineering projects and haffirs are supplied with drinking water by means of pipelines;
- (d) employing any worker without medical examination so that the absence of any communicable diseases should be ensured.

Precautionary\* measures against the spread of epidemics

11. The health authorities in each Department should, in the case of the appearance of any epidemic caused or which has probably been caused by drinking water, take the following precautionary measures:

- (a) take samples of drinking-water sources for bacteriological analysis, (for) treating the purified sources of water and for controlling the evolution\*\* of the epidemic;
- (b) in case the pollution of water sources is certain, instructions should be given in order to close the source and prohibit its use, to continue the treatment as well as the taking of samples until the results of the analysis prove that the source is no longer polluted;
- (c) medically examine all the workers at the polluted source and in cases where it is found that a person is carrying the vector causing the pollution he should be isolated.

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\* preventive

\*\* spread.