

RESOLUTION (64) 5

(Adopted by the Ministers' Deputies on 17th April 1964)

CAMPING HYGIENE

The Committee of Ministers,

Considering that the increasing practice of camping is of unquestionable value in improving the physical and mental health of individuals, on the one hand, and, on the other, promoting a better understanding between nationals of the member countries ;

Considering that camping grounds vary greatly in quality and in the standard of the facilities they provide, some being more rudimentary, others well organised and equipped ;

Convinced that uniform regulations in the matter would contribute to raise the general standard of sanitary facilities and hygienic conditions in camps,

Decides :

1. to recommend that the member countries of the Council of Europe adopt in their legislation or regulations governing hygienic conditions and sanitary equipment in camps the following rules :

(a) Authorisation to establish and operate a camp should be granted only on favourable advice from the competent health authority.

(b) In the setting up of camps, due consideration should be given to the cleanliness of the site, natural drainage, adequate shade, suitable exposure, sufficient area to provide isolation and opportunities for open-air sports and exercise.

(c) The area of each camp should be limited, as a general rule, to not more than 10 hectares with a maximum capacity of 2,000 persons at a maximum rate of 60 installations for 200 persons per hectare.

(d) Camps should have an adequate supply of drinking water; if the camp cannot be connected to the local water supply, it should have its own plant, which must comply with hygiene requirements and be approved by the competent health authority; the quantity of water *per capita* each day should not be less than 50 litres; the use of tap-points for supplying non-drinking water should, as a general rule, not be allowed on camp sites.

(e) Camps should have adequate installations for personal washing in the proportion of 10 wash-places for 100 persons; shower-baths and foot-showers in the proportion of 3 shower-baths and 3 foot-showers (or basins) for 100 persons; the ground around the tap-points and wash-places should be covered by a waterproof protective area or concrete platform.

(f) Camps should have a number of water-closets, pail-closets or the like, adequate to the capacity of the camp in the proportion of at least one w.c. for 30 campers; they should be lit during the night.

(g) Installations for dish-washing should be provided, whenever possible, with hot water, and always be separate from basins for personal washing.

(h) Waste-water and sewerage should be disposed of according to health regulations and under conditions agreed to by the competent health authorities; they should not in any case be allowed to pollute the soil or surface water.

(i) Rubbish and garbage should be collected in washable bins of galvanised iron, or other acceptable material at a rate of one 100-litre bin for every 25 campers; these bins should be provided with a close-fitting lid and should be emptied daily; rubbish and garbage could also be collected in cardboard boxes or stout paper bags for later destruction.

(j) Except in the case of very small camps, there should be a full-time warden in charge; large camps should have at least one member of staff per hectare or per 200 persons; all the staff should be subjected to regular medical supervision.

(k) The warden or operator of the camp should report as soon as possible to the local health officer any suspected case of infectious disease occurring among the campers.

(l) The quality, preservation and sale of foodstuffs on camp sites should comply with existing laws and regulations and should be controlled by the competent health authorities.

(m) Camps should be provided with a complete first-aid kit; camps situated near a lake, a river or the sea should, as far as possible, be provided with artificial respiration apparatus; failing this, instructions on artificial respiration methods should be placed at the disposal of campers.

(n) In order to promote the health education of campers, regulations concerning them should be prepared in several languages and widely distributed.

(o) Periodical inspection of the hygienic and sanitary conditions of camps should be carried out by the competent health authorities which should be empowered to close a camp if the hygienic conditions are not satisfactory or improved to the required standard as requested by those authorities.

(p) Camp-sites should be classified according to equipment, in the light of the rules set out above; each country should issue a periodical guide listing all its authorised camps and indicating the categories into which they have been classified.

(q) The authorities should seek to encourage co-operation between voluntary camping associations, such co-operation being very important for the improvement of hygienic conditions in camps and for the education of campers.

2. to recommend that the member countries :

(a) inform the Secretariat-General of the Council of Europe of the measures taken to apply the present Resolution, in order to enable the Committee of Experts on Public Health to follow its practical application; and

(b) authorise, under their own supervision, camps which conform to the conditions laid down in the present Resolution to mention the fact in their regulations and in any form of publicity.