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Nota di contenuto	Intro -- Foreword -- INTERNATIONAL HEALTH REGULATIONS (2005) -- PART I - DEFINITIONS, PURPOSE AND SCOPE, PRINCIPLES AND RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITIES -- PART II - INFORMATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE -- PART III - RECOMMENDATIONS -- PART IV - POINTS OF ENTRY -- PART V - PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES -- Chapter I - General provisions -- Chapter II - Special provisions for conveyances and conveyance operators -- Chapter III-Special provisions for travellers -- Chapter IV-Special provisions for goods, containers and container loading areas -- PART VI - HEALTH DOCUMENTS -- PART VII - CHARGES -- PART VIII - GENERAL PROVISIONS -- PART IX - THE IHR ROSTER OF EXPERTS, THE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE AND THE REVIEW COMMITTEE -- Chapter I-The IHR Roster of Experts -- Chapter II - The Emergency Committee -- Chapter III-The Review Committee -- PART X - FINAL PROVISIONS -- Annex I -- A. CORE CAPACITY REQUIREMENTS FOR SURVEILLANCE AND RESPONSE -- B. CORE CAPACITY REQUIREMENTS FOR DESIGNATED AIRPORTS, PORTS AND GROUND CROSSINGS -- Annex II -- DECISION INSTRUMENT FOR THE ASSESSMENT AND NOTIFICATION OF EVENTS THAT MAY CONSTITUTE A PUBLIC HEALT -- EXAMPLES FOR THE APPLICATION OF THE DECISION INSTRUMENT FOR THE ASSESSMENT AND NOTIFICATION OF EVENT -- Annex III -- MODEL SHIP SANITATION CONTROL EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE/SHIP SANITATION CONTROL CERTIFICATE --

ATTACHMENT TO MODEL SHIP SANITATION CONTROL EXEMPTION
CERTIFICATE/SHIP SANITATION CONTROL CERTIFICAT -- Annex IV --
TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS PERTAINING TO CONVEYANCES AND
CONVEYANCE OPERATORS -- Annex V -- SPECIFIC MEASURES FOR
VECTOR-BORNE DISEASES -- Annex VI -- VACCINATION, PROPHYLAXIS
AND RELATED CERTIFICATES -- MODEL INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATE
OF VACCINATION OR PROPHYLAXIS -- Annex VII -- REQUIREMENTS
CONCERNING VACCINATION OR PROPHYLAXIS FOR SPECIFIC DISEASES
-- Annex VIII -- MODEL OF MARITIME DECLARATION OF HEALTH.
ATTACHMENT TO MODEL OF MARITIME DECLARATION OF HEALTH --
Annex IX -- HEALTH PART OF THE AIRCRAFT GENERAL DECLARATION
-- index.

Sommario/riassunto

In consideration of the increases in international travel and trade, and emergence and re-emergence of new international disease threats, the Forty-eighth World Health Assembly in 1995 called for a substantial revision of the International Health Regulations. The new Regulations will enter into force on June 15, 2007. The purpose and scope of the new Regulations are "to prevent, protect against, control and provide a public health response to the international spread of disease in ways that are commensurate with and restricted to public health risks, and which avoid unnecessary interference with international traffic and trade." Because the Regulations are not limited to certain diseases, but are applicable to new or evolving disease threats, they should remain current with developments in the evolution of diseases and the factors affecting their emergence and transmission. The Regulations also cover certificates applicable to international travel and transport, and requirements for international ports, airports and ground crossings. This new edition of International Health Regulations (2005) therefore contains a range of new and unprecedented innovations.
