



# DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

NAVAL SEA SYSTEMS COMMAND  
WASHINGTON, DC 20362-5101

IN REPLY REFER TO

NAVSEAINST 3151.1  
OPR OOC4  
22 Dec 1987

## NAVSEA INSTRUCTION 3151.1

From: Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command

Subj: DIVING AND MANNED HYPERBARIC SYSTEM SAFETY CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 3150.27 Navy Diving Program  
(b) Diving and Manned Hyperbaric System Safety Certification Manual NAVSEA SS521-AA-MAN-010

1. Purpose. To establish policy and procedures for system certification of diving and manned hyperbaric systems, and to assign responsibility for administration of the subject program.

2. Cancelation. NAVMATINST 9290.1 of 2 August 1976 and NAVMAT P-9290, June 1976 System Certification Procedures and Criteria Manual for Deep Submergence Systems.

3. Background. The Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) by reference (a) requires safety certification of all Navy diving and manned hyperbaric systems, and has established policy for the subject program. The Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEASYS COM) has been designated the lead Systems Command for issuance of implementing instructions, and procedural guidance for the subject program. Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command (COMNAVSEASYS COM) is responsible for safety certification of shipboard and portable systems and Commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command (COMNAVFACENG COM) is responsible for safety certification of shore-based systems.

### 4. Definitions

(a) Diving. Any underwater activity or related manned hyperbaric facility operation in which personnel are subjected to elevated ambient pressure.

(b) System Safety Certification. The procedure for independent technical review, survey, test, and approval to ensure the material and procedural adequacy of diving equipment or systems to safely perform within specified operational limits.

(c) System Certification Authority (SCA). The position in Naval Sea Systems Command or Naval Facilities Engineering Command delegated authority for the execution of the U. S. Navy Diving and Manned Hyperbaric System Safety Certification Program.

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(d) Sponsor. The command or organization that makes application for system certification or recertification of a diving system. For a system being developed, the sponsor will normally be that organization tasked with development of the capability provided by the system. For existing systems, the sponsor will normally be that element within the organizational chain responsible for readiness and deployment of the specific system.

(e) Departure from Specification. The lack of compliance with any authoritative technical document, plan, drawing, work procedure, maintenance procedure, etc. Departures from specifications shall be handled in accordance with directives issued by the responsible force commander or, in the absence of such directives, by COMNAVSEASYSKOM or COMNAVFACEKOM as appropriate.

(f) Waiver. Authorization to depart from established operating or safety procedures, to use diving equipment which is not currently certified or Authorized for Navy Use (ANU), to exceed specified operational limits, or to deviate from established physical or psychological standards, and personnel qualifications for divers. Only CNO Submarine Warfare (OP-02) can approve a request for a waiver.

(g) Naval Personnel. For purposes of this instruction, naval personnel are defined as any active or reserve military person or civilian employee of the Department of the Navy who has been officially qualified by virtue of successfully completing an approved Navy diving training curriculum to be employed as a diver.

5. Exception. This instruction does not apply to manned or unmanned operation of pressurized sonar domes or their support systems. For purposes of this instruction, sonar domes are not considered as manned hyperbaric chambers.

6. Policy. The objective of the Diving and Manned Hyperbaric System Safety Certification Program is to provide maximum assurance that all diving and hyperbaric systems which are used by naval personnel are materially and procedurally adequate to safely carry out specified operations. It is emphasized that the objective of the program is safety. Reference (b) provides policy, procedures and criteria for the execution of this program. Compliance with reference (b) is mandatory.

7. Action

(a) Fleet, type, group and squadron commanders, commanding officers, officers in charge, or program managers of commands or activities which support, operate or develop diving and manned hyperbaric systems are responsible for insuring that systems not covered by ANU are certified in accordance with the procedures established by this instruction prior to operational use, or are otherwise granted a waiver by CNO.

(b) Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command shall:

(1) Act as lead Systems Command for systems safety certification for diving and manned hyperbaric systems.

(2) Designate a System Certification Authority for all afloat and portable diving and manned hyperbaric systems.

(3) Grant system certification by signing certificates of material and procedural adequacy for systems under the certification cognizance of NAVSEASYS COM which comply with the criteria of this instruction.

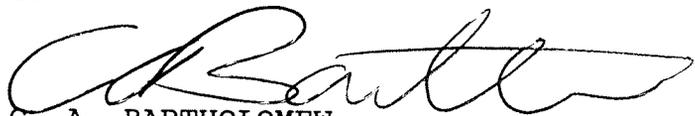
(4) Review and update the administrative and technical criteria of this instruction on a periodic basis.

(c) Commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command shall:

(1) Designate a System Certification Authority for fixed shore-based manned hyperbaric facilities and diving systems.

(2) Grant system certification by signing certificates of material and procedural adequacy for systems under the certification cognizance of COMNAVFACENGCOM which comply with the criteria of this instruction.

(3) Collaborate with NAVSEASYS COM in reviewing and updating the technical criteria of reference (b) on a periodic basis. The objective of the collaborative effort shall be to establish criteria which, to the maximum practical limit, will be uniform for all diving and manned hyperbaric systems. Ensure that criteria and procedures unique to fixed shore based hyperbaric facilities are correct.



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