



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
NAVAL SEA SYSTEMS COMMAND  
1333 ISAAC HULL AVE SE  
WASHINGTON NAVY YARD DC 20376-0001

IN REPLY REFER TO  
NAVSEAINST 3151.1B  
Ser 00/ 057  
15 Feb 2022

NAVSEA INSTRUCTION 3151.1B

From: Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command

Subj: DIVING AND MANNED HYPERBARIC SYSTEMS SAFETY CERTIFICATION  
PROGRAM

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 3150.27D  
(b) NAVSEA SS521-AA-MAN-010, Revision 3, Change A, U.S. Navy Diving and  
Manned Hyperbaric Systems Safety Certification Manual  
(c) NAVSEA SS800-AG-MAN-010/P-9290, Revision 1, System Certification  
Procedures and Criteria Manual for Deep Submergence Systems

1. Purpose. To establish policy for the administration of the Navy Diving and Manned Hyperbaric Systems Safety Certification Program per reference (a) in order to provide maximum reasonable assurance that material or procedural failure that imperils the operators or occupants of a Divers Life Support Systems (DLSS) will not occur. It is emphasized that safety is the program's objective.

2. Cancellation. NAVSEAINST 3151.1A.

3. Action. The Diving System Certification Authority (SEA 00C4) will implement this policy.

4. Scope. Per reference (a), this instruction applies to the safety certification of DLSS, which are defined as all manned hyperbaric life support systems, including all surface-supplied diving systems, saturation diving systems, manned recompression chamber systems, tethered submersibles capable of hyperbaric operations, on-bottom habitats, diver worn equipment with the exception of open circuit SCUBA equipment authorized for Navy use per reference (a), and handling systems used for maneuvering equipment or personnel during manned diving operations.

5. Responsibility. SEA 00C4 will:

- a. Execute System Certification Authority (SCA) duties per reference (a).
- b. Serve as the Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) Technical Warrant for DLSS Safety Certification.
- c. Observe manned demonstration dives and testing protocol pursuant to system certification, ensuring that DLSS are safe for manned use when used per NAVSEA-approved operating and emergency procedures. Should an unsafe or potentially unsafe condition arise

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during a manned demonstration dive or test protocol, the onsite SCA representative must direct termination of the dive or protocol in order to prevent serious injury or death of personnel or damage to equipment.

d. Issue Certificate of System Adequacy letters for DLSS meeting the requirements of reference (b).

e. Conduct on-site objective quality evidence surveys of newly-fabricated DLSS and equipment.

f. Conduct initial and periodic quality management system audits of manufacturers, or potential manufacturers, of DLSS pursuant to certification, per reference (b).

g. Conduct risk assessments (RA) in support of diving waiver and exception to policy requests in collaboration with the Diving Programs Division (SEA 00C3).

(1) Develop and maintain RA checklists in alignment with established certification criteria.

(2) RA must include comprehensive reviews of associated design, fabrication, testing, procedural, and maintenance documentation. On-site materiel surveys and operational demonstrations may also be prescribed.

h. Provide technical and certification support for Deep Submergence Systems per reference (c).

i. Review and update, as required, the administrative and technical criteria of reference (b) and this instruction annually.

j. Participate in meetings, working groups, and conferences to liaise with military and commercial diving and manned hyperbaric system safety certification activities for the purpose of exchanging information related to the safe design, fabrication, and testing of those systems.

k. Notify Director, Undersea Warfare Division (OPNAV N97), via the Supervisor of Salvage and Diving (SEA 00C), of all DLSS that fail to certify/recertify as required.

6. Policy. DLSS must be certified and maintained per references (a) and (b).

## 7. Records Management

a. Records created as a result of this instruction, regardless of format or media, must be maintained and dispositioned per the records disposition schedules located on the Department of the Navy/Assistant for Administration (DON/AA), Directives and Records Management

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Division (DRMD) portal page at

<https://portal.secnav.navy.mil/orgs/DUSNM/DONAA/DRM/Records-and-Information-management/Approved%20Record%20Schedules/Forms/AllItems.aspx>.

b. For questions concerning the management of records related to this instruction or the records disposition schedules, please contact your local records manager.

8. Review and Effective Date. Per OPNAVINST 5215.17A, the SEA 00C will review this instruction annually around the anniversary of its issuance date to ensure applicability, currency, and consistency with Federal, Department of Defense, Secretary of the Navy and Navy policy and statutory authority using OPNAV 5215/40 Review of Instruction. This instruction will be in effect for 10 years, unless revised or cancelled in the interim, and will be reissued by the 10-year anniversary date if it is still required, unless it meets one of the exceptions in OPNAVINST 5215.17A, paragraph 9. Otherwise, if the instruction is no longer required, it will be processed for cancellation as soon as the need for cancellation is known following the guidance in OPNAV Manual 5215.1 of May 2016.

  
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Releasability and distribution:

This instruction is cleared for public release and is available electronically only, via the NAVSEA Public Web site located at <http://www.navsea.navy.mil/Resources/Instructions/>