



FLEET INSPECTIONS

The use of Inspection Criteria References (ICR) as a tool to inspect National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) ships over the past 2 years has resulted in more well defined inspection standards and ship crew's heightened awareness and understanding of the maritime regulations and standards with which NOAA ships are required to comply. As a result, the Office of Marine and Aviation Operations (OMAO) fleet inspectors are seeing a decrease in the number of deficiencies identified on fleet inspections.

The following modifications will be made to the current requirement for ships to be inspected between 9 and 15 months from the date of last inspection with the ultimate goal of shifting all NOAA ships to an 18-month inspection cycle:

- Ships with fewer than 50 category 1, 2, and 3 deficiencies identified on the FY11 or FY12 fleet inspection will be scheduled for the next inspection in 15-18 months
- Ships with 50 or more category 1, 2, and 3 deficiencies identified on the fleet inspection will remain on or revert back to an annual inspection (9-15 months from the last date of inspection)

Marine Operations Centers-Atlantic/Pacific Commanding Officers, Chief OMAO Safety and Environmental Compliance Division and NOAA Ship Commanding Officers may request that a ship scheduled for an 18-month inspection cycle be inspected more frequently based on an analysis of risk. Such factors as a major accident/incident; significant change in the material condition of the ship; significant turn-over in ship's crew; and rate of progress in working off existing deficiencies will be considered as part of the risk analysis.

OMAO Procedure 0251-01, Fleet Inspections, will reflect this change when it is revised.

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Responsible Position: Chief, Safety and Environmental Compliance Division