

OMAO SMALL BOAT WEIGHT TESTING SPECIFIC GUIDANCE

A. DEFINITIONS:

- i. **Condition-A Weight** (Dry Weight and propulsion) - Complete weight of the motor and boat, empty and does not include required equipment, fuel, or the equivalent weight of persons
- ii. **Condition-B Weight** (Max. Carriage Capacity + Condition A weight) - Weight of the complete boat: includes all required equipment, fuel, and the weight of the maximum amount of additional gear, equipment, and persons at 185 lbs per person, that the boat is designed to carry.
- iii. **Modified Condition B Weight** (Reduced Carriage Capacity + Condition A weight): A NOAA term defined as a boat's Condition A weight plus the weight of full fuel and required safety equipment, plus the weight of a reduced amount of supplies, gear, and personnel that the boat can be hoisted while containing people.
- iv. **Review Authorities**
 - a. OMAO boats – Marine Operations Engineering (MOE) (formerly Marine Engineering Branch - MEB)
 - b. NOAA Line Office boats - The NOAA Small Boat Programs

B. ALL BOATS HOISTED BY SHIPBOARD CRANE WITH PEOPLE ABOARD will:

- i. Have harnesses:
 - a. Designed and rated with a 6:1 safety factor for the boat's hoist weight.
 - b. Have a legible, permanently attached, weather and water resistant, label stating the safety rating from the manufacturer or certified inspector.
 - c. Be removed from service if any deformation, ripping, cracking, seam popping, or similar, is observed. The harness will remain out of service until appropriately repaired or replaced and satisfactorily weight tested.
- ii. Will have an annually updated, permanently affixed, legible, weather and water resistant identity plate. Example provided in Diagram 1 (bottom last page). The plate will be affixed to the transom or console clearly stating:
 - a. The boat's name and hull registration number. Program boat registration numbers as per NOAA Small Boat Standards and Procedures Manual – section 14.
 - b. Statement "Weight Tested to XXXX lbs according to 110% OR 150% of the Condition B OR Modified Condition B weight on DATE. Maximum hoisting weight per OMAO policy is XXXX pounds when hoisted containing people.

- C. ALL BOATS, OTHER THAN DESIGNATED RESCUE BOATS, BOATS HOISTED WITH DAVITS, AND INFLATABLE BOATS LACKING A RIGID HULL, will have an initial proof weight test conducted by the approved review authority at 150% of the Condition – B weight OR at 150% of the Modified Condition B weight.

D. ALL NOAA SOLID HULL BOATS AND RIGID HULL INFLATABLE BOATS (RHIB) HOISTED WITH PERSONNEL VIA A SHIPBOARD CRANE WILL:

- i. If constructed on or after March 1, 2014:
 - a. Have lifting attachments and bridle meeting the 6:1 or greater designed safety factor.
 - b. Following the initial weight test, will be weight tested annually for 5 minutes at 110% of the Condition – B weight.
- ii. If constructed before March 1, 2014 and meets or exceed the 6:1 safety factor:
 - a. Following the initial weight test, will be weight tested annually for 5 minutes at 110% of the Condition – B weight.
- iii. If constructed before March 1, 2014 and does not meet or exceed the 6:1 safety factor will have:
 - a. The review authority conduct an inspection to determine the safety factor that the boat and harness have AND
 1. Assist the boat's program in developing designs to meet the 6:1 safety factor requirement. Approved designs will be implemented before the boat can be initially weight tested for hoisting with personnel OR:
 2. Assist the boat's program with reducing the allowable hoist weight of the boat according to the definition for Modified Condition B, effectively de-rating it until the 6:1 safety factor is achieved.

E. ALL INFLATABLE BOATS LACKING A RIGID HULL will have all hoisting harness components designed to a 6:1 safety factor or greater reviewed and approved by the review authority AND:

- i. Have an initial weight test conducted by the approved review authority at 150% of the Modified Condition B weight.
- ii. Will be weight tested annually for 5 minutes to 110% of the Modified Condition B weight.

Diagram 1:

Example of a boat hoisting plate with the minimum requirements: Words in *Italics* are informational and need not be on the plate.

OMAO Boat: Boat named HI-3 OR

Program Boat: Boat named Kaku: NOAA Registration Number: F2132

Weight Tested to 4400 lbs according to 110% of Modified Condition B weight on FEB 5, 2014. Max. hoisting weight per OMAO policy is 4000 pounds when hoisted containing people.