

	OFFICE OF MARINE AND AVIATION OPERATIONS National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	POLICY 0306	VERSION 3.0
		EFFECTIVE DATE March 12, 2014	
	AUTHORIZED BY: /s/ RADM David A. Score, NOAA _____ RADM David A. Score, NOAA Director, Office of Marine and Aviation Operations	REVIEW DATE March 1, 2015	
		RESPONSIBLE POSITION Chief, NOAA Dive Program	

NOAA SCIENCE DIVER QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. This policy specifies the requirements for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) divers to qualify as a NOAA science diver or scientist-in-training for the purpose of performing operational science dives, or science training and proficiency dives consistent with the NOAA Scientific Diving Standards and Safety Manual.
 - 1.2. This version is the triennial review with no content changes.
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2. SCOPE

- 2.1. This policy applies to all NOAA divers.
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3. POLICY

- 3.1. For the purpose of performing operational science dives, or science training and proficiency dives consistent with the NOAA Scientific Diving Standards and Safety Manual, divers must meet the definition of a scientist listed in Section 6.
 - 3.2. Individuals not meeting the above requirements may participate in science dives if the individual is appropriately briefed by a science diver as described in Section 3.1, on the specific tasks to be performed during the dive.
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4. GUIDANCE

Associated procedures will provide guidance.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES

Unit Diving Supervisors are responsible for determining whether or not a dive can be performed under the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Scientific Exemption (29 CFR § 1910.410(a)(2)(iv)) based on review of the dive plan and the credentials of the divers involved.

6. DEFINITIONS

NOAA Divers

Individuals certified by the NOAA Diving Program Manager to dive and perform work in a hyperbaric environment in support of NOAA's mission. These

include NOAA employees (federal full-time and contract employees), reciprocity, and volunteer divers.

Contract Divers

Non-NOAA contracted personnel certified to dive as either NOAA science or working divers by the NOAA Diving Program Manager in support of NOAA's undersea activities.

Reciprocity Divers

Non-NOAA divers, employed by organizations, agencies and institutions with whom NOAA has established reciprocity agreements, for the purpose of conducting collaborative diving operations.

Volunteer Divers

Non-NOAA personnel certified to dive as either NOAA science or working divers by the NOAA Diving Program Manager in support of NOAA's undersea activities. Volunteer divers do not receive financial compensation while diving under NOAA auspices.

NOAA Science Divers

Individuals certified to conduct science dives by the NOAA Diving Program Manager.

Dive Plan

Written details concerning the dive to be performed including personnel and operational information.

Science Dives

Dives performed as a necessary part of a scientific or research activity by individuals whose sole purpose for diving is to perform scientific or research tasks for the advancement of science.

Scientist

Individual who utilizes scientific expertise to perform science dives without direct or indirect supervisions or guidance from a more qualified individual as determined by the on-site Divemaster/Lead Diver and Chief Scientist.

Scientist-in-training

Individual who utilizes scientific expertise to perform science dives under the direct or indirect supervision or guidance from a scientist and approved by the on-site Divemaster or Lead Diver.

Unit Diving Supervisor

NOAA divers appointed by Diving Officers of the respective NOAA Line Office to oversee, direct, and approve all diving activities conducted within the unit and to administer to the needs of assigned dives.

7. REFERENCES

NOAA Scientific Diving Standards and Safety Manual
http://www.ndc.noaa.gov/pdfs/NSDSSM_rev1.pdf

Code of Federal Regulations (29 CFR § 1910.401(a)(2)(iv))
<http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/get-cfr.cgi?TITLE=29&PART=1910&SUBPART=T&TYPE=PDF>

8. AUTHORITY

OMAO Policy 0301 – Category 0300

9. NOTES

Effects on other documents: Supersedes previous versions of OMAO Policy 0306 – NOAA Science Diver Qualification Requirements

DOCUMENT HISTORY		
Version	Description of Change	Effective Date
3.0	Triennial review, no content changes.	3/12/2014
2.0	Changed definition of NOAA Science Diver	11/4/2009
1.0	Initial Document.	5/27/2009