**Changes to NDSSM effective 18 May 2018.**

These changes cover the following topics:

- Experience required for locally trained divers
- Documentation of SEP gear issued to divers
- Testing and Maintenance of Emergency Oxygen Kits
- Testing of DOT and ASME storage cylinders
- Air quality standards
- Transportation of gas storage cylinders
- Testing of weight harnesses

Change to local unit training requirements to bring them more in line with NDC training:

***3.3.2*** *Local NOAA Dive Unit Training*

*A. General*

*1) Diver candidates. Students in diving classes must meet the initial certification requirements outlined in Section 3.1 as well as the following:*

*a. Scuba diving certification in Basic Openwater, Advanced Openwater and Rescue from a nationally or internationally recognized diver training agency;*

*b. A minimum of 30 logged dives after the completion of non-NOAA certification with twelve (12) of these dives in the last twelve (12) months. This requirement may be increased by the Field Trainer in consultation with the Unit Diving Supervisor of the NOAA Diver candidate.*

*OR*

*c. NDCSB approved military or commercial training.*

Change to documentation of SEP gear, deletes reference to outdated form:

***5.1.1*** *Operation and Maintenance*

*G. An inventory of SEP issued diving equipment shall be conducted by each diver annually and the results submitted to the UDS and recorded in the Unit Log.*

Changes to standardize periodicity of emergency oxygen kit testing:

***5.3.1*** *Emergency Oxygen Kits*

*D. The regulator and valve used to deliver oxygen (e.g., Elder valve, demand inhalator valve, manually triggered valve [MTV], multifunction regulator) shall be serviced every two (2) years to ensure delivery pressure is within the manufacturer's specifications. If manufacturer has no service recommendation, valves shall be serviced every two (2) years. SEP-issued equipment will be serviced by NDC, non-SEP equipment will be serviced by the Dive Unit.*

*E. The regulator and valve used to deliver oxygen shall be tested for delivery pressure every three (3) months and the results recorded on NOAA Form 57-03-85 Emergency Oxygen Kit Demand Valve Test Results.*

***F.*** *If an NDC issued regulator is determined to be out-of-specification, the NDC shall be notified and a replacement will be provided by NDC.*

*G. Oxygen kits shall be checked for functionality before every day of diving.*

Changes to recognize different testing requirements for cylinders made to DOT and ASME standards:

***5.3.4*** *Air Compressor Systems*

*O. Compressed gas storage cylinders. Shall:*

*5) If subject to DOT standards, be hydrostatically tested every five (5) years if part of a bank of cylinders, including those stamped with a star (★) in the codes; and*

*6) If subject to ASME standards, be visually inspected every five (5) years and ultrasonically tested every ten (10) years unless defects are detected during visual inspections after which ultrasonic testing shall be more frequent.*

Changes to reduce allowable carbon monoxide in diver's air and remove mandatory link to US Navy air quality standards:

***5.3.5*** *Air Quality Standards*

*Breathing air for the NOAA Diving Program shall meet the minimum specifications as set forth in OSHA regulations at 29 CFR 1910.430(b)(3). Stricter standards may be required by the NDCSB.*

| *Constituent* | *Specification* |
|---|---|
| *Oxygen (percent by volume)* | *20 - 22%* |
| *Carbon dioxide (by volume)* | *1000 ppm (max)* |
| *Carbon monoxide (by volume)* | *10 ppm (max)* |
| *Condensed Hydrocarbons (as $CH_4$ by volume)* | *25 ppm (max)* |
| *Odor and taste* | *Not objectionable* |
| *Oil, mist, particulates* | *5 mg/$m^3$ (max)* |

Change to bring NOAA standards in line with DOT standards for transportation of gas storage cylinders in vehicles:

***5.4.5*** *Scuba Cylinders and Cylinder Valves*

*A. Scuba Cylinders shall be:*

*4) Lashed down in a horizontal or vertical position or stowed in a rack during transportation in a motor vehicle.*

Change to bring NOAA standards for weight harnesses into agreement with testing periodicity recommended by manufacturer while also requiring inspection for general condition prior to each day's usage:

***5.4.6*** *Other Maintenance Requirements*

*C. Weight-harness systems with quick-release mechanisms shall be inspected for damage prior to each diving day and the weight-release mechanism tested for proper function every three (3) months.*