

	OFFICE OF MARINE AND AVIATION OPERATIONS	PROCEDURE	VERSION
		1001-02	3.0
	AUTHORIZED BY: /s/ RADM Michael J. Silah, NOAA <hr/> RADM Michael J. Silah, NOAA Director, NOAA Corps and Office of Marine and Aviation Operations	EFFECTIVE DATE	REVIEW DATE
		10/12/2018	10/12/2023
		ISM CODE REFERENCE	
		Section 6.2.2	
		RESPONSIBLE POSITION	
		Director, Health Services	

MEDICAL PERSONS REQUIRED ABOARD NOAA SHIPS

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 This procedure determines the type of medical persons required aboard a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) ship during underway periods, outlines the complement assignment, professional qualifications, and supervision responsibilities for U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) Medical Officers, and sets forth requirements for waiver requests to this procedure.
- 1.2 This revision:
- 1.2.1 Replaces Regional Director Health Services (RDHS) with Director Marine Medicine (DMM).
 - 1.2.2 Adds St. Lawrence, Alaska; Hamilton, Bermuda; Nassau, Bahamas; Charlotte Amalie, USVI; Kingston, Jamaica; and Bridgetown, Barbados as reference points for operations in section 4.1.2.B.
 - 1.2.3 Adds waiver requirement to include USCG cutter information when working in remote areas of Alaska in section 4.5.2.

2. SCOPE

- 2.1 This procedure applies to all NOAA ships.

3. RESPONSIBLE POSITIONS

- 3.1 The following positions or groups have action item responsibilities within this procedure:
- Director, OMAO
 - Director, Office of Health Services
 - Ship Commanding Officer
 - Marine Operations Center Commanding Officer
 - USPHS Medical Officer
 - Medical Person-In-Charge
 - NOAA Dive Medical Officer
 - Marine Operations Center Chief of Operations
 - Director Marine Medicine
 - Chief Scientist
-

4. RESPONSIBILITIES AND PROCEDURES

4.1 Criteria for Medical Persons Determination

- 4.1.1 NOAA ships must be staffed with a minimum of two medical persons within the permanent complement. This might be accomplished by assigning one USPHS medical officer and one qualified Medical Person-in-Charge (MPIC), or two qualified MPICs. In order to meet safe manning requirements, at least one medical person must be on board for all underway periods. Whenever possible, it is prudent to have two medical persons on board when underway. Medical persons are not required on board when the ship is in port.
- 4.1.2 NOAA ships must have a qualified USPHS medical officer on board during all underway periods which meet any of the following criteria:
- A. Operating for any period greater than 40 days away from a U.S. port.
 - B. Operating for any period greater than 24 hours beyond 250 nautical miles from:
 - Coastline of the contiguous United States;
 - Mainland Alaska, which includes southeast Alaska and the Alaska Peninsula;
 - St. Paul, Alaska;
 - St. Lawrence, Alaska;
 - Adak, Alaska;
 - Honolulu, Hawaii;
 - Hamilton, Bermuda
 - Nassau, Bahamas;
 - Charlotte Amalie, USVI;
 - San Juan, Puerto Rico;
 - Kingston, Jamaica; or
 - Bridgetown, Barbados
 - C. Operational Risk Assessment indicates the nature of operations require a medical person with qualifications higher than an MPIC. Such operations may include, but are not limited to:
 - Remote operational area;
 - Extensive or deep dive operations;
 - High voltage mission equipment; or
 - Deployment and recovery of manned submersibles.
 - D. A NOAA Dive Medical Officer (DMO) must be aboard any ship conducting diving operations that require a dive chamber to be aboard.

4.2 Identification of Projects That Require a USPHS Medical Officer

- 4.2.1 The Marine Operations Center (MOC), Chief of Operations (OPS) will identify those projects on all NOAA ships that require a medical officer upon receipt of the annual Fleet Allocation Plan review. NOAA ships meeting the USPHS medical officer criteria for greater than 50 percent of the annual sailing schedule must have a USPHS medical officer billet included on the authorized complement and be classified as a Medical Class A ship. Notify Health Services not less than six months in advance if a ship meets this criteria. All other ships will be classified as Medical Class B ships. If a specific project on a Medical Class B ship meets the requirements of a Medical Class A ship, OPS must immediately notify the ship CO, program, and the Director of Marine Medicine (DMM) of the USPHS medical officer requirement for that specific project.

4.3 Assignment, Qualification, and Management of Medical Officers

- 4.3.1 The DMM will assign a USPHS medical officer to each Medical Class A ship. USPHS Medical Officers must either be a certified Nurse Practitioner, Physician Assistant, or Registered Nurse with advanced cardiac life support (ACLS) certification. DMOs, in addition to the above requirements, must complete the NOAA Physicians Diving Medical Officer course or the U.S. Navy Recognition and Treatment of Diving Injuries course. The DMM will have second-line supervisory responsibilities for the USPHS medical officers aboard NOAA ships. When a Medical Class A ship does not meet the criteria in Section 4.1 for a specific project, the assigned USPHS medical officer may take leave, attend training, work at the MOC, remain on the ship, or be detailed by the Director, Office of Health Services to another NOAA ship in need of a USPHS medical officer.

4.4 Medical Officer as Part of the Scientific Complement

- 4.4.1 The Chief Scientist (CS) must provide one berth from the scientific complement for a USPHS medical officer when a project on a Medical Class B ship meets the criteria in Section 4.1.

4.5 Command Responsibilities

- 4.5.1 The ship Commanding Officer (CO) must ensure the ship is adequately staffed with medical persons, as specified in Section 4.1, before getting underway. The ship is prohibited from getting underway if the required medical persons are not embarked. The only exception to this procedure is via a written waiver request provided to the Director, OMAO in accordance with OMAO Policy 1702.
- 4.5.2 The ship CO will submit a waiver request through MOC. Waiver requests must be submitted in writing no less than 30 days in advance of the scheduled project. The waiver request must address the following:
- A. Justification for a waiver request, including program impact;
 - B. Qualification level of all medical persons that will be on board the ship;
 - C. Description of the complete operating area and duration of periods expected to fall outside the geographic regions described in Section 4.1;
 - D. Nearest alternative shore-based medical response facility including description of all response assets and capabilities; and,
 - If Alaska operations area is not covered under 4.1.2 B. contact USCG Sector Juneau to inquire about USCG cutters operating in the region. Include this information in the waiver request.
 - E. Operational Risk Assessment showing impact on crew safety and health if the waiver request was granted.
- 4.5.3 The ship CO may request a USPHS medical officer through the MOC for specific operational reasons not covered in this procedure. This request must be submitted in writing to MOC at least 90 days in advance of the requested USPHS medical officer coverage.
- 4.5.4 The ship CO will be the immediate supervisor of the USPHS medical officer while the USPHS medical officer is assigned to the ship. The CO must provide the DMM with performance feedback upon completion of a USPHS medical officer shipboard assignment.

5. RECORDS AND REPORTS

No records or reports are created by this document.

6. REFERENCES

No references are related to this document.

7. DEFINITIONS

- Medical Class A ship** NOAA ship that has a USPHS Medical Officer stationed aboard in addition to one or more Medical-Persons-in-Charge.
- Medical Class B ship** NOAA ship that does not have a USPHS Medical Officer stationed aboard but does have two or more Medical Persons-in-Charge in the complement.

8. NOTES

Effect on Other Documents: Supersedes previous version of OMAO 1001-02 – Medical Personnel Required Aboard NOAA Ships

DOCUMENT HISTORY		
Version	Description of Change	Effective Date
3.0	Replaces Regional Director Health Services (RDHS) with Director Marine Medicine (DMM); Adds St. Lawrence, Alaska; Hamilton, Bermuda; Nassau, Bahamas; Charlotte Amalie, USVI; Kingston, Jamaica; and Bridgetown, Barbados as reference points for operations in section 4.1.2.B; Adds waiver requirement to include USCG cutter information when working in remote areas of Alaska in section 4.5.2.	10/12/2018
2.0	Reformats procedures into the Document Management System format; Adds “Responsible Positions” section; Adds that medical persons are not required on board when the ship is in port in section 4.1.1; Adds NOAA Dive Medical Officer requirement in section 4.1.2.D; Removes “Waiver Authority,” previously section 4.6	3/1/2016
1.0	Initial Document.	7/27/2009