

## **COAST GUARD DIVING POLICIES & PROCEDURES COMDTINST M3150.1B**

### Chapter 5: Diving Resources

#### E. Other Diving Resources.

1. **Supervision.** With the exception of Coast Guard divers operating with other military divers as discussed above, in instances where Coast Guard personnel or units employ non-Coast Guard diving resources, such Coast Guard units will not supervise or control such non-Coast Guard diving resources because, among other things, Coast Guard units that are not designated Diving Units and personnel who are not qualified Coast Guard divers lack the expertise and experience to operate, control or supervise such diving resources. In circumstances in which Coast Guard personnel or units employ non-Coast Guard diving resources, such Coast Guard personnel or units rely upon the expertise and experience of the person or agency providing the diving services to conduct required diving operations in a safe manner and in compliance with any applicable and appropriate diving policies, procedures and regulations.
2. **Definitions.** The following definitions are drawn from reference (i)\*.
  - a. **Commercial Diving.** Diving and related support operations conducted in connection with all types of work and employments, including general industry, construction, ship repairing, shipbuilding, shipbreaking and longshoring.
  - b. **Public Safety Diving.** Diving performed solely for search, rescue or related public safety purposes by or under the control of a governmental agency.
  - c. **Scientific Diving.** Diving performed solely as a necessary part of a scientific, research or educational activity by employees whose sole purpose for diving is to perform scientific research tasks. Scientific diving does not include performing any tasks usually associated with commercial diving such as: Placing or removing heavy objects underwater; inspection of pipelines and similar objects; construction; demolition; cutting or welding; or the use of explosives.
3. **Standards.** As discussed below, the standards and regulations that apply to diving resources is not based on the nature or composition of the dive team, but by the nature of the work performed....
4. **Commercial Diving...**
5. **Public Safety Diving...**

6. Scientific Diving. Diving performed solely as a necessary part of a scientific, research or educational activity by employees whose sole purpose for diving is to perform scientific research tasks. Scientific diving does not include performing any tasks usually associated with commercial diving such as: Placing or removing heavy objects underwater; inspection of pipelines and similar objects; construction; demolition; cutting or welding; or the use of explosives.
  - a. Safety. Due to different operating and emergency procedures, Coast Guard divers will not supervise scientific divers or operate as part of a buddy pair with a scientific diver. The Diving Officer shall advise the Commanding Officer regarding any potentially unsafe situations.
  - b. Authorization.
    - (1) Scientific divers embarked on Polar Icebreakers may conduct diving operations in support of their science mission. Scientific diving operations are specifically exempted from commercial diving regulations.
    - (2) Divers must request authorization from the unit they will be embarked by submitting an Indemnification and Responsibility Statement of Parent Organization form (enclosure 11)\*\* a minimum of three months prior to the deployment.
  - c. Certification. Divers must be certified by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Diving Program or an organizational member of the American Association of Underwater Sciences (AAUS). Certification shall specify the diver's depth, equipment and environmental limitations.
  - d. Operations. Divers shall conduct diving operations in accordance with the protocols of their certifying authority. The University-National Oceanographic Laboratory System (UNOLS) Research Vessel Safety Standards Manual provides guidance on the performance of scientific diving operations from research vessels. The Diving Officer and lead diver shall review this guidance before allowing scientific divers to commence diving operations.
  - e. Equipment. Divers must supply their own equipment, with the exception of SCUBA cylinders.

\* Reference (i): Commercial Diving Operations, 29 CFR 1910 Subpart T

\*\* Enclosure 11: Indemnification and Responsibility Statement of Parent Organization

INDEMNIFICATION AND RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT  
OF PARENT ORGANIZATION

**Background**

This release provides role clarity for dives conducted by scientific divers aboard United States Coast Guard Polar Icebreakers (“Polar Icebreakers”). Scientific divers embarked on Polar Icebreakers may conduct diving operations in support of their science mission. Scientific diving operations are specifically exempted from commercial diving regulations. Divers must be certified by either the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Diving Program or an organizational member of the American Association of Underwater Sciences (AAUS). Certification shall specify the diver’s depth, equipment, and environmental limitations. Divers must request authorization from the unit they will be embarked by submitting this form a minimum of three months prior to the deployment. Divers shall conduct diving operations in accordance with the protocols of their certifying authority. The USCG is not supervising the dive in any manner whatsoever. The USCG exercises no control over the dive. The USCG assumes no responsibility for the dive.

**Release**

In consideration of the United States Coast Guard (the “USCG”) providing the diver named below with the opportunity to engage in diving activities using USCG vessels,

The \_\_\_\_\_,  
(parent organization)

(“The Organization”) agrees to indemnify, hold harmless, and not to sue or otherwise pursue claims, demands, or actions (including but not limited to costs, expenses and legal fees incurred in defending any such claims, demands, or actions) against, the USCG, its officers, employees, and agents for any and all damages arising by reason of the acts or omissions of the Organization or the Organization’s diver. The Organization agrees to assume full responsibility and liability for the diver’s actions and assures the USCG that

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Diver's name) (Position)  
is currently an active, certified diver at this Organization certified to a depth of \_\_\_\_\_ fsw.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Diver (Signature) Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Organization Supervisor (Print) Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Organization Supervisor (Signature) Phone/e-mail