



SAFETY MANAGEMENT MANUAL

6.6 SWIMMER QUALIFICATIONS

Originator:

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Approved By:

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1. Purpose

It is recognized that each of the vessels operated by Woods Hole Oceanographic is arranged differently and swimmers provide different functions. To accommodate these differences this procedure has been developed to provide standardization for the qualifications of a swimmer to be established on each vessel if necessary.

The purpose of this procedure is to set forth the requirements for each vessel to establish a system for qualifying swimmers and documenting that qualification if that function is needed.

2. Responsibility

It is the responsibility of the Master of the vessel to establish the criteria used to qualify individuals as swimmers on that vessel.

In establishing this qualification program, the Master may delegate the conduct of the program to others under his command. Such delegation does not relieve the Master of the responsibility to insure that each individual is qualified when operating as a swimmer.

3. General

This document is intended to extend to the Masters of each vessel the opportunity to develop standards for swimmers on their vessel. Each vessel operates differently; however, in general setting forth the requirements and document the completion of the qualification process is common to all vessels.

A swimmer qualification program should include most the following elements:

- Hierarchy for authority
- Pre-operation checks
- Guidelines to be followed while a swimmer
- Criteria for qualification, and
- Recording

4. Reporting

The qualification program shall be drafted and included for publication in the Safety Management System. The procedures to follow to effect such publication shall be as set forth in the Documents section of this system.