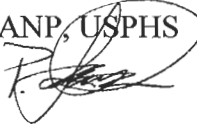




UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
OFFICE OF MARINE AND AVIATION OPERATIONS
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

AUG 25 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR: RDML Philip Kenul
Director, Marine and Aviation Operations Centers

FROM: CAPT P. Jane Powers FNP-BC, MS, FAANP, USPHS
Director of Health Services
NOAA Marine and Aviation Operations 

SUBJECT: DECISION: Revised NOAA Health Services Questionnaire (NHSQ)

The Director of Health Services, NOAA Marine and Aviation Operations (OMAO), recommends that the attached revised NHSQ be adopted as the official and latest version of the medical document to be completed by cooperating scientists and others (noncrew) who sail aboard NOAA vessels.

Discussion

NOAA requires medical screening for all who sail aboard its vessels. The NOAA Health Services Questionnaire or NHSQ is the document that is used to medically screen cooperating scientists and other noncrew personnel who sail aboard any NOAA vessel for determining fitness.

There are two versions of this document that are currently found on NOAA-related web sites: one revised in April 2004 and another that was revised March 2006 (see both attached). It is unknown why the March 2006 version did not officially supersede the April 2004 version or who exactly did these revisions. Both versions contain questions that do not provide pertinent and useful information as well as requesting specific personal identifying information that is not necessary in evaluating fitness to sail. In addition, these two versions of the NHSQ do not address any of the physical requirements for living/working aboard a ship.

In an effort to make this document as meaningful and appropriate as possible, NOAA Health Services reviewed, discussed, researched, and ultimately revised these versions of the NHSQ (see attached, revision done 8/08). This most recent version contains only the pertinent medical information that is needed in determining fitness to sail with no specific personal identifying information (such as social security or passport number, month/day of birth, other). A very important section has been added to this 8/08 revision to include questions related to functional abilities for residing aboard a ship at sea. This brings the NHSQ more in line with the type of information we require from crew and allows for a clearer and more complete picture of the applicant's ability to function in that environment.

This 8/08 revision has been reviewed by Elise Steinberg and her comments have been incorporated into this revision.



When approved, this 8/08 revision of the NHSQ will supersede both the April 2004 and March 2006 (and any other) revisions and will be effective immediately. It will be posted on the following and other web sites as appropriate as a fillable electronic form: (1) swfsc.noaa.gov, (2) moc.noaa.gov, (3) channelislands.noaa.gov, (4) saga.pmel.noaa.gov, (5) pmel.noss.gov, and (6) other sites as needed.

In summary, this decision memo is requesting endorsement/approval for acceptance of the revised NHSQ (8/08) as the "official" version to supersede all other versions. I respectfully request your endorsement of this proposal.

PMK Approve _____ Disapprove _____ Let's discuss
8/25/08 Date