

APPENDIX C

DIVING MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS  
FOR  
GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL

1. A negative response to any of the following physical requirements may restrict or limit occupational exposure to hyperbaric conditions depending on severity, presence of residual effects, response to therapy, number of occurrences, diving mode, or degree and duration of isolation. These items, to include recommendations, will be included in the physician's report of medical examination.

a. Height and weight. The diver examination must contain an evaluation of muscular development and lean muscle mass in reference to capability to perform the tasks described on the SF 78, including the indicated functional requirements and environmental factors.

b. Ears, nose and throat. Audiometric testing must be carried out on every prospective diver. A hearing loss of 35dB or more at frequencies up to 3000 Hz and 50dB or more at frequencies above 3000Hz to a minimum of 6000Hz is an indication for referral of the person to a specialist for further opinion.

(1) Anatomic abnormalities such as perforated eardrums with marked scarring or thickening of the drum are not in themselves disqualifying.

(2) Inability to equalize pressure on both sides of the eardrum is disqualifying.

(3) Acute or chronic suppurative infection of the nose and sinuses may be disqualifying dependent on severity.

(4) Acute or chronic semicircular canal disease will disqualify a diver.

c. Eyes. Vision testing should be carried out on every prospective diver. Vision at distance should be 20/30 in best eye with correction.

d. Cardiovascular system. Severe valvular disease, cardiac arrhythmias, angina, uncontrolled hypertension, severe peripheral vascular disease should disqualify a diver. Any operations performed to correct the above condition should also disqualify a diver.

e. Pulmonary. A history of spontaneous pneumothorax, bleb disease, significant asthma, clinically apparent TB, or significant scarring from TB, cystic disease, emphysematous bullae should all be considered disqualifying.

f. Gastrointestinal system. Gastrointestinal illness that produces chronic illness or debilitation shall be disqualifying unless further evaluated. A clinically apparent inguinal, femoral, large umbilical or incisional hernia should disqualify the diver until it has been repaired. Hiatal hernias are not disqualifying unless the severity of their symptoms affect the diver's ability to work.

g. Central nervous system. Disorders of the vestibular system or a history of seizures are disqualifying. Any history of significant psychoneurotic disorders is disqualifying.

h. Endocrine system. Persons with severe diabetes shall be disqualified unless further evaluated.

i. Musculoskeletal. A history of aseptic necrosis of the head of the femur, the shoulders or the knees is disqualifying.

j. Hematological. Laboratory evidence of sickle cell disease or trait is disqualifying.

k. Genitourinary system. Any significant disease of the kidney which has a systemic effect is disqualifying.

l. Behavior. A history of drug or alcohol abuse may be disqualifying.

## 2. Recommended Examination.

### a. Preemployment.

- (1) Central nervous system.
- (2) Musculoskeletal with X-Ray of knees, shoulders, and head of femur.
- (3) Ears, nose and throat with audiogram.
- (4) Eye examination with vision screening.
- (5) Cardiovascular with EKG.
- (6) Pulmonary evaluation with chest film.
- (7) Gastrointestinal evaluation with check for hernias.

(8) Laboratory. Sickle Cell testing.

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CBC with differential

Urinalysis

b. Annually. Annually the diver must receive a complete physical as above with the exception of Musculoskeletal X Rays, a chest film and Sickle Cell testing.

NOTE: Sickle Cell testing and Musculoskeletal X-Rays need only be accomplished during an initial physical.

c. Tri-annually. Tri-annually the diver must receive an updated chest film.