



University-National Oceanographic Laboratory System

~UNOLS~

Status of RVSS Appendix B- UNOLS Overboard Handling System May 31-June 1, 2017





Current Status of Appendix B

Council Meeting- November 30 2016-

Open discussion on Appendix B- Overboard Handling System Design Standards and Criteria for the Design and Operation of Overboard Handling Systems

- None of the Academic Research Fleet Ships were in full compliance
- Full Compliance of Appendix B may not be reasonably attainable
- Infinite number of over-boarding scenarios & towing angles
- If standards cannot be attained, may create a legal situation
- We did not create Appendix B because of an unsafe condition
- New NSF Cooperative Agreements going into effect- language may require full compliance of RVSS
- Suspend Implementation of Appendix B- Safety Committee should revise safety standards
- Motion passed to suspend and remove Appendix B pending further study



UNOLS Council Letter to broader community:

“...in light of the continuing effort to improve the over-the-side handling systems that the implementation of Appendix B as currently written be suspended and removed from RVSS with further study to be done.”

UNOLS Safety Committee met via telcon on Dec 8, 2016

- Continue Survey to assess fleet’s level of compliance- This is completed.
- Safety Committee reconsider objectives of App B
- Safety Committee should propose with appropriate technical assistance a revised App B.

Safety Committee met at RVOC on Tuesday April 18 2017 in New Orleans

Follow 46CFR 189.35- Wet Weight Handling Gear



46 Code of Federal Regulation- CFR

Subpart 189.35 Weight Handling Gear

Key Points of CFR

- Intent: special nature of oceanographic research vessel operations, it is intended that maximum flexibility be given to the owner or operator
- An installation test and safety assessment shall be conducted
- Test should consist of exercising the equipment as a unit with a proof load 25 % in excess of the equipment's normal working load
- Suitability of the equipment for the service intended will be emphasized



46 Code of Federal Regulation- CFR

Subpart 189.35 Weight Handling Gear

Plans or other technical information may be required by the USCG Officer in Charge Marine Inspection

To include:

- “Stress and/or arrangement diagrams with supporting design calculations as appropriate to the specific equipment in question.”
- “Purchase specification or vendor’s information may be accepted in lieu of design calculations if sufficiently definitive of materials, design, (safety) factors and operating limitations. “
- “Wet Gear shall be designed, as a minimum, to withstand and operate in excess of the breaking strength of the strongest section or wire to be used in any condition of loading” ... the yield strength of the material shall be at least 1.5 times the calculated stresses to the nominal breaking strength of the wire rope to be used”