

Request for Exemption

Purpose. The UNOLS Research Vessel Operators Committee, (RVOC) and its Safety Committee are the governing bodies responsible for all aspects of the UNOLS Research Vessel Safety Standards, (RVSS). This *Request for Exemption* form has been created to provide a means for the UNOLS research vessel operators to apply for an exemption from a particular requirement found in the RVSS. With the details provided on the form, the Safety Committee can then make an evaluation and provide a written determination back to the operator who has requested this exemption. This form only applies to RVSS regulations and an exemption to a federal statute or other governmental regulation cannot be considered through this process.

Please complete all the fields in the form with a detailed explanation. Photos, sketches and data are encouraged. The Safety Committee will contact you with a decision. Keep in mind an exemption cannot be made which would result in an unsafe and/or unseaworthy condition.

Summary of Exemption Requested

Specific RVSS Section(s) Applicable to the Request for Exemption

E.g., 2.1.3 or A.8.1

Reason for Exemption

Explain why the RVSS cannot be met, including, but not limited to: a cost analysis of meeting the requirement and a technical analysis. How are others meeting this challenge? How does this exemption affect the science performed or operations of the vessel?

Operational Guidelines and Procedures Employed

Risk Mitigation Techniques Employed

How is the risk of not following the RVSS minimized?

Benefit of Exemption

Does this exemption benefit the community as a whole or is it applicable to a single user or unique equipment system?

Exemption Criteria

Purpose: The following criteria will be used by the UNOLS Safety Committee to evaluate a request for an exemption from the RVSS. These criteria may be answered by individual Safety Committee members, a sub-group of the Committee, or subject matter experts whose opinions are requested by the Committee. While these criteria are not necessarily applicable in all situations, they seek to focus the Committee's evaluation and ensure the most important factors are considered.

Exemption Review Criteria:

- Will the exemption increase risk to the safety of personnel?
- Will the exemption increase risk of damage to equipment?
- Does the exemption request include mitigation measures?
- Will the exemption reduce costs, save man-hours, or improve effectiveness and efficiency of science operations?
- Will the exemption violate other regulations, laws or generally-accepted procedures and practices? Will it conflict with other sections of the RVSS?
- Is the exemption clearly addressed in the RVSS, or does it indicate a need for better clarification in RVSS language?
- Does the exemption involve a unique piece of equipment, system or procedure, or would it have wide impact on other ships and operators?
- Would the exemption set a precedent that may have desirable or undesirable implications?