

August 4, 1986

NOAA DIVING SAFETY BULLETIN #86-3

MEMORANDUM FOR: ALL NOAA DIVERS

FROM: J. Morgan Wells
NOAA Diving Coordinator

SUBJECT: 1) New Chest X-Ray Requirements
2) Compressor Filter Systems

CHEST X-RAY REQUIREMENTS

Based on the recommendations of the NOAA Diving Medical Review Board (NDMRB), NOAA Directive 64-3, Exhibit No. 2A shall be revised as follows:

46. Chest X-ray - Since pressure related effects are mediated through the respiratory system, and lethal consequences may ensue, a report of a 14 x 17 in. chest x-ray, PA and lateral, shall be taken:

- 1) as a baseline on the initial physical examination.
- 2) every 2 years after the age of 40.
- 3) whenever indicated by medical history or clinical findings.

This change eliminates the requirement for a semi-annual check x-ray before the age of 40 and reduces the post age 40 check x-ray requirement from annual to semi-annual. Chest x-rays may still be required by an examining physician or NDMRB whenever indicated by medical history or clinical findings.

A revised physical examination checklist is attached.

COMPRESSOR FILTER SYSTEMS

Several filter canisters from NOAA High Pressure (HP) air compressors were discovered to be corroded and pitted to the extent that their integrity was jeopardized. This could lead to compressor failure or canister explosion.

All compressor canisters shall be inspected by a NOAA qualified Cylinder Inspector on a yearly basis following Visual Cylinder Inspection (VCI) program procedures for HP cylinders. The results of these inspections shall be logged in the compressor log.

Questions concerning the canister procedure or the VCI program in general should be addressed to LT Ed Clark, NDP VCI Program Coordinator, Seattle, Washington, FTS 392-6196.

Attachment