

May 15, 1991

NOAA DIVING SAFETY BULLETIN #91-02

MEMORANDUM FOR: All NOAA Divers

FROM: J. Morgan Wells
NOAA Diving Coordinator

SUBJECT: Correction to NOAA Diving Program Regulations;
Administrative Order 209-123, issued April 12, 1991

Chest X-Ray Requirements

Based on the recommendations of the NOAA Diving Medical Review Board (NDMRB), NOAA A.O. 209-123, Exhibit 2 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 inch 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, originally issued as NDSB #86-3, eliminated the requirement for a semi-annual chest x-ray before the age of 40 and reduced the post age 40 chest x-ray requirement from annual to biennially.

Chest x-rays may still be required by an examining physician NDMRB whenever indicated by medical history or clinical findings.