

NOAA Aviation Safety





NOAA

Office of Marine And Aviation Operations

Aviation Safety Policy And Procedures



NOAA Aviation Safety Policy and Procedures

The Aviation Safety NAO 209-124 was signed by VADM Lautenbacher on June 14, 2006 and became effective on October 1st, 2006.

http://www.corporateservices.noaa.gov/~ames/NAOs/Chap_209/naos_209_124.html/



Aviation Safety

Safety is the number one priority for all aviation operations.

The NOAA Administrative Order (NAO) establishes a **NOAA Aviation Safety Program and Aviation Safety Board** to:

Provide policies, procedures, tools, and training that follow the Safety Standards Guidelines for Federal Flight Programs.

http://www.gsa.gov/gsa/cm_attachments/GSA_DOCUMENT/fmr102-33_R2J-n1-c_0Z5RDZ-i34K-pR.htm/



Aviation Safety Policy and Purpose.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has a responsibility to provide a safe working environment for its workforce, and for partners who are exposed to the risks associated with flying on aircraft owned or operated by NOAA.



Policy and Purpose (continued)

The purpose of the Administrative Order is to make aviation safety the number one priority for all aviation operations by:

- ✦ Ensuring aircraft meet NOAA's airworthiness and operational safety standards.
- ✦ Requiring health assessments of personnel.
- ✦ Providing personnel with aviation safety training and aviation life support equipment (ALSE).
- ✦ Establishing a corporate NOAA Aviation Safety Board (NASB) and Aviation Safety Program (ASP) to provide policies, procedures, tools, and training that follow the Safety Standards Guidelines for Federal Flight Programs.



NOAA Administrative Order

- The **NAO 209-124** (Aviation Safety Policy) applies to:
- ✦ All NOAA personnel who fly on any aircraft in the performance of their official duties, and
 - ✦ All individuals who fly on aircraft owned or operated by NOAA
- ✦ Aircraft operated by NOAA include:
- Aircraft rented, chartered, leased, or owned by NOAA or NOAA personnel, and used to conduct official business.
 - Aircraft operated by public or private entities on behalf of NOAA through written support agreements with NOAA.



NOAA Administrative Order (continued)

→ NAO 209-124 DOES NOT apply to:

✦ Flights on scheduled air carriers (Foreign and Domestic Airlines) for the purpose of travel.



✦ Use of aircraft for acquisition of products, data or movement of cargo where no NOAA personnel fly onboard (e.g. airborne movement of hydrographic surveys)



BACKGROUND

- ✦ Aircraft operated by the government may be considered to be operating as a "public aircraft" as defined in sections 40102 and 40125 of title 49 of the U.S. Code
- ✦ Except for certain airspace rules that apply to all aircraft, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has no legal jurisdiction over public aircraft operations.
- ✦ Public aircraft are not subject to many federal aviation regulations, including requirements relating to aircraft certification, maintenance, and pilot certification.



BACKGROUND (continued)

- ➔ To ensure the safety of federal employees while operating in public aircraft, federal agencies are required to develop agency-specific flight program standards that meet or exceed applicable civil or military rules.
- ➔ These standards must be incorporated in contracts and agreements as set forth in Safety Standards Guidelines for Federal Flight Programs codified by regulations set forth in 41 CFR 102-33.140 and 41 CFR 102-33.155-185.



NOAA's Responsibility

➔ To ensure that:

- ✦ Aircraft owned or operated by NOAA meet NOAA's airworthiness and operational safety standards; and
- ✦ All qualified non-crewmembers who fly on aircraft owned or operated by NOAA for mission operations, and all NOAA personnel who fly as qualified non-crewmembers on any aircraft for mission operations in the performance of their official duties, have:
 - ➔ Health assessment to ensure fitness for flight.
 - ➔ Appropriately trained in aviation safety.
 - ➔ Provided appropriate ALSE.



Aviation Safety Program

- ➔ **NOAA's Aviation Safety Program** is managed by Office of Marine and Aviation Operations (OMAO) and provides guidance and oversight of the following for personnel participating in flight operations governed by NAO 209-124:
 - ✦ Health Assessment
 - ✦ Aviation Safety Training
 - ✦ Aviation Life Support Equipment
 - ✦ Screening of aircraft operators to ensure they meet NOAA's airworthiness and operational safety standards
 - ✦ Contracting for outsourced aircraft
 - ➔ Assistance with Statements of Work and Technical Evaluations



Qualified Non-Crewmember

Qualified Non-Crewmember Definition:

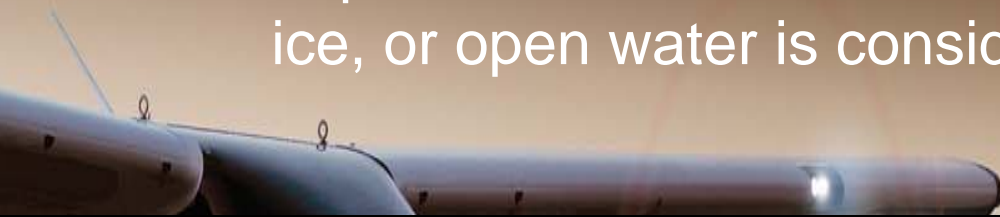
→ Is defined under 41 CFR 102-33.20 and means a person flying onboard a government aircraft whose skills or expertise are required to perform or are associated with performing the governmental function for which the aircraft is being operated (qualified non-crewmembers may be researchers, law enforcement agents, fire fighters, agricultural engineers, biologists, etc.).



Mission Operations

→ Mission Operations Definition:

- ✦ **All operations other than ‘airport to airport’ transportation.** Mission operations include, but are not limited to: aerial surveys; airborne data collection; forecaster training; and aerial photography.
- ✦ **Mission operations include transportation of personnel** where an aircraft departs from or lands at a location other than an airport.
 - Transportation of personnel on aircraft that either depart from or land on a ship, oil rig, open field, beach, ice, or open water is considered mission operations.



Transportation Flights

- ➔ **NOAA personnel participating in transportation flights (on aircraft other than scheduled air carriers) must ensure that the aircraft operator is listed on the NOAA Aircraft Operator Database (NAOD)**
- ➔ **No Health, Training or ALSE Requirements**
 - ✦ Scheduled Air Carrier - means any common carriage passenger carrying operation for compensation or hire conducted by a U.S. or foreign air carrier for which the air carrier or its representatives offer in advance the departure location, departure time, and arrival location (e.g., scheduled flights offered by Southwest, American, or British Airways).



Health Assessment, Training and ALSE

NOAA's Health, Training and ALSE requirements apply to all personnel (NOAA and Non-NOAA) who fly as qualified non-crewmembers on aircraft that are participating in Mission Operations.

Aircraft include, but are not limited to those:

- Operated by the NOAA Aircraft Operations Center (AOC)
- Chartered, rented, or leased by NOAA
- Operated or chartered by other agencies/entities with NOAA personnel onboard
 - Examples include: Coast Guard, National Science Foundation, federal/state/local governments, universities, and oil companies



NOAA's Aviation Safety Board

- NOAA's Aviation Safety Board provides oversight for the Aviation Safety Program.
- The Safety Board is composed of:
 - ✦ **Voting representatives from:**
 - NESDIS, OMAO, NMFS, NOS, NWS, OAR, & NOAA Safety
 - ✦ **Non-voting observers from:**
 - NOAA General Counsel
 - NOAA Acquisitions and Grants
 - Workforce Management
 - Program Planning and Integration (PPI)

Voting members of the NASB must meet the aviation safety training and qualification standards outlined in the NASB charter.



Aviation Safety Board

The NOAA Aviation Safety Board shall:

- ✦ Approve aviation safety training and ALSE requirements.
- ✦ Approve standards to be included in contracts for services.
- ✦ Approve aviation safety and risk assessment tools developed by the NOAA ASP.
- ✦ Solicit and address the aviation safety issues.
- ✦ Review reports from NOAA aviation accidents and potentially dangerous incidents and recommend preventative measures.
- ✦ Monitor compliance with NOAA aviation safety policy.
- ✦ Report to the NOAA Safety Council circumstances adversely impacting safety and/or efficiency of the NOAA ASP.



Aviation Safety Program Manager

Will manage the Aviation safety program to include:

- ✦ **Maintain the NOAA Aircraft Operator Database (NAOD).**
- ✦ **Facilitate the acquisition of aviation safety training.**
- ✦ **Acquire, distribute, and maintain ALSE.**
- ✦ **Provide aviation safety tools training and instruction, including risk assessment and mishap response checklists.**
- ✦ **Host an annual NOAA aviation safety conference.**
- ✦ **Administer the NOAA aviation safety awards program.**
- ✦ **Maintain a NOAA aircraft accident and incident database.**
- ✦ **File NOAA aircraft accidents and incidents into the Federal Aviation Accident Incident Reporting System (AAIRS).**



NOAA Line Offices

- ➔ **NOAA Line Office Assistant Administrators (AAs) shall:**
- ✦ **Designate in writing primary and alternate Line Office representatives to the NASB.**
 - ✦ **Hold the Line Office NASB representatives, in their performance appraisals, accountable for NASB duties**
 - ✦ **Ensure Line Office compliance with this Order.**



Contracting Officers and Technical Representatives

Contracting Officers and Their Technical Representatives (COTRs) shall ensure that contracts and agreements are only executed with:

- Aircraft operators listed on the NAOD or DOI List.
- Aircraft operators exempt in accordance with Section 2.02.
- Include language setting forth NOAA airworthiness and operational safety standards.

✦ The ASPM or designee is consulted in order to evaluate the air service providers' technical proposals for ability to comply with NOAA airworthiness and operational safety standards.



NOAA Aviation Medical Examiner

NOAA Aviation Medical Examiner (AME) shall:

- ✦ **Provide Health and Physiological Assessments of Qualified Non-Crewmembers.**
- ✦ **Issue NOAA Aeromedical Clearance Notices.**
- ✦ **Maintain a secure database of NOAA Health Services Aviation Questionnaire data.**



Crewmembers

Crewmembers shall:

- ✦ **Have crewmember duties specified in their position description or be appointed in writing as a crewmember by the Commanding Officer of AOC.**
- ✦ **Meet or exceed all crewmember qualifications and experience requirements listed in the AOC Aircraft Operations Manual.**
- ✦ **Maintain a current information file at NOAA's AOC.**
- ✦ **Follow the procedures in the NOAA AOC Aircraft Operations Manual.**
- ✦ **Select operators listed on the NAOD or DOI list when renting, chartering, or leasing an aircraft to fly operationally for NOAA.**



PROCEDURES.

Type of flight operation.

- ✦ **Prior to departure, the Line or Staff Office manager responsible for the flight shall determine whether the flight is for mission operations or transportation in order to determine whether the health, training, and equipment requirements set forth apply.**



Authorized Aircraft

NOAA personnel are authorized to fly on the following aircraft:

- ✦ **NOAA aircraft.**
- ✦ **Aircraft owned by an air service provider listed on approved lists.**
- ✦ **Aircraft owned and operated by other local, state or federal departments or agencies.**
- ✦ **Aircraft owned and operated by the governments of those countries that meet the FAA International Safety Assessment Program Category 1 rating (including the armed forces of those countries).**
- ✦ **Aircraft privately owned by NOAA personnel, provided that the use of the aircraft is authorized by NOAA in accordance with the Federal Travel Regulations, is used exclusively for transportation and the pilot carries no other personnel onboard.**



NOAA authorization to fly

To fly mission operations as a:

→ Qualified non-crewmember

- Has a valid NOAA Aeromedical Clearance Notice or completed health training as appropriate.**
- Has completed the appropriate aviation safety training.**
- If deemed an observer, has received a pre-flight safety briefing from a member of the aircraft flight crew and possesses, or has immediately accessible in the aircraft, applicable ALSE.**

→ Crewmember

- Meets the medical standards, aviation safety training, and ALSE requirements set forth in the NOAA AOC Aircraft Operations Manual for the position assigned.**



Non-NOAA Personnel Authorized to Fly

In instances involving mission operations, non-NOAA personnel serving as qualified non-crewmembers may be authorized to fly if they satisfy the following conditions:

- ✦ **They have completed the appropriate aviation safety training prescribed in NAO 209-124, or if deemed an observer by the Line or Staff Office manager responsible for the flight.**
- ✦ **Receive a pre-flight safety briefing from a member of the aircraft flight crew.**
- ✦ **Possession of, or has immediate access in the aircraft to, applicable ALSE prescribed in NAO 209-124.**



Observers

→ Any qualified non-crewmember who monitors the performance of the governmental function for which the aircraft is being operated.

→ Observer status is determined by the NOAA Line or Staff Office manager responsible for the flight and shall not be granted to an individual more than once per year for a similar mission.



NOAA Aircraft Operator Database

The NOAA ASPM shall maintain a web-based listing of air service providers (both foreign and domestic) qualified to provide aviation services to NOAA. Operators in this database were found to meet or exceed NOAA airworthiness and operational safety standards.

- ✦ Use of aircraft in the NAOD shall be limited to those types of operations for which they have been qualified (e.g., an aircraft qualified for remote sensing may not be used for transportation unless specifically cleared for transportation).
- ✦ NOAA employee's privately owned aircraft will not be listed on the NAOD.
- ✦ NOAA personnel may request additional aircraft operators be evaluated for inclusion on the NAOD by submission of a written request to the NOAA ASPM.



Aviation Safety Training

→ Aviation Safety Training

- ✦ Is required for all personnel serving as qualified non-crewmembers.
- ✦ The Exhibit to NAO 209-124 lists aviation safety training required for qualified non-crewmembers.
- ✦ Each Line and Staff Office shall be responsible for ensuring all individuals under their supervision who are required to fly receive the aviation safety training required.



Aviation Safety Training Requirements

Aviation Safety Training						
Training Method		NOAA E-Learning		Egress Video	Classroom and Hands-on	Classroom and Hands-on
Training Frequency		annual	annual	annual	once every 5 years	one time
Flight Purpose and Environmental Conditions	Personnel	NOAA Aviation Policy and Procedures	Basic Aviation Safety and Survival	Water Ditching, Safety and Survival		Aviation Safety and Cold Weather Survival
Mission Operations over land	NOAA	√	√			
	Non-NOAA		√			
Mission Operations over water	NOAA	√	√	√	√	
	Non-NOAA		√	√	√	
Mission Operations in cold weather (<32F air temp)	NOAA	√	√			√
	Non-NOAA		√			√

Note: NOAA Personnel may request more frequent training than what is listed above

✦ **Aviation Safety Training and ALSE Requirements are subject to modification by the NOAA Aviation Safety Board. The most current information will be posted on the NOAA Aviation Safety web site.**



Aviation Life Support Equipment

→ Aviation Life Support Equipment (ALSE)

- ✦ Issued by the ASP to NOAA units in sufficient quantity to support unit flight requirements.
- ✦ Issued to the individual by the NOAA unit, or provided by the aircraft operator as required by contractual agreement.
- ✦ Maintained and inspected to industry standards by the ASP if owned by NOAA.
- ✦ Worn by, or readily accessible to, personnel at all times while in flight.



ALSE Training Requirements

Aviation Life Support Equipment (ALSE) required to be carried in the aircraft or worn by personnel				
Flight Purpose and Environmental Conditions	Life Raft of sufficient capacity for all aircraft occupants	Personal Floatation Device (PFD) (Life Vest)	Personal Emergency Locator Transmitter	Anti-Exposure Suit
Mission Operations overwater	√	√	√	
Mission Operations over cold water (<59F water temp and/or <32F air temp)	√	√	√	√

✦ Personal issue and/or use of a Helicopter Emergency Egress Device (HEED), Helicopter Aircrew Breathing Device (HABD), or other compressed air breathing device for underwater egress is only authorized for individuals who have received training to use the particular device.



Accidents and Incidents

→ Aircraft Accidents and Incidents are required to be reported to the **National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB)** as prescribed by 49 CFR 830, “Notification and Reporting of Aircraft Accidents or Incidents and Overdue Aircraft, and Preservation of Aircraft Wreckage, Mail, Cargo, and Records.”



NTSB-reportable accidents

- ➔ **All NTSB-reportable accidents and incidents that occur while conducting official NOAA business must be reported by the aircraft operator working under contract or other written agreement with NOAA:**
 - ✦ To the NOAA ASPM.
 - ✦ To the NOAA Contracting Officer overseeing the contract.



Accident Reporting

- **NOAA personnel involved in an accident, incident, or near-miss involving an aircraft owned or operated by NOAA** must report the occurrence in accordance with NOAA Administrative Order (NAO) 209-1, NOAA Safety Policy, and any superseding Department of Commerce (DOC) and/or NOAA guidance.
- **Accidents and incidents involving aircraft owned or operated by NOAA** will be investigated in accordance with the policies and procedures set forth by the NOAA Incident Investigation Program.



Requests for Waiver

- ➔ Requests for Waiver shall be presented in writing to the Director, OMAO, with a copy to the ASPM.
- ➔ The Director, OMAO, is the approval authority for all waivers to provisions of NAO 209-124 NOAA Aviation Safety Policy.



Effect on Other Issuances.

➔ Use of aircraft for NOAA operations is also governed by NAO 216-104, Management and Utilization of Aircraft, and by NAO 217-106, Transportation of Non-government Personnel as Passengers on NOAA Vessels, Aircraft, and Motor Vehicles. NAO 209-124 should be read in conjunction with the others. If there is a conflict, NAO 209-124 shall govern.



Aviation Safety Website

- NOAA's Aviation Safety web site contains a wealth of information about the Aviation Safety Program and Aviation Safety Policy

<http://www.aviationsafety.noaa.gov>

- The Aviation Safety Program periodically publishes an Aviation Safety Newsletter

- ✦ To sign-up for the newsletter, send an email to

Aviation.Safety@noaa.gov





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And
Aviation Operations

Aviation Safety
Program

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