

Navy Overseas Drinking Water Program Factsheet



NAVY OVERSEAS DRINKING WATER (ODW) PROGRAM

Regulatory Hierarchy

The Navy Overseas Drinking Water (ODW) Program is established and driven by several regulatory requirements, detailed in the policies and manuals listed below. OPNAVINST 5090.1¹ directs Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC) to serve as the Executive Agent (EA) for drinking water ashore and establishes Navy policy for environmental management ashore and directs adherence to the OEBGD and host-nation FGSs at overseas installations. CNICINST 5090.1A establishes the specific requirements for the ODW Program. All ODW water systems are required to comply with the policies below.

1. OPNAVINST 5090.1E / M-5090.1

Navy "Environmental Readiness Program Manual"

- Establishes the procedures and requirements for the Department of Navy (DON) to comply with the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) and National Primary Drinking Water Regulations (NPDWR)

2a. DODi 4715.05G OEBGD

"Overseas Environmental Baseline Guidance Document"

- Establishes criteria, standards, and management practices for drinking water systems at overseas DoD installations

2b. DODi 4715.5 FGS

"Final Governing Standards" country specific

- Requires overseas DoD installations to adopt the most protective drinking water requirements between host nation laws and the OEBGD

3. CNICINST 5090.1A / M-5090.1A

"Navy Overseas Drinking Water Program"

- Establishes the ODW Program, designates program oversight to the Water Quality Oversight Council (WQOC), establishes roles and responsibilities, and defines compliance and reporting requirements

Establishment

Following a report issued by the Navy Inspector General (NAVIG), the Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV), Chief of Naval Operations (CNO), and Assistant Secretary of the Navy for the Environment, Installations, and Energy (ASN (EI&E)) issued the following memorandums, leading to the establishment of the Navy ODW Program.

NAVIG Report (Jan 2009) identified that the drinking water requirements and standards in OEBGD and FGS were not being met at overseas Navy installations

SECNAV Memo (Jan 2009) for the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) stated the need for Navy personnel overseas to receive the same quality of drinking water as in the U.S.

CNO Memo (Apr 2009) directed CNIC and NAVFAC to establish protocols and procedures to ensure drinking water quality standards at Navy installations overseas

ASN (EI&E) memo (Dec 2015) required certified laboratories to verify water quality at overseas Navy installations

Implementation

The SECNAV, CNO, and ASN (EI&E) memos assigned CNIC HQ as the Navy Executive Agent (EA) for Drinking Water Ashore and directed CNIC to issue policy to implement the Navy ODW Program.

CNICINST 5090.1B (15 Mar 2021), Navy Overseas Drinking Water Program Ashore, directs adherence with CNIC M-5090.1A, OPNAVINST 5090.1, and the 2015 ASN (EI&E) memo and the requirements contained therein as the standards for overseas installations to adopt and implement; ensures overseas requirements meet SECNAV & CNO direction and incorporates subparts of the NPDWR outlined in SDWA; and authorizes the Water Quality Oversight Council (WQOC) as the overall governing body and requires Region Water Quality Boards (RWQB) and Installation Water Quality Boards (IWQB).

CNIC M-5090.1A (15 Mar 2021), Navy Overseas Drinking Water Program Ashore Manual, establishes roles and responsibilities; addresses applicability of the Navy ODW Program; defines compliance and reporting requirements; institutes the Certificate to Operate (CTO) program and defines Sanitary Survey (SS) requirements; and establishes a Navy overseas Operator Training and Certification program.

¹ OPNAVINST 5090.1 designates CNIC as the EA for drinking water quality matters for all Navy facilities and installations worldwide in Chapter 34 (Overseas Environmental Compliance Ashore). The EA responsibilities are outlined in Chapter 21 (Safe Drinking Water Compliance Ashore) of OPNAVINST 5090.1.

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NAVY ODW PROGRAM ORGANIZATION

The Navy ODW Program management and oversight structure consists of three hierarchical tiers, all of which are under the authority of the Navy EA (CNIC). The headquarters components of four Shore Establishments makes up the WQOC at the top tier. Tiers II and III are made up of regional and installation-level components, respectively.

Tier I: Water Quality Oversight Council (WQOC)

Chair: Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC) N4, Director of Facilities and Environmental

The Navy WQOC is the overall governing body and determines overarching policies and makes associated decisions and actions. The WQOC reports to the Navy EA on a regular basis.

Executive Committee: The WQOC's Executive Committee is made up of the Shore Establishments with ODW Program management and oversight duties. Their responsibilities are described below.



CNIC responsibilities:

- Serves as the Navy EA for drinking water quality ashore and chairs the WQOC.
- Serves as the main point of contact on all drinking water ashore matters.
- Manages the program and budget for all ODW Program instructions and manuals.



NAVFAC responsibilities:

- As the utility and facility operator, supports CNIC by providing safe, fully compliant drinking water.
- Provides technical and managerial expertise to the RWQBs.
- Manages the operation, maintenance, repair, monitoring, reporting, and related aspects of the Navy ODW Program.



BUMED responsibilities:

- Serves in a public health role to the IWQBs and RWQBs.
- Provides prompt public health assessments in the event of an exceedance of drinking water contaminant levels.
- Provides health consultative services to CNIC for drinking water quality matters.



NAVSEA responsibilities:

- Supports the Navy's laboratory quality assurance and quality control program by providing assistance and guidance for drinking water sampling activities and compliance issues.
- Conducts onsite assessments of labs and validates third-party labs.

Tier II: Regional Water Quality Boards (RWQB)

Chair: Region Commander (REGCOM)

Each Navy region overseas is required to establish a RWQB, which oversees installation drinking water programs and ensures compliance and consistency (but does not have program primacy). RWQBs report to the WQOC for all drinking water matters.

Tier III: Installation Water Quality Boards (IWQB)

Chair: Installation Commander

Each Navy installation overseas is required to establish an IWQB, which manages the installation's drinking water program. IWQBs report to their respective RWQB for all drinking water matters.

For further information and additional resources on the Navy's ODW program, see BUMED's [Environmental Health Programs webpage](#).