

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	NOAA Administrative Order 217-108	
NOAA ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER SERIES	DATE OF ISSUANCE March 15, 2013	EFFECTIVE DATE October 1, 2013
SUBJECT Classification of NOAA Vessels		

### **SECTION 1. PURPOSE.**

This order establishes a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Office of Marine and Aviation Operations (OMAO) policy of a uniform system for classification of NOAA vessels.

### **SECTION 2. SCOPE.**

1. The classification system and the classification under which each vessel falls is the basis for determining which requirements of U. S. Coast Guard, Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW), American Bureau of Shipping and other regulatory authorities apply to the operation and maintenance of NOAA vessels.
2. The classification of a vessel is also used in determining compensation of Wage Marine employees.

### **SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS.**

1. Gross Tonnage. The measure of the overall size of a ship determined in accordance with the provisions of the present convention of the *International Convention on Tonnage Measurements of Ships*.

### **SECTION 4. POLICY.**

1. All major vessels of NOAA are hereby classified based on the factor of power tonnage. Power tonnage (c) is the combined shaft horsepower (a) and gross international tonnage (b) of any given vessel. The formula is (a) + (b) = (c).
2. Vessel classes are determined by specified ranges of power tonnage, and for NOAA, the following classes are established:

<u>Vessel Class</u>	<u>Power Tonnage</u>
I	9000 – 5501
II	5500 – 3501
III	3500 – 2001
IV	2000 – 1001
V	1000 – 501
VI	500 and under, and not less than 65' length

**SECTION 5. RESPONSIBILITIES.**

1. It is the responsibility of the Director of the Office of Marine and Aviation Operations (OMAO) to determine the classification for each of the vessels of the NOAA Fleet.
2. In the event of extensive modifications to a vessel or vessels that affect horsepower or tonnage, OMAO will initiate a reclassification of the vessel to assure the vessel is properly classed.

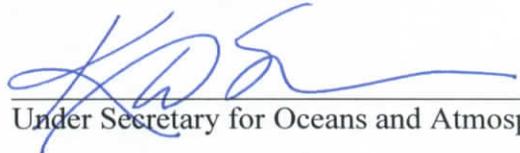
**SECTION 6. REFERENCES.**

1. *International Convention on Tonnage Measurements of Ships.* (1969)

**SECTION 7. EFFECT ON OTHER ISSUANCES.**

This policy supersedes NOAA Directives Manual 45-11, dated November 24, 1971.

An electronic copy of this Order will be posted in place of the superseded Order on the NOAA Office of the Chief Administrative Officer website under the NOAA Administrative Issuances Section. <http://www.corporateservices.noaa.gov/~ocao/index.html>

  
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Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere

Offices of Primary Interest:  
Office of Marine and Aviation Operations (OMAO)