



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
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WASHINGTON, DC 20350-2000

OPNAVINST 9096.1A
N96
12 SEP 2012

OPNAV INSTRUCTION 9096.1A

From: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: WEIGHT AND STABILITY LIMITS FOR NAVAL SURFACE SHIPS

Ref: (a) NAVSEAINST 9096.1A
(b) NAVSEAINST 9096.3E
(c) NAVSEAINST 9096.6B

1. Purpose. To re-issue policy regarding weight and stability limits of naval ships, service life growth allowances for new ship designs, and for control of weight and moment in commissioned ships. This revision contains organizational and nomenclature updates.

2. Cancellation. OPNAVINST 9096.1.

3. Background. Naval ships have been designed to include inherent survivability features necessary for safety in extreme weather conditions and to make them resistant to battle, collision or grounding damage. These features provide sufficient stability, buoyancy and hull girder strength to withstand hazards such as underwater damage, beam winds and heavy seas. Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command (COMNAVSEASYS COM) weight and moment control policy in these areas can be found in references (a), (b), and (c). Inadequate service life growth allowances for weight and vertical center of gravity above bottom of keel have resulted in expensive corrective ship changes or in the inability to modernize ships through installation of new weapons systems. It is important that the fundamental survivability features be included in the design of Navy ships and maintained throughout their lives.

4. Policy. Navy's ships shall be kept within their naval architectural limits to ensure that essential survivability features are maintained. Service life growth allowances for weight and keel will be established and incorporated in the

operational requirements documents for naval vessels. COMNAVSEASYS COM shall incline ships provided by the fleet to determine their weight and stability status.

5. Action

a. Office of the Chief of Naval Operations (OPNAV) platform resource sponsors (Director, Expeditionary Warfare (OPNAV (N95)), Director, Surface Warfare (OPNAV (N96)), Director, Undersea Warfare (OPNAV (N97)) and Director, Air Warfare (OPNAV (N98))) shall:

(1) Ensure that funding is provided for:

(a) Weight and moment compensations or other actions required to adhere to established limits.

(b) Required inclining.

(2) Submit for review and approval by the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) any ship characteristics change or other major planned deviations from the approved service life growth allowance.

(3) Submit for review and approval by the CNO any alteration which will cause a ship to exceed naval architectural weight and stability limits. These alterations must be reviewed and recommended by COMNAVSEASYS COM.

b. Fleet commanders shall:

(1) Maintain awareness of ship vertical center of gravity and stability limitations at deployment.

(2) Take appropriate action to control unplanned weight growth (i.e., personal effects, stores, etc.).

c. COMNAVSEASYS COM shall:

(1) Establish naval architectural limits for each ship class.

(2) Establish service life growth allowances for weight and height of center of gravity to be included in new ship designs and ships in service life extension programs for approval by CNO.

(3) For each ship class, keep track of the weight and stability status, limiting draft and other limitations including:

(a) Maintenance of ship configuration records.

(b) Performance of all necessary inclinings and surveys to establish current ship condition.

(c) Identification of weight and moment compensation necessary to adhere to the established limits.

(4) Provide to fleet commanders:

(a) Information necessary for maintaining their ships within established limits, and the implication of not doing so.

(b) A standardization method of reporting their inability to do so.

6. Records Management. Records created as a result of this instruction, regardless of media and format, shall be managed per Secretary of the Navy Manual 5210.1 of January 2012.



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