

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this manual is to consolidate guidance and direction for conducting Navy Occupational Medicine Programs into a single document.

### **Applicability**

This manual is a guide for Navy medical personnel who provide occupational medicine services to Navy/Marine military and civilian personnel. The limitations inherent to uniquely military operations will require flexibility in implementation of medical surveillance requirements.

### **Scope**

This manual provides guidelines for standardizing the provision of occupational health (OH) services in Navy medicine. It is intended to assist medical personnel in the development and day-to-day operation of local Occupational and Environmental Medicine (OEM) programs. This manual is useful in planning, implementing and evaluating OEM programs regardless of the size or location of the responsible clinic or unit. This manual complements and clarifies, but does not replace applicable Navy instructions and well-established occupational health programs (among others, radiation health and industrial hygiene), which are referenced in the appropriate sections.

### **Background**

Section 1910 (a) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (OSHAct) requires heads of federal agencies to establish and maintain an occupational safety and health program that provides its employees the occupational safety and health standards and protection the OSHAct affords civilian employees in the private sector. The Navy Occupational Safety and Health (NAVOSH) Program has adopted standards equal to or more stringent than those promulgated by the Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration ([OSHA](#)), for the private sector, with exceptions for (a) military unique equipment, systems and operations; (b) conditions governed by other statutory authorities; and (c) overseas, for conditions governed by international agreement.

Bureau of Medicine and Surgery policy is that all medical activity commands shall provide required occupational health services to Navy/Marine activities, afloat and ashore, to ensure a safe and healthful work environment for all personnel. The main sources of Occupational Health Medical Surveillance standards used in occupational health programs are the following:

1. OSHA standards. These are published in the [Code of Federal Regulations](#) and the Federal Register where current standards can be viewed and downloaded.

2. Any alternate DoD standards approved under [Executive Order 12196](#), Occupational Safety and Health Program for Federal Employees.
3. Supplemental DoD standards for which no OSHA standard exists. These are published in the [DoD Occupational Medical Surveillance Manual](#), DoD 6055.5M.
4. Office of Personnel Management (OPM). OPM is responsible for developing and issuing minimum Qualification Standards, policies, and instructions. This office sets medical [Qualification Standards](#) for federal civil service positions. OPM [Classification Standards](#) are used to develop position descriptions. These standards are currently being revised. Both current standards and the new drafts are on the OPM Web page.
5. Other Federal agencies, such as the [Department of Transportation](#), may prescribe, as a condition of employment, physical examinations of DoD personnel to perform specific duties. Many of these job certifications must be repeated periodically to assure that the employee continues to meet the minimum physical requirements for performing specific duties.
6. Navy instructions. Where OSHA standards exist, NAVOSH standards ([OPNAVINST 5100.23 series](#)) are consistent with, or exceed OSHA standards. [OPNAVINST 5100.19 series](#) contains standards specific for the fleet. In cases where NAVOSH standards are not in conformance with the most recent OSHA standards, the latter must be used as interim Navy standards.
7. Nationally recognized sources of occupational safety and health guidance, such as the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists ([ACGIH](#)) and the American National Standards Institute ([ANSI](#)).

Most of the standards from the above sources, which are applicable to the Navy, can be located in the NEHC Technical Manual (TM) Medical Surveillance Procedures Manual and Medical Matrix, current edition found in Appendix 5A of this manual.