



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

OPNAVINST 4730.7F  
N09P  
23 APR 2013

OPNAV INSTRUCTION 4730.7F

From: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: MATERIAL INSPECTION OF SUBMARINES BY THE BOARD OF  
INSPECTION AND SURVEY

Ref: (a) 10 U.S.C. §7304  
(b) OPNAVINST 3120.33C  
(c) OPNAVINST 4730.5Q

1. Purpose. To issue the policy of the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) concerning material inspection of submarines by the Board of Inspection and Survey (INSURV) to be consistent with current submarine operating cycles.

2. Cancellation. OPNAVINST 4730.7E.

3. Background. Reference (a) prescribes that the Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) shall designate boards of naval officers to examine naval vessels and to make recommendations to the SECNAV as to which vessels, if any, should be stricken from the naval register. Reference (a) further states, "Each vessel shall be examined by a board at least once every three years, if practicable."

4. Discussion. In the past, the concept of submarine employment and the operating tempo of submarines led the CNO to determine that it is not practicable to adhere to the intervals prescribed by reference (a). The operating tempo of these ships necessitates tight operational scheduling to meet the requirements of conducting strategic deterrent patrols and extended deployments. Additionally, engineered technical reviews have allowed for increases in submarine operating cycles further helping the Navy meet operational commitments and requiring a corresponding adjustment to material inspection periodicity. Accordingly, it is CNO policy to revise the times between material inspections to coincide with the recent changes to the submarine engineered operating cycles as outlined in change 5 to reference (b) while maintaining mid-cycle and post major availability inspections as defined below.

5. Policy. It is CNO policy that:

a. Submarine INSURV material inspection periodicity shall not exceed 84 months. To prevent scheduling conflicts that could lead to a waiver, ships should expect immediate superior in command and type commanders to schedule their material inspection 12 to 18 months prior to the 84-month periodicity expiring for attack submarines, nuclear and when patrol cycles permit for fleet ballistic-missile submarines, nuclear.

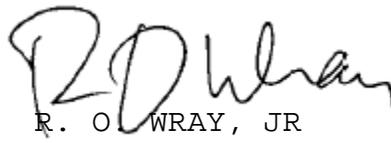
b. A post-overhaul INSURV material inspection shall be conducted on each submarine to determine fitness for service. For the purposes of meeting this requirement, an overhaul is defined as a CNO availability scheduled for greater than 180 days in duration. The inspection shall be scheduled as soon as practicable after the completion of the overhaul, not to exceed 180 days.

c. Submarine material inspection will not normally be conducted within 16 months of the beginning of a shipyard overhaul period.

d. Submarine material inspection may also be required after completion of repairs following a significant mishap or incident.

e. Requests for deviation from this instruction shall be submitted per reference (c).

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



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