

§ 700.871

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES/SHIPS IN
NAVAL STATIONS AND SHIPYARDS

§ 700.871 Responsibility for safety of ships and craft at a naval station or shipyard.

(a) The commanding officer of a naval station or shipyard shall be responsible for the care and safety of all ships and craft at such station or shipyard not under a commanding officer or assigned to another authority, and for any damage that may be done by or to them. In addition, the commanding officer of a naval station or shipyard shall be responsible for the safe execution of work performed by that activity upon any ship located at the activity.

(b) It shall be the responsibility of the commanding officer of a ship in commission which is undergoing overhaul, or which is otherwise immobilized at a naval station or shipyard, to request such services as are necessary to ensure the safety of the ship. The commanding officer of the naval station or shipyard shall be responsible for providing requested services in a timely and adequate manner.

(c) When a ship or craft not under her own power is being moved by direction of the commanding officer of a naval station or shipyard, that officer shall be responsible for any damage that may result therefrom. The pilot or other person designated for the purpose shall be in direct charge of such movement, and all persons on board shall cooperate with and assist the pilot as necessary. Responsibility for such actions in a private shipyard will be assigned by contract to the contractor.

(d) When a ship operating under her own power is being drydocked, the commanding officer shall be fully responsible for the safety of his ship until the extremity of the ship first to enter the drydock reaches the dock sill and the ship is pointed fair for entering the drydock. The docking officer shall then take charge and complete the docking, remaining in charge until the ship has been properly landed, bilge blocks hauled, and the dock pumped down. In undocking, the docking officer shall assume charge when flooding the dock preparatory to undocking is started, and shall remain in charge

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until the extremity of the ship last to leave the dock clears the sill, and the ship is pointed fair for leaving the drydock, when the ship's commanding officer shall assume responsibility for the safety and control of the ship.

(e) When a naval ship is to be drydocked in a private shipyard under a contract being administered by a supervisor of shipbuilding, the responsibilities of the commanding officer are the same as in the case of drydocking in a naval shipyard. The responsibilities for the safety of the actual drydocking, normally assigned to the commanding officer of a naval shipyard through the docking officer, will be assigned by contract to the contractor. The supervisor of shipbuilding is responsible, however, for ensuring that the contractor facilities, methods, operations, and qualifications meet the standards of efficiency and safety prescribed by Navy directives.

(f) If the ship is elsewhere than at a naval station or shipyard, the relationship between the commanding officer and the supervisor of shipbuilding, or other appropriate official, shall be the same as that between the commanding officer and the commanding officer of a naval station or naval shipyard as specified in this article.

§ 700.872 Ships and craft in drydock.

(a) The commanding officer of a ship in drydock shall be responsible for effecting adequate closure, during such periods as they will be unattended, of all openings in the ship's bottom upon which no work is being undertaken by the docking activity. The commanding officer of the docking activity shall be responsible for the closing, at the end of working hours, of all valves and other openings in the ship's bottom upon which work is being undertaken by the docking activity, when such closing is practicable.

(b) Prior to undocking, the commanding officer of a ship shall report to the docking officer any material changes in the amount and location of weights on board which have been made by the ship's force while in dock, and shall ensure, and so report, that all sea valves and other openings in the ship's bottom are properly closed. The level of water in the dock shall not be

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permitted to rise above the keel blocks prior to receipt of this report. The above valves and openings shall be tended during flooding of the dock.

(c) When a ship or craft, not in commission, is in a naval drydock, the provisions of this article shall apply, except that the commanding officer of the docking activity or his representative shall act in the capacity of the commanding officer of the ship or craft.

(d) When a naval ship or craft is in drydock in a private shipyard, responsibility for actions normally assigned by the commanding officer of the docking activity will be assigned by contract to the contractor.

§ 700.873 Inspection incident to commissioning of ships.

When a ship is to be commissioned, the authority designated to place such ship in commission shall, just prior to commissioning, cause an inspection to be made to determine the cleanliness and readiness of the ship to receive its crew and outfit. In the case of the delivery of a ship by a contractor, the above inspection shall precede acceptance of the ship. A copy of the report of this inspection shall be furnished the officer detailed to command the ship and to appropriate commands.

**SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES/PROSPECTIVE
COMMANDING OFFICERS**

§ 700.880 Duties of the prospective commanding officer of a ship.

(a) Except as may be prescribed by the Chief of Naval Operations, the prospective commanding officer of a ship not yet commissioned shall have no independent authority over the preparation of the ship for service by virtue of his assignment to such duty, until the ship is commissioned and placed under his or her command. The prospective commanding officer shall:

(1) Procure from the commander of the naval shipyard or the supervisor of shipbuilding the general arrangement plans of the ship, and all pertinent information relative to the general condition of the ship and the work being undertaken on the hull, machinery and equipment, upon reporting for duty;

(2) Inspect the ship as soon after reporting for duty as practicable, and frequently thereafter, in order to keep him or herself informed of the state of her preparation for service. If, during the course of these inspections he or she notes an unsafe or potentially unsafe condition, he or she shall report such fact to the commander of the naval shipyard or the supervisor of shipbuilding and to his or her superior for resolution;

(3) Keep him or herself informed as to the progress of the work being done, including tests of equipment, and make such recommendations to the commander of the naval shipyard or the supervisor of shipbuilding as he or she deems appropriate;

(4) Ensure that requisitions are submitted for articles to outfit the ship which are not otherwise being provided;

(5) Prepare the organization of the ship;

(6) Train the nucleus crew to effectively and efficiently take charge of and operate the ship upon commissioning; and

(7) Make such reports as may be required by higher authority, and include therein a statement of any deficiency in material or personnel.

(b) If the prospective commanding officer does not consider the ship in proper condition to be commissioned at the time the commander of the naval shipyard or the supervisor of shipbuilding signifies his intention of transferring the ship to the prospective commanding officer, he or she shall report that conclusion with his reasons therefor, in writing, to the commander of the naval shipyard or the supervisor of shipbuilding and to the appropriate higher authority.

(c) If the ship is elsewhere than at a naval shipyard, the relationship between the prospective commanding officer and the supervisor of shipbuilding, or other appropriate official, shall be the same as that between the prospective commanding officer and the commander of a naval shipyard as specified in this article.

(d) The Chief of Naval Operations shall be responsible for providing the commanding officer or prospective commanding officer of a naval nuclear