

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**PART 996—QUALITY ASSURANCE  
AND CERTIFICATION REQUIRE-  
MENTS FOR NOAA HYDRO-  
GRAPHIC PRODUCTS AND SERV-  
ICES**

**Subpart A—General**

Sec.

- 996.1 Purpose and scope.  
996.2 Definitions.  
996.3 Fees.  
996.4 Liability.

**Subpart B—The Quality Assurance Program  
for Hydrographic Products**

- 996.10 Submission and selection of hydro-  
graphic products for the development of  
standards and compliance tests.  
996.11 Development of standards for a hy-  
drographic product or class.  
996.12 Development of standards compliance  
tests for a hydrographic product or class.  
996.13 Determination of whether to offer  
certification for a hydrographic product  
or class.

**Subpart C—Certification of a Hydrographic  
Product and Decertification.**

- 996.20 Submission of a hydrographic product  
for certification.  
996.21 Performance of compliance testing.  
996.22 Certification.  
996.23 Audit and decertification of hydro-  
graphic products.

**Subpart D—Other Quality Assurance  
Program Matters**

- 996.30 Use of the NOAA emblem.  
996.31 Termination of the Quality Assur-  
ance Program.  
996.32 Appeals.  
996.33 Acceptance of program by non-Fed-  
eral entities.

AUTHORITY: 33 U.S.C. 892b.

SOURCE: 70 FR 698, Jan. 5, 2005, unless oth-  
erwise noted.

**Subpart A—General**

**§ 996.1 Purpose and scope.**

The National Oceanic and Atmos-  
pheric Administration (NOAA) was  
mandated to develop and implement a  
quality assurance program that is  
equally available to all applicants,  
under which the Administrator may  
certify hydrographic products that sat-

isfy standards promulgated by the Ad-  
ministrator. “Hydrographic products”  
are any publicly or commercially  
available products produced by a non-  
Federal entity that include or display  
hydrographic data. The procedures es-  
tablished here by which hydrographic  
products are proposed for certification;  
by which standards and compliance  
tests are developed, adopted, and ap-  
plied for those products; and by which  
certification may be awarded or denied  
are the mandated Quality Assurance  
Program. The execution of those proce-  
dures for specific hydrographic prod-  
ucts is the implementation of the pro-  
gram.

**§ 996.2 Definitions.**

*Agency* means the National Oceanic  
and Atmospheric Administration.

*Applicant* means a non-Federal entity  
that is submitting a hydrographic  
product to the Quality Assurance Pro-  
gram for certification.

*Certification* means a determination  
made by NOAA that a hydrographic  
product submitted by a non-Federal en-  
tity has met the requirements estab-  
lished by NOAA for a particular hydro-  
graphic product or class.

*Department* means the Department of  
Commerce.

*Hydrographic data* means information  
acquired through hydrographic or  
bathymetric surveying, photo-  
grammetry, geodetic, geospatial, or  
geomagnetic measurements, tide and  
current observations, or other meth-  
ods, that is used in providing hydro-  
graphic services.

*Hydrographic product* means any pub-  
licly or commercially available prod-  
uct produced by a non-Federal entity  
that includes or displays hydrographic  
data.

*Hydrographic product class* means a  
group of hydrographic products with  
similar traits, attributes, purposes, or  
users.

*Hydrographic services* means

- (1) The management, maintenance,  
interpretation, certification, and dis-  
semination of bathymetric, hydro-  
graphic, geodetic, geospatial, geo-  
magnetic, and tide and current infor-  
mation, including the production of  
nautical charts, nautical information