



The U.S. National Science Foundation  
Office of Polar Programs  
United States Antarctic Program



## USAP Alcohol Policy

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### Document Details

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Authorized By	Stephanie Short
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### Document Release History

Release Number	Revision Date (Month Year)	Description of Changes
1	Jan./July 2013	Template change. Reviewed and updated.
2	June 2016	Changed to include field camps and vessels.
3	August 2018	No data available.
4	July 2022	Reviewed and updated.
5	September 2023	Change to alcohol sales in McMurdo and regarding resale and transportation.

Consult the Master List for the most current version.  
HARDCOPY NOT CONTROLLED – Verify Effective Date Before Use

## 1. Purpose

The purpose of this document is to establish a uniform policy regarding the purchase, sale, and consumption of alcohol at United States Antarctic Program (USAP) stations and field camps; at USAP logistics centers in Port Hueneme, California; Christchurch, New Zealand; and Punta Arenas, Chile; and aboard USAP vessels, aircraft, and vehicles.

## 2. Scope

This policy is effective at all locations where USAP activities are conducted.

## 3. Applicability and Compliance

This policy applies at all times to all USAP participants, whether working as part of the USAP, hosted at USAP stations and operating locations, visiting other National Antarctic Program stations, or aboard USAP vessels, aircraft, and vehicles. This Policy applies to grantees, National Science Foundation (NSF) and government civilian personnel, military and NSF sponsored participants.

## 4. Responsibilities

All USAP operational support organizations are responsible for the following:

- Establishing policies for their personnel that are consistent with or more stringent than this policy.
- Establishing procedures for disciplinary action in the event of alcohol-related misconduct or abuse.
- Providing a copy of those policies and procedures to USAP participants under their auspices. Copies must also be provided to NSF upon request.
- Providing information or training to personnel regarding alcohol use that emphasizes the importance of safe and responsible off-duty alcohol consumption.

The Antarctic Support Contractor is responsible for the following:

- Developing and implementing standard instructions for the operation of clubs where NSF has authorized consumption of alcohol.
- Developing and implementing standard instructions for the operation of sanctioned social events, such as holiday gatherings or parties, where NSF has authorized the consumption of alcohol.
- Developing and implementing standard instructions for the sale and management of alcohol inventories in Antarctica.
- Developing a responsible club management training program for club managers.

## 5. Policy

### 5.1. General Provisions

All members of the USAP are expected to be responsible with the use of alcohol. All members of the USAP share responsibility for creating an environment that limits dangerous drinking behaviors and, therefore, reduces the likelihood of negative outcomes such as unruly behavior, assault, illness, injury, vehicular accidents, work loss, property damage, serious interpersonal or social problems, and medical evacuation.

General provisions of the Alcohol Policy are as follows:

- Alcohol may not be consumed at any time aboard USAP research vessels, at field camps supported by research vessels or small craft (including Zodiac® boats or rigid-hulled inflatable boats [RHIBs]), or in aircraft or vehicles operated by, or for, the USAP. Alcohol consumption is prohibited in all USAP work centers and offices, except when specifically authorized by NSF.
- In Antarctica, alcohol may only be consumed in housing, the galley, and other designated areas, and only during an individual's non-work hours.
- Those impaired by alcohol consumption may not perform work duties.
- Alcohol cannot be shipped in the USAP cargo system (excepting the approved contract resupply).
- The production of alcoholic beverages in Antarctica is prohibited.
- The sale of alcoholic beverages by individuals is prohibited, as is procuring alcohol for others to circumvent sales limits and/or other consumption controls.
- The sale of alcoholic beverages by the USAP in Antarctica will be controlled in order to regulate consumption and for inventory management purposes.

### 5.2. Underage Possession/Consumption

The minimum age for the consumption or purchase of alcohol in Antarctica at any USAP station or operating location is 21 years. USAP participants under 21 years of age are not permitted to purchase, possess, or consume alcoholic beverages. Providing or facilitating the acquisition of alcohol to those under 21 years of age is considered a violation of the Alcohol Policy.

### 5.3. Community Expectations for Behavior

It is a violation of the Alcohol Policy to engage in an action while under the influence of alcohol that is disruptive or dangerous to the individual or surrounding community. USAP participants are responsible for behaving in a manner that is not disruptive and does not endanger themselves or others. Being under the influence of alcohol shall not be considered a mitigating factor for inappropriate individual behavior.

### 5.4. Violations of the Alcohol Policy

Violation of the Alcohol Policy is considered a violation of the USAP Code of Conduct and may result in adverse consequences to the individual, including, but not limited to,

removal from a USAP station, field camp, other facility, ship, or aircraft; termination of employment (by the employer); or other administrative, civil, or criminal enforcement actions, as appropriate.

## 6. Policy Review

This policy is valid until rescinded. It will be reviewed at an interval of not more than five years.

## 7. Glossary

- **NSF:** National Science Foundation
- **RHIB:** Rigid-hulled inflatable boats
- **USAP:** United States Antarctic Program

## Signature Approval

Approved by:

**Short,  
Stephanie A.**

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Stephanie A.  
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Stephanie Short

Date

Section Head, Antarctic Infrastructure and Logistics, Office of Polar Programs