I. **PURPOSE:**
   To align University policy with maritime law and provide a vehicle for overseas purchases.

II. **SCOPE:**

III. **POLICY:**
   The ship’s master has unlimited authority to ensure the proper operation of his/her ship which is exercised under constraints established by the Dean of RSMAS for operations outside the Miami area.

   If the principal investigator is embarked on an overseas research vessel or is in a foreign country, he/she is hereby delegated contracting authority for that period of time.

IV. **DEFINITIONS:**
   Principal Investigator: The individual who the University designates to direct a sponsored program. Ship’s Master: Under maritime law, the ship’s master has overseas contracting authority.

V. **PROCEDURE:**
   The ship’s master exercises his/her authority by making cash purchases by himself/herself or through an agent ashore.

   The Expenditure Control Office establishes budgetary constraints or limits on expendable amounts. The Principal Investigator may elect to use an agent ashore, establish a bank account, request the ship’s master to carry an additional sum of cash designated for his/her use, or use a combination of these methods. The decision is subject to the approval of the Dean of RSMAS.