

## Health Services

Cap. 44.

### HEALTH SERVICES (SWIMMING POOLS) REGULATIONS, 1970

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Made by the Minister under section 10 of the Health Services Act. Cap. 44.

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Health Services (Swimming Pools) Regulations, 1970.

2. For the purposes of these regulations—

“swimming pool” or “pool” means a structure made entirely or in part of concrete, masonry, metal, plastic or other impervious material, located either indoors or outdoors, and provided with a water supply, together with the buildings and appurtenances used in connection therewith, which is available to the public for swimming, bathing, wading or diving, and for the use of which persons are either directly or indirectly charged a fee, and includes such places or premises where operated as part of or in connection with a club, motel, hotel, school or similar institution;

“wading pool” means an artificial basin or tank constructed of impervious material used for wading by small children and having a maximum depth of 18 inches at the deepest point and 12 inches at the shallowest point.

3. These regulations shall not apply to private swimming pools operated for and used only by the person in possession thereof, his family and guests without a fee being charged either directly or indirectly for the use thereof.

4. (1) No person shall construct or alter any swimming or wading pool unless he has first—

(a) submitted to the Senior Medical Officer of Health the

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plans and specifications therefor and such other information as may be required; and

- (b) obtained from the Senior Medical Officer of Health written approval for its construction.

(2) The Minister may require a Medical Officer of Health to furnish him with such information and particulars relating to swimming and wading pools within his district as the Minister thinks fit.

(3) The swimming or wading pool and its facilities shall be open to inspection by the Senior Medical Officer of Health before it is put into operation.

5. The Senior Medical Officer of Health may approve the construction of a swimming or wading pool subject to such terms and conditions as he may prescribe.

6. (1) No person shall operate a swimming or wading pool unless he holds a valid permit for the purpose issued by the Senior Medical Officer of Health.

(2) The Senior Medical Officer of Health may issue such a permit subject to such terms and conditions as he may prescribe.

(3) Unless a permit is cancelled or suspended it shall be valid until the 31st day of December next after the date of issue.

(4) The permit to operate a swimming pool shall be in such form as the Chief Medical Officer may direct.

7. Subject to regulation 6, every swimming pool shall—

(a) be made of impervious materials with a smooth surface, free from cracks and joints, and shall be constructed so as to be watertight and to facilitate cleaning;

(b) if constructed after the date on which these regulations come into operation, have rounded corners at the wall-floor junctions;

(c) in case of a pool that is—

(i) less than 30 feet in width, have a ladder or steps with handrails at both the deep and shallow ends of the pool,

- (ii) 30 feet or more in width, have a ladder or steps with handrails at the shallow end of the pool and 2 ladders or 2 sets of steps with hand-rails at the deep end of the pool,  
and such ladders or steps shall be provided with non-slip treads;
- (d) be provided with hand-holds not more than 9 inches above the normal water level, and in the case of a pool used for instruction or competitive swimming, a hand-hold at water level similar to the rim of an over-flow gutter, or in the alternative, a bull-nosed coping not exceeding 2½ inches in thickness for the outer 2 inches;
- (e) if an area for spectators is provided, be separated from such area in order to prevent the risk of contamination of the pool;
- (f) be provided with outlets, one of which is capable of draining the entire pool within 8 hours, situated at the deepest point, and with drain outlets properly covered with gratings and designed to reduce suction and prevent the reversal of the water flow from the drain to the pool;
- (g) be provided with dressing-rooms, toilets and showers in such numbers and of such type and construction as the Senior Medical Officer of Health may approve;
- (h) be surrounded by a clear unobstructed paved walkway or deck not less than 4 feet wide extending from the pool side, edge or lip of the coping of the pool;
- (i) have permanent markings showing the depth of the shallow and deep ends and the diving depths, and such markings shall be in numerals of at least 4 inches in height and of a colour which contrasts with the background.

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**8.** When lighting or other electrical equipment is provided in the pool area, such lighting or equipment shall be installed so as not to be dangerous to persons using the pool, and shall be subject to the approval of the Electrical Engineer.

**9.** The wall of the swimming pool shall comply with the following requirements—

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- (a) it shall be vertical from deck to the pool bottom;
- (b) if the pool is sloped at the deep end, the upper six feet of the wall shall not deviate more than one foot horizontal in six feet vertical;
- (c) if a ledge is provided on vertical walls in the deep portion of the pool, it shall be fixed not less than 4 feet 6 inches below water level, and be not more than 6 inches wide with a  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch slope towards the pool.

**10.** (1) The water depth at the shallow end of the swimming pool shall not exceed  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet.

(2) If steps extend for more than one-half of the width of the shallow end, the depth of the wall at the base of the lowest step shall not be greater than  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet.

(3) From the shallow end, the pool bottom shall be sloped at a rate not exceeding—

- (a) for pools more than 20 feet wide, one foot vertical in 12 feet horizontal; and
- (b) for pools 20 feet or less in width, one foot vertical in 10 feet horizontal.

(4) A pool sloped in accordance with paragraph (3) shall extend to a depth of not less than 5 feet, except that when rope and buoys are provided, the slope shall extend to a depth of not less than  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet.

**11.** (1) A pool shall have around the perimeter an overflow gutter or automatic skimming devices (hereinafter referred to as skimmers), or such other devices as may be approved by the Senior Medical Officer of Health.

(2) Where overflow gutters are used, they shall be built into the wall extending around the pool except where steps require interruption, and the gutter shall be not less than 3 inches deep; the overflow edge shall be round and shall not exceed a thickness of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches for the top 2 inches.

(3) Skimmers may be used as an overflow device on pools with a surface not exceeding 4,000 square feet and shall comply with the following requirements—

- (a) they shall be built into a recess in the wall of the pool;
- (b) the rate of flow through the skimmer shall be adjustable up to at least 50% of the capacity of the recirculating systems of the swimming pool;
- (c) the skimmer shall be provided with a device to prevent air lock in the recirculation system of the suction line;
- (d) they shall be provided with a screen, which is capable of being easily removed and cleaned, to trap large solids.

**12.** (1) Swimming pool filters shall be designed, constructed and operated to the satisfaction of the Senior Medical Officer of Health.

(2) Subject to subsection (1), filtration surfaces shall be so constructed that they may be easily restored to the designed capacity, and facilities shall be provided so that restoration of such surfaces can be accomplished without contamination of the pool, and so that—

- (a) filtration surfaces are easily available for inspection; and
- (b) structural or functional failures will not occur permitting passage of unfiltered water.

(3) In the case of rapid sand filters, the filtration rate shall not exceed three gallons per square foot per minute, and the backwash shall be at a rate of not less than 12 gallons per minute per square foot.

(3A) High flow rate pressure sand filters—

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- (a) shall be operated 24 hours a day;
- (b) shall not be installed in pools provided for use by the public in which the number of persons bathing or swimming at any one time might reasonably be expected to exceed 1 person per 100 square feet of water surface, and

the filtration rate of such filters shall not exceed 20 gallons per square foot of filter surface per minute.

(4) Filter piping shall be valved so that filters can be washed individually, allowing each filter to be isolated for repairs while the other units are in service.

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(5) Diatomaceous earth filters shall be designed so that the filtration rate shall not exceed 2 gallons per square foot per minute, with maximum rates of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  gallons per square foot per minute for filters designed for continuous feeding of filter aid.

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(6) Provision shall be made for all filters to be cleaned by means of back washing or in a manner which is satisfactory to the Senior Medical Officer of Health.

(7) For pressure type units the pump shall be capable of delivering full required capacity at a head loss of 60 feet head and 60 per cent or more of such capacity at 70 feet head loss.

(8) There shall be at least one skimmer for each 500 square feet of pool surface area or part thereof, except that for pools which do not exceed 600 square feet in surface area, one skimmer only may be provided.

**13.** (1) Every swimming pool shall have inlets of such size and so spaced as to facilitate uniform circulation of water throughout the pool.

(2) There shall be no direct connection between the piping system of the pool and the domestic water supply system unless there is a device which protects against back-flow in a manner approved by the Senior Medical Officer of Health.

(3) The inlets in pools constructed after the date on which these regulations come into operation shall be sufficiently submerged as to prevent the loss of chlorine or other disinfectant solution.

**14.** (1) Every recirculating pool shall have a water recirculating system consisting primarily of piping, pumps, filters and disinfecting equipment as well as such other accessory equipment as shall adequately purify and disinfect within 8 hours an amount of water equal to the water capacity of the pool.

(2) The pipes used for different purposes shall be of different colours to facilitate identification.

(3) The recirculating system shall have a flow meter to indicate the rate of pumpage and which shall be kept in operation 24 hours a day while the pool is in use.

(4) Disinfectant shall be introduced into the recirculating system by methods that are approved by the Senior Medical Officer of Health.

**15.** (1) If a diving tower or board is provided, such board or tower shall be rigidly constructed and properly anchored so as to ensure stability.

(2) No diving board or tower over 10 feet in height shall be used in the swimming pool.

(3) If diving platforms are more than—

(a) 5 feet but less than 8 feet above the water, the minimum depth at that point shall be 11 feet;

(b) 8 feet but less than 10 feet, the minimum depth at that point shall be 12 feet.

(4) There shall be not less than 15 feet of unobstructed headroom above every diving board extending 10 feet in front of the board.

**16.** Without limiting the generality of paragraph (2) of regulation 6, no person shall operate a swimming or wading pool unless the following requirements are complied with—

(a) there is kept in a place readily available to persons using the pool, ropes, lifebuoys and reaching poles;

(b) there is kept readily available on the premises a first-aid kit containing aromatic spirits of ammonia, a recognized skin antiseptic other than tincture of iodine, sterile gauze, absorbent cotton, adhesive plaster, bandages of various widths and such other articles as the Senior Medical Officer of Health may direct;

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(c) the number of persons bathing or swimming in the pool is not permitted to exceed one for each 25 square feet of water surface;

(d) steps are taken to effectively prevent persons using the pool from sunset to sunrise unless the pool is lighted in a manner approved by the Senior Medical Officer of Health;

(e) when chlorine gas is used as a disinfectant there is

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provided at least one gas mask in good operating condition and of a type approved by the Medical Officer of Health as suitable for high concentrations of chlorine gas and the mask is kept at a readily accessible point near to the chlorinators and outside the chlorinator room;

- (f) the person in charge of the pool or some person authorised by him is present at the pool at all times during the period when the pool is in use and such person is qualified to administer first aid and artificial respiration, and, in the case of a swimming pool other than a flow-through pool, is capable of operating the purification equipment, the water recirculating system of the pool and all other appurtenances connected thereto;
- (g) water in the pool is treated and maintained so that not more than 15% of water samples contain more than 200 bacteria per millilitre and so that no bacteria of the coliform group is found in any of five ten-millilitre samples;
- (h)
  - (i) the water in a pool is sufficiently clear when in use to permit a black disc six inches in diameter on a white field placed on the bottom of the pool at the deepest point ten feet from the side to be clearly visible from the walkway around the deep area of the pool; and
  - (ii) in the case of a wading pool the water is kept sufficiently clear that the bottom is visible at all times; and
  - (iii) the water is recirculated at a two-hour turnover rate;
- (i) such tests as may be required by the Chief Medical Officer are made by the operator as frequently as necessary throughout each day so as to maintain the standards required;
- (j) the pool and its surroundings and the dressing rooms, toilets and showers are maintained in a clean, sanitary and safe condition;
- (k) diving towers, spring boards, floats, slides and other equipment are properly maintained, and the floors, steps and walks are washed daily when in use;



- (l) the owner or person in charge keeps such daily records of the operation of the pool as the Chief Medical Officer may require, and such records are made available to the Medical Officer of Health, any officer of the Public Health Engineering Unit, or Public Health Inspector on request and are kept available for scrutiny for a period of at least six months commencing from the date of recording.

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(16A) Notwithstanding paragraph (f) of regulation 16, where the person in charge of a swimming or wading pool or the person authorised by him is not present while such pool is in use, the following notice, printed in letters each of which is at least one inch high, shall be displayed in a conspicuous position near the pool—

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*“Caution*

This pool is not supervised. Bathers under 12 years of age are not allowed in the pool unless accompanied by a person of 16 years of age or over.”

**17.** (1) Swimming pools when in use shall be continuously disinfected with a chemical which imparts a residual effect.

(2) When chlorine is used, a chlorine residual of 0.5 p.p.m. or not less than 0.7 p.p.m. chloramine shall be maintained throughout the pool whenever it is open or in use.

(3) If other halogens such as bromine or iodine are in use, residuals of equivalent disinfecting strength shall be maintained.

(4) A testing kit for measuring the concentration of the disinfectant accurate to within 0.1 p.p.m. shall be provided at each pool.

(5) The Senior Medical Officer of Health may accept other disinfecting methods if he is satisfied that they—

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- (i) provide a residual which is easily measurable,
- (ii) are as effective as the chlorine concentration required by paragraph (2), and
- (iii) are not dangerous to the public health.

(6) The pH value of the water in any pool shall be between 7.5 and 8.4 and a pH testing kit accurate to the nearest 0.2 pH unit shall be provided at each swimming pool.

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**18.** No person with a sore, inflamed eye or throat, a cold, any nasal or ear discharge, or any cuts, boils or other evident skin or other bodily infection shall be allowed in a swimming pool, and the person in charge of the pool at the time shall exclude any such person from use of the pool or premises.

**19.** No person shall spit or blow his nose in any swimming pool.

**20.** (1) Whenever a Medical Officer of Health considers any condition existing at any swimming pool to be dangerous to the public health he may order that the swimming pool be closed.

(2) Unless the permit to operate the swimming pool is cancelled or suspended, an order of closure made under paragraph (1) shall remain in force for not more than 72 hours from the time notice thereof is first given to the operator or person in charge of the pool and no person shall operate or use the swimming pool at any time during the period of suspension of the permit.

**21.** The Chief Medical Officer may cancel or suspend any permit to operate a swimming pool for—

- (a) failure to comply with the provisions of regulation 4 or of regulations 6 to 17; or
- (b) failure to comply with an order made under paragraph (1) of regulation 20.

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**22.** A person who—

- (a) contravenes these regulations;
- (b) fails to comply with a notice or directive given or issued in accordance with these regulations; or
- (c) obstructs a duly authorised person in the execution of his duties under these regulations,

is guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding five thousand dollars or imprisonment for a term not exceeding twelve months, or both, and, in the case of a continuing offence, to a further fine not exceeding two hundred dollars for each day or part thereof during which the offence continues after a conviction is first obtained.