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Introduction

Swimming pools have been implicated in the transmission of infections, accidents and a number of accidental drownings.

This document is designed to provide basic information on the minimum safety standards necessary in the operation of a public swimming pool. It highlights some of the significant sections of the Swimming Pool Regulation 565/90 made under the Health Protection and Promotion Act, Revised Statutes of Ontario 1990 c.H.7.

It is intended to be a reference document for owners/operators and/or lifeguards in meeting the minimum safety and sanitary requirements of the Regulation. It is not intended to substitute the professional expertise of pool maintenance companies and public health inspectors.

This manual does not include the requirements for Wave Action Pools and Modified Pools.

Public Health Inspectors are available for consultation on compliance issues with regards to your pool. To reach an inspector, please call Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit.
Exemption from Ontario Regulation 565/90 (Public Pools)

Not every swimming pool is covered by this Regulation. If the swimming pool serves five or fewer units or suites then the Regulation does not apply provided a sign is displayed as set out in the Regulations.

Section 3

“The following public pools are exempt from this Regulation:

1. Pools used by the occupants and their visitors of an apartment building, condominium or co-operative or commune property that contains five or fewer dwelling units or suites.

2. Pools used by members of a community of five or fewer single-family private residences.

2.1 Pools operated on the premises of a hotel that contains five or fewer units or suites, for the use of its guests, if the following notice is displayed in a conspicuous place within the pool enclosure, printed in letters at least 25 millimetres high:

CAUTION
SWIM AT YOUR OWN RISK
THIS POOL IS NOT SUBJECT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF ONTARIO REGULATION 565 - PUBLIC POOLS

3. Pools having a water depth of 0.75 metre or less.

4. Hydro-massage pools.

5. Pools that serve solely as receiving basins for persons at the bottom of water slides.

Section 4

“This Regulation applies to public pools and all buildings, appurtenances and equipment used in the operation of public pools.”
Notification of a Public Pool Opening

The Regulation requires owners/operators to notify the Medical Officer of Health of their intention to open or re-open a public swimming pool. Failure to notify may result in legal action and fines. In order to avoid such penalties, please complete the notification form (see Appendix - 2 PUBLIC POOL OPENING NOTIFICATION FORM) and forward it to the nearest Health Unit Office at least two weeks prior to the date of intended opening. This must be done in the following circumstances:

New Public Pool

Section 5 (1)

“Before a public pool is put into use after construction or alteration, the owner or the owner’s agent shall notify, in writing, the medical officer of health in the health unit where the pool is situate,

(a) of the building permit number issued for the construction or alteration of the pool;

(b) whether or not all the preparations necessary to operate the pool in accordance with this Regulation have been completed;

(c) of the date that the pool is to be opened for use;

(d) whether the pool is intended to be operated as a Class A or a Class B pool; and

(e) of the name and address of the operator.”

Re-opening a Public Pool After Construction

Section 5 (2)

“A person who proposes to open or reopen a pool for use as a public pool after construction or alteration shall not open or reopen the pool without first obtaining,

(a) permission in writing from the medical officer of health; and

(b) a supply of chemicals and testing devices that are sufficient to operate the pool.”
Re-opening a Public Pool after Closure

Section 5(3)

“Every owner and every operator shall, after any closure of the pool for more than four weeks duration and where the owner or operator intends to re-open the pool, notify in writing the medical officer of health in the health unit where the pool is situate,

(a) of the date that the pool is to be re-opened;

(b) of the name and address of the operator; and

(c) whether the pool is intended to be operated as a Class A or a Class B pool.”

Designated Operator

Section 6 (1)

“Every owner shall designate an operator.”

An operator is a person designated by the owner of a public pool as being responsible for the operation of the pool.

Equipment

Section 6 (2)

“Every owner and every operator shall,

(a) maintain the public pool and its equipment in a safe and sanitary condition.”

Pool Rendered Inaccessible

Section 6 (2)

“Every owner and every operator shall,

(b) ensure that during periods when the pool is not intended to be open for use it is rendered inaccessible to persons who are not involved with its operation or maintenance.”
Circulation System and Chemical Feeders

Section 6 (2)

“Every owner and every operator shall,

(c) except for stoppage for maintenance, repairs or backwashing of filters or for a closure for a continuous period of seven days or more, ensure that the recirculation system and the chemical feeders are in continuous operation throughout the entire **twenty-four hours** of each day without regard to the duration of actual use of the pool each day.”

Section 7 (7)

“Every owner and every operator shall ensure that the pool water is treated with chlorine, a chlorine compound or a bromine compound by means of an **adjustable dosing device**.”

Recirculation System

Section 6 (4)

“Every owner and every operator shall ensure that,

(a) all components of the recirculation system of the pool are maintained in proper working order.”

Decks and Walls

Section 6 (4)

“Every owner and every operator shall ensure that,

(b) all surfaces of the pool deck and walls are maintained in a sanitary condition and free from hazards;

(e) the pool deck is clearly delineated by markings or other means from the general area where a general area is provided.”
Changing Rooms, Toilets and Shower Facilities

Section 6 (4)

“Every owner and every operator shall ensure that,

(c) where changing rooms, toilets and shower facilities are provided for the pool, they are available for use of the bathers before entering the deck.”

Submerged Pool Surfaces

Section 6 (4)

“Every owner and every operator shall ensure that,

(d) the submerged surfaces of the pool are white or light in colour, except for markings for safety or competition purposes.”

Chemical Storage and Handling

Section 6 (4)

“Every owner and every operator shall ensure that,

(h) provisions are made for the safe storage and handling of all chemicals required in the pool operation.”

Foot Sprays

Section 6 (4)

“Every owner and every operator shall ensure that,

(i) where footsprays are provided for the pool they are maintained in good working order and are kept sanitary.”
How to Determine Turnover Rates

**Section 6(2)(d)(i) – 6(2)(d)(ii)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Pool</th>
<th>Turnover Rate</th>
<th>Turnover Period</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Class A Pool</strong></td>
<td>4 x the total volume of the pool</td>
<td>1 x every 6 hours per day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>constructed after 30(^{th}) April 1974</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Class A Pool</strong></td>
<td>3 x the total volume of the pool</td>
<td>1 x every 8 hours per day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>constructed before 1(^{st}) May 1974</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Class B Pool</strong></td>
<td>3 x the total volume of the pool</td>
<td>1 x every 8 hours per day</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Turnover Rate** is the rate at which the volume of water is filtered, disinfected and returned to the pool each day.

**Turnover Period** is the period of time in which the volume of water is filtered, disinfected and returned to the pool each day.

1. Determined the volume in cubic metres (meters\(^3\))

   \[
   \text{Volume} = \text{Length in metres} \times \text{Width in metres} \times \text{Average Depth in metres}
   \]

   \[
   = \quad \quad \quad \times \quad \quad \quad \times \quad \quad \quad \\
   = \quad \quad \quad \text{metres}^3
   \]

2. Converting meter\(^3\) to litres

   \[
   1\text{m}^3 = 1000 \text{l}
   \]

   \[
   \text{Volume} = \quad \quad \quad \times 1000 \text{l/m}^3
   \]
Black Disc Test and Pool Water Clarity

Section 6 (4)

“Every owner and every operator shall ensure that,

(I) a black disc 150 millimetres in diameter on a white background is affixed to the bottom of the pool at its deepest point.”

Section 7 (4)

“Every owner and every operator, other than an owner and operator of a modified pool or a wave action pool, shall ensure that the pool water is of a clarity to permit a black disc 150 millimetres in diameter on a white background located on the bottom of the pool at its deepest point to be clearly visible from any point on the deck nine metres away from the disc.”

Section 18 (2)

“Every owner and every operator, other than an owner and operator of a modified pool, shall have a black disc 150 millimetres in diameter on a white background available for use in determining the clarity of the pool water.”

Poor pool water clarity adds to higher maintenance costs and swimmer dissatisfaction. More importantly, it significantly contributes to incidents that result in deaths and injury. As well, failure to maintain good pool water clarity is contrary to the Public Pool Regulation. For these reasons, a Public Health Inspector will order a pool closed if the pool does not meet the mandatory pool water clarity requirement.

In order to locate and rescue a drowning bather it is essential that the pool water is of sufficient clarity. The Public Pool Regulation requires that a black disc on a white background be affixed to the bottom of a public swimming pool at its deepest point. The black disc is used as a standard for measuring pool water clarity. This “visibility standard” requires that the black disc must be clearly visible from any point on the pool deck at a distance of 9 meters away from the disc.
**Black Disc Not Clearly Visible or Poor Illumination**

**Section 18 (4)**

“Where a public pool is open for use and the **clarity** of the water in the pool and the available **illumination** or either of them decreases to a level where the visibility standard described in subsection 7 (4), (5) or (6) is not met, the operator shall direct all bathers to leave the pool, ensure that no bather remains in the water and prevent bathers from having access to the pool until the water clarity and the available illumination or either of them has increased to a level where the conditions meet the required standard of visibility.”

When the black disc is not clearly visible, it is the responsibility of the owner/operator to ensure that all bathers are directed to leave the pool immediately, that no bather remains in the water and that bathers are prevented from gaining access to the pool. The entire pool area must be vacated.

**Pipes Colour Coded**

**Section 6(4)**

“Every owner and every operator shall ensure that,

(a) exposed piping within the pool enclosure, inside the structure of the pool and inside appurtenant structures to the pool are identified by,

(i) colour coding with coloured bands at least twenty-five millimetres wide spaced along the piping at intervals not greater than 1.20 metres, or

(ii) painting the entire outer surface of the piping,

in accordance with the following code:

*chlorine – yellow*

*potable water – green.*
Water Treatment (Water Balance)

In order for the sanitizer (chlorine or bromine) to destroy harmful organic matter, the pool water must be in proper chemical balance. Proper chemical balance means that the pH, total alkalinity, calcium hardness, temperature and total dissolved solids must be kept at levels that ensure water is neither corrosive nor scale-forming. To ensure proper chemical balance, maintain the range outlined in Sections 7(7) (a) to 7(7) (g) of the Regulation for these.

Make Up Water

Section 6 (4)

“Every owner and every operator shall ensure that,

(g) at least 15 percent of the total pool water volume is capable of being withdrawn from the gutter or skimmer lines daily and discharged to waste drains.”

Section 7 (1)

“Every owner and every operator shall ensure that the clean water and the make-up water are free from contamination that may be injurious to the health of the bathers.”

Section 7 (2)

“Every owner and every operator shall ensure that the pool water and its recirculation system is separate from the make-up water supply and from the sewer or drainage system into which the make-up water drains.”

Section 7 (3)

“Every owner and every operator shall ensure that the pool water is maintained free from visible matter that may be hazardous to the health or safety of the bathers.”

Section 7 (12)

“Every operator shall add make-up water to the pool during each operating day in an amount not less than twenty litres per bather as determined by a water meter installed for the purpose.”
Pool water will become stale if it is not regularly refreshed with fresh water. The Public Pool Regulations require fresh water to be added to the pool on daily basis. The amount of water added is dependent on the number of bathers admitted to the pool. For every bather per day, 20 litres of fresh water must be added, to a maximum of 15% of the pool volume. This can be facilitated by first discharging equal amounts of pool water via the drain when vacuuming. To ensure a sufficient amount of “make-up” water (fresh water) is added to the pool, the regulation requires the fresh water line to be equipped with a water meter.

Water is also lost from the pool due to bather load (swimmers splashing water out of the pool) and through evaporation. Additional amounts of “make-up” water (fresh water) must therefore be added to a swimming pool each day. The addition of make-up water to a pool will ensure proper levels of water in the pool for the re-circulation system to operate efficiently. Adding make-up water to the pool will also help to ensure that the sanitizing agents have their maximum effect.

The amount of fresh water to be added daily to a pool is dependent on the number of bathers admitted to the pool. Ontario Regulation 565 of the Revised Regulations of Ontario 1990 Section 7 (12) requires for every bather per day, 20 litres (4.4 imperial gallons) of fresh water be added, to a maximum of 15% of the pool volume.

To measure the amount of make-up water, a water meter must be installed on the water make-up line. Where a permanent water meter can not be installed, a portable make-up water meter may be used provided that it is kept on the premises at all times, it is readily available and the appropriate connecting tools are available. The operator must record the amount of make-up water added to pool each day in the daily records.
Section 6 (4)

“Every owner and every operator shall ensure that,

(m) where the pool has one or more ramps that are not submerged and that are adjacent to the pool wall and that are used for access to the water, the pool is provided with a removable barrier that separates the deck from the ramp;

(n) where the pool has one or more ramps that are submerged, that are adjacent to the pool wall and that are used for access to the water, the pool is provided with a removable barrier that separates the walkway from the deck."

Section 19.

“Every owner and every operator shall ensure that the following notices and markings are displayed in the places indicated herein:

9. Where a pool is provided with one or more ramps, a notice located conspicuously on each wall or fence enclosing the pool on which is printed at least 150 millimetres high the words CAUTION - NO DIVING.

10. Where a pool is provided with one or more ramps that,
   i. are not submerged, are adjacent to the pool wall and are used for access to the water and there is a removable barrier separating the deck from the ramp, the ramp shall bear a conspicuous notice on which is printed in letters at least twenty-five millimetres high the words UNSUPERVISED BATHERS ARE NOT ALLOWED BEYOND THIS POINT,
   ii. are submerged, are adjacent to the pool wall and are used for access to the water and there is a removable barrier separating the walkway from the deck, the removable barrier shall bear a conspicuous notice on which is printed in letters at least twenty-five millimetres high the words BATHERS ARE NOT ALLOWED BEYOND THIS POINT.”
Oxidation Reduction Potential (ORP)

Section 7 (9)

“Where the addition of chemicals required to maintain the pH value and the disinfectant residual of the pool water is controlled by automatic sensing devices and the pH value and the disinfectant residual are automatically determined and displayed or continuously recorded, the operator shall at least once every day determine, by means of manual test methods, the pH value and the free available and the total chlorine residuals or the bromine residual to ensure that the automatic sensing devices continue to maintain proper control of the pH value and the disinfectant residual.”

An ORP reading on an automatic sensing device (controller) of a pool is an indicator of the sanitizer’s (chlorine or bromine) ability to destroy harmful organic matter in the water, such as bacteria, viruses, human waste, etc. This is measured in milli-volts (mV).

The ORP value is affected by both the pH (hydrogen ion concentration) and the amount of cyanuric acid in the spa water. As the amount of cyanuric acid increases, the effectiveness of chlorine/bromine decreases resulting in a corresponding reduction in the ORP reading. Similarly, as pH increases there will be a corresponding reduction in the ORP reading. However, as pH decreases the production of hypochlorous acid increases, resulting in an increase in the ORP reading.

The accuracy of an ORP reading is also dependent upon proper installation and maintenance of measuring equipment. The electrodes (probes) that measure the ORP are designed to operate with a set volume of water flowing past it. Probes must be kept clean and free of any deposits to give accurate ORP readings. Further information on the proper maintenance of such equipment can be obtained from the manufacturer.

It is important to remember that the ORP is a measure of the effectiveness of chemicals in the water. Milligrams per litre (mg/l) or parts per million (PPM) is a quantitative measure of the quality of chemicals in the water. A substantial difference between the ORP reading and the manual chemical test (mg/l) means that the automatic sensing device requires maintenance.

The Regulation requires an owner/operator to record the ORP reading one-half hour before a pool is open for use and once during the operating day. Owners/operators must therefore establish the daily use period for the pool.
Daily Records

Section 7 (10)

“Every operator shall determine and record the chlorine or bromine residual and the pH value referred to in subsection (7) one-half hour before bathers are admitted to the pool and thereafter at time intervals not exceeding two hours so long as the pool is open for use.”

Section 8

“Every operator shall keep and sign daily records that shall set out,

(a) the free available chlorine and total chlorine residuals in the pool water or where a bromine compound is used, the total bromine residual;

(b) the pH value of the pool water;

(c) the total number of bathers admitted to the pool each day;

(d) the reading of the make-up water meter;

(e) any emergencies, rescue or breakdowns of equipment that have occurred; and

(f) the time of day that the actions required under subsection 16(2) have been taken.”

Owners/operators have a legal responsibility to keep proper records. These records play a significant role in every aspect of managing a pool. The records show how the facility operates, help to reduce costs such as liabilities and ensure staff and bather safety. Refer to Sections 8(a) - 8(f) of the Regulation to determine what must be recorded daily.

Weekly Records

Section 7 (11)

“Where cyanurate stabilization is maintained, the operator shall determine the concentration of cyanuric acid not less than once every week.”
Monthly Records

Section 16.1 (2)

“Every owner and every operator shall ensure that,

(a) all of the pool’s water outlet covers are inspected at least once within each period of 30 operating days;

(b) if any of the pool’s water outlet covers is found to be loose or missing, the pool is closed until the cover is repaired or replaced;

(c) a written record of the inspection is made by the person who performed the inspection; and

(d) the written record of the inspection is retained by the owner or operator for at least one year from the date the record is made.”

Record Keeping

Section 9

“A record required to be kept under section 8 shall be retained for a period of one year from the date of making the record.”

Water Meter

Section 7 (13)

“Every owner and every operator shall ensure that a water meter is provided that registers the volume of all make-up water that is added to the pool.”

Any body of water will go stale if not refreshed. The Regulation requires the addition of fresh water to be added daily, dependent on the number of bathers admitted to the pool. For every bather per day, 20 litres of fresh water must be added to a maximum of 15% of the pool volume.

This can be done by discharging water to drain when vacuuming. A water meter (a legal requirement for all pools) can be used to determine that a sufficient volume of fresh water is added.
Bather Load

Section 10 (1)

“Every owner and every operator, other than an owner and operator of a wave action pool, shall ensure that the total number of bathers permitted at any instant on the deck and in the pool does not exceed the maximum bather load as determined by the following formula:

\[
\text{maximum bather load} = \frac{D + S}{2.5 - 1.4}
\]

where,

\(D\) = the area in square metres of the part of the pool that is deeper than 1.35 metres; and

\(S\) = the area in square metres of the part of the pool that is 1.35 metres in depth or shallower.”

Benches or Seats

Section 10 (3)

“Benches or seats for temporary use during aquatic displays or competitive events attended by spectators may be placed on the deck to accommodate the spectators, provided that,

(a) the spectator area and the access to it are separated from the remainder of the deck by a barrier placed not less than 0.60 metre from the edge of the pool; and

(b) the benches or seats when not in use are stored outside the deck area.”
Moveable Equipment

Section 10 (4)

“Where moveable equipment, including portable diving stands, starting platforms and swing ropes are provided for the use of the bathers, every owner and every operator shall ensure that the equipment is in place on the deck only during periods when its use is directly supervised by aquatic personnel.”

Food and Beverage

Section 10 (5)

“Every owner and every operator shall ensure that no food or beverage except water is supplied or consumed in the pool or on the deck.”

Deck, Dressing Rooms, Locker Rooms, etc.

Section 11 (1)

“Every owner and every operator shall ensure that the pool, the deck and, where provided, the dressing and locker rooms, toilets, showers and connecting corridors appurtenant to the pool are,

(a) kept clean, free from slipperiness and disinfected;

(b) free of hazardous obstructions; and

(c) ventilated so as to remove odours.”
Toilets

Section 11 (2)

“Every owner and every operator shall ensure that where toilets are provided they are supplied with toilet paper.”

Bathing Apparel and Towels

Section 12

“Where the operator supplies bathing apparel or towels, the operator shall ensure that they are,

(a) cleaned, disinfected and stored in a sanitary manner; and

(b) stored separately from clean apparel and towels after each use pending removal for laundering.”
Gas Chlorination

Section 13.

“Where a gas chlorinator is used in a public pool, the owner and the operator of the pool shall ensure that,

(a) full-face, self-contained, air-supplied respiratory equipment is provided suitable for use in a chlorine atmosphere for a period of fifteen minutes and kept in a dust-tight cabinet located outside the area of probable contamination;

(b) the chlorination equipment is operated by a person or persons trained in the operation of chlorination equipment;

(c) the chlorination system automatically ceases to inject chlorine solution whenever the recirculation system ceases to supply clean water to the pool;

(d) every chlorine cylinder on the pool premises is anchored at all times to prevent its accidental movement;

(e) except when a chlorine cylinder is connected to the chlorinator, a chlorine cylinder valve protection hood is fitted in place on the cylinder;

(f) a wrench for operating the chlorine cylinder valve is fitted to the valve stem of each chlorine cylinder that is connected to the chlorinator;

(g) a platform weigh scale of not less than 135 kilograms capacity for each chlorine cylinder in use is provided; and

(h) the operator takes all steps necessary to ensure the safety of the bathers before connecting or disconnecting a chlorine cylinder.”
Diving Platforms

Section 6. (4)

“Every owner and every operator shall ensure that,

(j) where the pool is equipped with a diving board or diving platform, the board or platform has a non-slip surface finish.”

Section 14

“Where a diving platform greater than three metres in height above the water is provided in a public pool, the operator shall ensure that,

(a) the gate giving access to the platform is locked except during periods when the platform is in use for diving; and

(b) when the platform is in use, the pool is used solely for diving unless a rigid barrier or double safety lines 300 millimetres apart supported by buoys are in place, located from the wall under the platform,

(i) at 11.60 metres in the case of a 5-metre platform,

(ii) at 12.50 metres in the case of a 7.5-metre platform, and

(iii) at 15.25 metres, in the case of a 10-metre platform,

and activities other than diving are effectively confined to the area of the pool outside the separated diving area.”

Bather Shall Shower

Section 15

“Every bather shall take a cleansing shower or bath using soap and warm water before entering the deck.”
Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI)

Section 16 (2)

“Every operator shall ensure before the pool is opened for use each day that,

(a) the test-buttons associated with the ground current leakage detecting and de-energizing devices are activated;”

If a pool has underwater lighting or any electrical outlets and fixtures within 3 meters (10 feet) of the pool surface, a ground current leakage detecting and de-energizing device, otherwise known as a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI or sometimes GFI), must be present.

A GFCI is a small circuit breaker-like device that shuts off the associated circuit if there is an electrical leak that may cause an electrical shock hazard (a ground fault).

The GFCI should never be tested when the pool is open and in-use. Neither should any work be done on the electrical system pertaining to the pool when the pool is open for use.

A certificate from a qualified and licensed electrician certifying that the electrical system(s) is safe and in proper working condition, or is permanently disconnected is required before the pool will be allowed to re-open for use.

Written Emergency Procedures

Section 17 (1)

“Every owner and every operator shall ensure that there are written emergency and operational procedures and instructions at the pool to be implemented in the event of an emergency, accident or injury in the pool and that all lifeguards and assistant lifeguards are trained in the emergency and operational procedures.”

Every pool must have emergency and operational instructions at the pool to be used in the event of an emergency, accident or injury. Appropriate information should be posted in locations that would prove valuable in an emergency.
Emergency Procedures

The emergency procedure should be posted near the phone/lifeguard station and should contain the following information about your pool:

1. What to do when an injury occurs
   - on the deck
     • clear the pool
     • attend to the victim
     • get help
   - in the pool
     • attend to the victim
     • get help
     • clear the pool

2. Emergency phone number (911).

3. Address of the pool and the simplest way for emergency crews to reach the pool i.e. outside door closest and/or hallway directions to the pool.

4. Additional phone numbers for assistance – superintendents, pool company.

Operational Procedures

The operational procedures should include instructions on how to safely operate the recirculation and electrical systems. All operations, routine and emergency (i.e. backwashing, shut down of pump), should be described in a step-by-step manner so that anyone can follow them. It is also valuable to label all switches, valves, etc.

Swimming Pool Outlet Covers

Section 6 (4)

“Every owner and every operator shall ensure that,

(f) the perimeter drain of the pool is kept free of debris.”
Section 16.1 (2)

“Every owner and every operator shall ensure that,

(a) all of the pool’s water outlet covers are inspected at least once within each period of 30 operating days;

(b) if any of the pool’s water outlet covers is found to be loose or missing, the pool is closed until the cover is repaired or replaced;

(c) a written record of the inspection is made by the person who performed the inspection; and

(d) the written record of the inspection is retained by the owner or operator for at least one year from the date the record is made.”

Ontario Regulation 565 of the Revised Regulations of Ontario 1990 was amended to provide standards for the inspection of water outlet covers. These standards were established to ensure that water outlet covers are provided and maintained securely in place within pools. In 1991, a lifeguard drowned when she got her foot caught in the main drain cover of a public swimming pool. A Coroner’s inquest into the incident determined this accident could have been prevented if the cover to the main drain was secured in place. As a result, the jury recommended that all water outlet covers be routinely inspected to ensure they are secured in place. This resulted in an amendment to the Public Pools Regulation 565, 1990 with the addition of section 16.1 and 16.2.

Pools at Day Care Facility or Day Camp

Section 17 (20)

“Where a pool is operated in conjunction with a day care facility or day camp and the water depth of the pool does not exceed 1.10 metres, a lifeguard or an assistant lifeguard may be replaced by one or more persons sixteen years of age or over where each person has satisfied the operator that he or she is a competent swimmer, is trained in the emergency procedures for the pool and is the holder of a current first-aid certificate referred to in subsection (11).
Do I Need Lifeguards at My Pool?

It is the responsibility of the owners/operators of a public pool to ensure that there are adequate numbers of lifeguards on duty on the deck while the pool is in use. Section 17 sets out requirements for the number of lifeguards to be on duty on the deck, as well as their age and qualifications. All staff supervising bathers must meet these requirements as well as be trained in the operational and emergency procedures of the pool. Please note that even where the pool is classified as Class B and supervision is provided, these requirements must be met.

**Lifeguards and Assistant Lifeguards Section 17 (5) – 17 (7)**

- must be appropriately attired so that they are readily identifiable.
- must be at least 16 years of age.
- be the holder of a current lifeguard certificate (for lifeguards) or assistant lifeguard certificate (for assistant lifeguards) that is dated not more than 2 years prior to the date on which he or she is acting as a lifeguard/assistant lifeguard.
- have available at the pool, when on duty, the certificate or a copy of the certificate certified by the operator and permit the owner, the operator or a public health inspector to examine the certificate at any time.
- must be trained in the emergency procedures for the pool.

**Section 17 (8)**

- **Lifeguard Certificate** means the National Lifeguard Service’s Lifeguard Certificate.

**Section 17 (9)**

- **Assistant Lifeguard Certificate** means the Royal Life Saving Society Canada’s Bronze Cross or Award of Distinction.

- The number of Assistant Lifeguards on duty **must not exceed** the number of Lifeguards on duty.
- At least one person 16 years of age or over on duty at a **Class A pool** or on the premises and within call shall be the holder of a current first aid certificate.
How Many Lifeguards Do I Need?

To determine the number of lifeguards a public pool requires, you need to know the following:

- Total surface area of your pool
- Maximum bather load

The following steps illustrate how this is calculated:

- The shallow area is the part of the pool that is 1.35 metres or less in depth, hence measure the length and width of the shallow end of the pool.
- The deep area is the part of the pool that is greater than 1.35 metres in depth, hence measure the length and width of the deep end of the pool.

**Step 1:**

Area of shallow end: \( \text{Length of shallow end} \times \text{Width of shallow end} \)

**Step 2:**

Area of deep end: \( \text{Length of deep end} \times \text{Width of deep end} \)

**Calculating Maximum Bather Load**

With the Total Surface Area of your pool calculated, the maximum bather load for the pool can be determined by using the following formula:

**Step 3:**

\[
\text{Maximum bather load} = \frac{\text{Shallow Area}}{1.4} + \frac{\text{Deep Area}}{2.5} = \text{# of people}
\]

**Note:** Section 17 (19) (b) - Class B pools with a water surface area greater than 93 square metres and with no supervision, the bather load must always be 10, regardless of the actual calculation.

Total Surface Area = Area of shallow end + Area of deep end

Using the maximum bather load calculated in step 3, determine from the table in step 4, the number of lifeguards that will be required for the pool.
Step 4: The following table will determine the total number of lifeguards and assistant lifeguards that you need at your pool:

**Section 17 (2)**
Minimum numbers of lifeguards and assistant lifeguards for a public pool with a *water surface area of 500 square metres or less*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Where there are lifeguards and assistant lifeguards on duty</th>
<th>Where there are only lifeguards on duty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of bathers on the deck and in the pool</td>
<td>Minimum number of lifeguards &amp; assistant lifeguards on duty</td>
<td>Number of bathers on the deck and in the pool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-30</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0-30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31-100</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>31-125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>101-200</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>126-250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>201-300</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>251-400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>300 or more</td>
<td>One additional lifeguard or assistant lifeguard for each additional 100 bathers or fraction thereof</td>
<td>400 or more</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If a pool other than a wave action pool, has a water surface area that is **greater than 500 square metres**,

- the minimum number of life guards and assistant lifeguards referred to in the above Table shall be increased by one; and
- where there are two persons who hold the National Lifeguard Service’s Lifeguard Certificate on duty, the number of bathers referred to in the Table may exceed thirty but shall not exceed sixty.

**Section 17 (3)**

"Where a pool, other than a wave action pool, has a water surface area open for use that is greater than 500 square metres,

(a) the minimum numbers of lifeguards and assistant lifeguards referred to in the Table in subsection (2) shall be increased by one; and

(b) where there are two persons who hold the National Lifeguard Service’s Lifeguard Certificate on duty, the number of bathers referred to in the Table in section (2) may exceed thirty but shall not exceed sixty.”
Aquatic Instructor or Coach

Section 17 (16)

“A public pool is exempt from the safety supervision requirements of subsections (2) and (3) during a period when the pool is being used solely by one or more groups each not exceeding twenty-five in number for aquatic instruction, practice, competition or display under the direct supervision of a certified aquatic instructor or coach.”

Section 17 (17)

“For the purpose of subsection (16), every aquatic instructor and every coach shall,

(a) be at least 16 years of age;

(b) be the holder of one of the following qualifications that has been issued to him or her and that is dated not more than two years prior to the date on which he or she is acting as an aquatic instructor or coach,

1. The Canadian Red Cross Society’s Water Safety Instructor Award.

2. The Young Men’s Christian Association’s Instructor Certificate.

3. The Royal Life Saving Society Canada’s Instructor Certificate together with an assistant lifeguard certificate referred to in subsection (9).

4. The Ontario Teachers’ Aquatic Standard, where the holder is giving aquatic instruction under the auspices of a school board or board of education.

5. Where the holder is giving underwater aquatic instruction, an instructor certificate issued by,

i. The National Association of Underwater Instructors

ii. The Professional Association of Diving Instructors, or

iii. The Association of Canadian Underwater Councils

6. A lifeguard certificate referred to in subsection (8);”
**Safety Equipment**

**Emergency Telephone**

**Section 16 (1)**

“Every owner and every operator shall ensure that,

(a) where a pool is a Class A pool, an emergency telephone is provided that is easily accessible from the deck and that is directly connected to an emergency service or the local telephone utility; or

(b) where a pool is a Class B pool, a telephone for emergency use is accessible no farther than thirty metres from the pool.”

**Section 16 (2)**

“Every operator shall ensure before the pool is opened for use each day that,

(b) where a pool is a Class A pool, the emergency telephone required under clause (1) (a) is tested to confirm that the system is in operating condition; and

(c) where a pool is a Class B pool, the telephone required under clause (1) (b) is tested to confirm that it is in operating condition.”

The emergency telephone is one of the most important pieces of safety equipment used for getting help to an injured bather or emergency situation. The telephone must be within 30 metres of a pool and be connected to the local service provider. It must not be connected directly to 911 or the police, and must be tested daily. Time is crucial when emergency help is required.

**Emergency Services Notice**

**Section 19**

3. “At the emergency telephone, a notice identifying it as the emergency telephone and listing the name, telephones numbers and address of persons who are available for resuscitation, medical aid and fires services or indicating the service to which it is directly connected.”

---

**Emergency Services**

In Case of Emergency
Speak Clearly and Slowly

1. Dial ___ for emergency service
2. Ask for emergency service
3. Give location
   a. Name of Pool_____________________
   b. Pool is located in the _____ of the building
   c. Address__________________________
   d. Main intersection___________________
4. Give telephone number of pool____________
5. State
   a. Type of emergency
   b. Type of accident
   c. Number of victims

---

owner/operator
Section 20 (1)

“Every owner and every operator, other than an owner and operator of a wave action pool, shall ensure that there are provided in places conveniently located for emergency use,

**Electrically Insulated or Non-Conducting Reaching Pole**

(a) an electrically insulted or non-conducting reaching pole at least 3.65 metres long;”

![Image of a reaching pole]

**Buoyant Throwing Aids**

(b) two buoyant throwing aids, each of which has securely attached to it a six millimetre diameter rope of a length not less than on-half the width of the pool plus three metres;”

![Image of buoyant throwing aids]

**Spine Board**

(c) a spine board or device designed for transporting a person who has incurred a spinal injury. ”

![Image of a spine board]

Spine boards are required by law for the transport of spinal-injured victims. It is for use in all public pools. For this reason a spine board must be equipped with straps to secure the injured victim safely prior to transporting.
First Aid Kit

Section 20 (1)

“Every owner and every operator, other than an owner and operator of a wave action pool, shall ensure that there are provided in places conveniently located for emergency use,

(d) a first-aid box containing at least,”

(i) a current copy of the St. John Ambulance or the Canadian Red Cross Society First Aid Manual,
(ii) one dozen safety pins,
(iii) twenty-four adhesive dressings individually wrapped,
(iv) twelve sterile gauze pads, each seventy-five millimetres square,
(v) four rolls of fifty millimetre gauze bandage,
(vi) four rolls of 100 millimetre gauze bandage,
(vii) four sterile surgical pads suitable for pressure dressings individually wrapped,
(viii) six triangular bandages,
(ix) two rolls of splint padding, and
(x) one roll-up splint.”

Ontario Regulation 565/90

Sticker for your First Aid Box is available upon request from your health unit.
Regulation Pertaining to Class A Pools

Class A Pool - Definition

Section 2

1. "Class A pool" being,

   i. a pool to which the general public is admitted,

   ii. a pool operated in conjunction with or as a part of the program of a Young Men’s Christian Association or similar institution or an educational, instructional, physical fitness or athletic institution supported in whole or in part by public funds or public subscription, or

   iii. a pool operated on the premises of a recreational camp, for use by campers and their visitors and camp personnel."

Class A Pool - Operating as a Class B Pool

Section 6 (3)

“Despite paragraph 1 of section 2, a Class A pool may be operated as a Class B pool during periods when the pool is open solely for the uses stated in subparagraphs i to vi of paragraph 2 of section 2.”

“Paragraph 2 of Section 2

“Class B pool” being,

   i. a pool operated on the premises of an apartment building that contains more than five dwelling units or suites, a mobile home park or a nurses’ residence, for the use of the occupants and their visitors,

   ii. a pool operated as a facility to serve a community of more than five single-family private residences, for the use of the residents and their visitors,

   iii. a pool operated on the premises of a hotel, for the use of its guests and their visitors,

   iv. a pool operated on the premises of a campground, for the use of its tenants and their visitors,

   v. a pool operated in conjunction with,

   A. a club, for the use of its members and their visitors, or

   B. a condominium, co-operative or commune property that contains more than five dwelling units or suites, for the use of the owners or members and their visitors,

   vi. a pool operated in conjunction with a day nursery, a day camp or an establishment or institution for the care or treatment of persons who are ill, infirm or aged or for persons in custodial care, for the use of such persons and their visitors.”
Class A Pool - Exemption

Section 6 (2) (d)

“Every owner and every operator shall ensure that,

(i) in a Class A pool that was constructed after the 30th day of April, 1974, a volume of water not less than four times the total capacity of the pool is filtered, disinfected and passed through the pool each day,

(ii) in a Class A pool that was constructed before the 1st day of May, 1974 and in a Class B pool, a volume of water not less than three times the total capacity of the pool is filtered, disinfected and passed through the pool each day.”

Section 6 (5)

“Clause (4) (g) does not apply to a Class A pool that was constructed before the 7th day of June, 1965.”

“Clause (4) (g) Every owner and every operator shall ensure that, at least 15 per cent of the total pool water volume is capable of being withdrawn from the gutter or skimmer lines daily and discharged to waste drains.”

Class A Pool - Safety

Section 16 (1)

“Every owner and every operator shall ensure that,

(a) where a pool is a Class A pool, an emergency telephone is provided that is easily accessible from the deck and that is directly connected to an emergency service or the local telephone utility.”

Section 16 (2)

“Every operator shall ensure before the pool is opened for use each day that,

(b) where a pool is a Class A pool, the emergency telephone required under clause (1) (a) is tested to confirm that the system is in operating condition.”
Class A Pool – Lifeguards

Section 17 (4)

“Where there is only one lifeguard on duty on the deck, every owner of a Class A pool and every operator shall ensure that there are on duty elsewhere on the premises and within call one or more additional persons sixteen years of age or over who are trained in the emergency procedures for the pool.”

Section 17 (10)

“At least one person sixteen years of age or over on duty at every Class A pool or on the premises and within call shall be the holder of,

(a) a National Lifeguard Service’s Lifeguard Certificate that is dated not more than two years prior to the date of which he or she is on duty; or

(b) a current first-aid certificate, and have available on the premises when on duty the certificate or a copy thereof certified by the operator and permit the owner, the operator or a public health inspector to examine the certificate at any time.”

Section 17 (11)

“For the purpose of subsection (10), "current first-aid certificate" means,

(a) the St. John Ambulance Emergency, Standard or Advanced First-aid Certificate that is dated not more than three years prior to the date on which the holder is on duty,

(b) the Canadian Red Cross Society’s Emergency, Standard or Advanced First-aid Certificate that is dated not more than three years prior to the date on which the holder is on duty,

(c) the Royal Life Saving Society Canada’s Aquatic Emergency Care Certificate that is dated not more than three years prior to the date on which the holder is on duty,

(d) the Canadian Ski Patrol’s Qualified Member or First-aid Certification prior to its date of expiry, or

(e) a certificate that the Minister considers equivalent to a qualification referred to in clause (a), (b), (c) or (d).”
Class A Pool - Control Station

Section 20 (2)

“A class A pool, other than a modified pool or pool installed at a recreational camp, shall be equipped with,

(a) where the pool area is greater than 150 square metres but not greater than 230 square metres, at least one control station; and

(b) where the pool area is greater than 230 square metres, at least two control stations.”

Control Station

Section 20 (5)

“A control station referred to in subsection (2) shall be,

(a) an elevated platform or chair not less than 1.80 metres above the water surface;

(b) securely positioned while in use and located at the side of the pool so as to permit an unobstructed view of the pool bottom in the area under surveillance; and

(c) restricted to the exclusive use of lifeguards and assistant lifeguards.”
Regulation Pertaining to Class B Pools

Class B Pool - Definition

Section 2.2

"Class B pool" being,

i. a pool operated on the premises of an apartment building that contains more than five dwelling units or suites, a mobile home park or a nurses' residence, for the use of the occupants and their visitors,

ii. a pool operated as a facility to serve a community of more than five single-family private residences, for the use of the residents and their visitors,

iii. a pool operated on the premises of a hotel, for the use of its guests and their visitors,

iv. a pool operated on the premises of a campground, for the use of its tenants and their visitors,

v. a pool operated in conjunction with,

A. a club, for the use of its members and their visitors, or

B. a condominium, co-operative or commune property that contains more than five dwelling units or suites, for the use of the owners or members and their visitors,

vi. a pool operated in conjunction with a day nursery, a day camp or an establishment or institution for the care or treatment of persons who are ill, infirm or aged or for persons in custodial care, for the use of such persons and their visitors, or

vii. a pool other than a Class A pool, that is not exempt from the provisions of this Regulation.”

Class B Pool - Exemption

Section 6 (6)

“Clause (4) (g) does not apply to a Class B pool that was constructed before the 1st day of May, 1974.”

“Clause (4) (g) Every owner and every operator shall ensure that, at least 15 per cent of the total pool water volume is capable of being withdrawn from the gutter or skimmer lines daily and discharged to waste drains.”
Class B Pool - Safety

Section 16 (1)

“Every owner and every operator shall ensure that,

(b) where a pool is a Class B pool, a telephone for emergency use is accessible no farther than thirty metres from the pool.”

Section 16 (2)

“Every operator shall ensure before the pool is opened for use each day that,

(c) where a pool is a Class B pool, the telephone required under clause (1) (b) is tested to confirm that it is in operating condition.”

Apartment Pool Exemption

Section 17 (18)

“Where, prior to the 1st day of July, 1984, an exemption has been granted from the safety supervision requirements in respect of a pool operated on the premises of an apartment building where all the tenants and members of their families in the apartment are required to be at least sixteen years of age, the exemption shall continue provided that there is no change in the requirement regarding the minimum age of the tenants and members of their families in the apartment.”

Unsupervised Class B Pools

Section 17 (19)

“A Class B pool other than a pool operated in conjunction with a day care facility or day camp that has,

(a) a water surface area of ninety-three square metres or less is exempt from the safety supervision requirements of this section provided that the following notice that is printed in letters at least twenty-five millimetres high is displayed in a conspicuous location within the pool enclosure:

CAUTION
THIS POOL IS UNSUPERVISED. BATHERS UNDER TWELVE YEARS OF AGE ARE NOT ALLOWED WITHIN THE POOL ENCLOSURE UNLESS ACCOMPANIED BY A PARENT OR HIS OR HER AGENT WHO IS NOT LESS THAN SIXTEEN YEARS OF AGE.

or,
(b) a water surface area greater than ninety-three square metres and the number of bathers does not exceed ten, is exempt from the safety supervision requirements of this section provided that the following notice that is printed in letters at least twenty-five millimetres high is displayed in a conspicuous location within the pool enclosure:

**CAUTION**

THIS POOL IS UNSUPERVISED. BATHERS UNDER TWELVE YEARS OF AGE ARE NOT ALLOWED WITHIN THE POOL ENCLOSURE UNLESS ACCOMPANIED BY A PARENT OR HIS OR HER AGENT WHO IS NOT LESS THAN SIXTEEN YEARS OF AGE. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF BATHERS ON THE DECK AND IN THE POOL SHALL NOT EXCEED TEN.

**Recommendations for Supervised Class B Pools**

If lifeguard supervision is provided at a Class B pool,

- The unsupervised signs illustrated in section 17(19) (a) or 17(19(b) must be removed.

- The maximum bather load formula illustrated in section 10(1) applies, regardless of pool size.

- The number of properly qualified lifeguards/assistant lifeguards required by section 17 of the Ontario Regulation 565 must be on duty.

If a Class B pool is supervised at times and unsupervised at others, it is recommended that the following sign be permanently posted:

**CAUTION**

THIS POOL OPERATES AT TIMES WITHOUT A LIFEGUARD ON DUTY. PLEASE ASK ABOUT THESE TIMES BEFORE ALLOWING BATHERS UNDER TWELVE YEARS OF AGE TO USE THE POOL UNATTENDED.

This will warn parents and guardians not to allow unattended children to visit the pool before ensuring that they will be supervised.
IMPORTANT NOTICE

ADMISSION STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC POOLS

Admission Standards for Public Pools were developed by the Office of the Chief Coroner to assist lifeguards and assistant lifeguards in maintaining adequate surveillance over the whereabouts and the activities of young bathers while they are inside the pool enclosure. The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care strongly supports these recommendations for the purposes of preventing injuries and fatalities.

- Children under the age of 10 years who are non-swimmers must be accompanied by a parent or guardian who is at least 12 years of age and responsible for their direct supervision. The ratio of non-swimmers to parent or guardian may be a maximum of 4 bathers to one parent or guardian (4:1). The ratio of non-swimmers to parent or guardian may be increased to a maximum of 8 bathers to one parent or guardian (8:1) if lifejackets are worn by all non-swimmers in their charge.

- Children under the age of 10 who are swimmers (able to demonstrate comfort in the water and pass the facility swim test) may be admitted to the swimming pool unaccompanied.

- Children under the age of 6 years may not be admitted to the swimming pool unless they are accompanied by a parent or guardian who is responsible for their direct supervision, with a maximum of two children for each parent or guardian.

- Guardians or group leaders are responsible for the children in their care while in the facility and must directly supervise the children at all times.

- Guardians or group leaders should be at least 12 years of age.

- Ratios of instructors/lifeguards to bathers must also be maintained as per Regulation 565.

Class B Public Pools that do not require lifeguards still require bathers under twelve years of age to be accompanied by a parent or his or her agent who is not less than sixteen years of age.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public Pools Signage Required</th>
<th>Lettering Size Stroke Size</th>
<th>Ontario Regulation section</th>
<th>Location posted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CAUTION</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SWIM AT YOUR OWN RISK</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>THIS POOL IS NOT SUBJECT TO THE REQUIREMENTS</strong></td>
<td>25mm</td>
<td>3 (2.1)</td>
<td>Five or fewer units; post in a conspicuous place within the pool enclosure.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OF ONTARIO REGULATION</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>565 - PUBLIC POOLS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **CAUTION**                  |                            |                            |                 |
| **THIS POOL IS UNSUPERVISED. BATHERS UNDER TWELVE YEARS OF AGE ARE NOT ALLOWED WITHIN THE POOL ENCLOSURE UNLESS ACCOMPANIED BY A PARENT OR HIS OR HER AGENT WHO IS NOT LESS THAN SIXTEEN YEARS OF AGE.** | 25mm | 17 (19) (a) | Class B Pool ≤ 93 square metres; post in a conspicuous location within the pool enclosure. |

| **CAUTION**                  |                            |                            |                 |
| **THIS POOL IS UNSUPERVISED. BATHERS UNDER TWELVE YEARS OF AGE ARE NOT ALLOWED WITHIN THE POOL ENCLOSURE UNLESS ACCOMPANIED BY A PARENT OR HIS OR HER AGENT WHO IS NOT LESS THAN SIXTEEN YEARS OF AGE. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF BATHERS ON THE DECK AND IN THE POOL SHALL NOT EXCEED TEN.** | 25mm | 17 (19) (b) | Class B Pool > 93 square metres; post in a conspicuous location within the pool enclosure. |

**Health Warning**

No person infected with a communicable disease or having open sores on his or her body shall enter the pool.

No person shall bring a glass container onto the deck or into the pool.

No person shall pollute the water in the pool in any manner and that spitting, spouting of water and blowing the nose in the pool or on the deck are prohibited.

No person shall engage in boisterous play in or about the pool.

The maximum number of bathers permitted on the deck and in the pool at any time is_______, and

The location of the telephone that is available for emergency use is located__________.

Each bather shall take a shower using warm water and soap and thoroughly rinse off all soap before entering or re-entering the deck. | 19 (2) | Post at entrance to each shower area and every entrance to the deck used by bathers. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public Pools</th>
<th>Lettering Size Stroke Size</th>
<th>Ontario Regulation section</th>
<th>Location posted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Signage Required (continued)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Emergency Telephone</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>19 (3)</td>
<td>Post at the emergency telephone.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Emergency Services</strong>&lt;br&gt;In Case of Emergency&lt;br&gt;Speak Clearly and Slowly</td>
<td></td>
<td>19 (3)</td>
<td>Post at the emergency telephone.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Dial ____&lt;br&gt;2. Ask for emergency service&lt;br&gt;3. Give location&lt;br&gt; a. Name of pool ____________________&lt;br&gt; b. Pool is located in the _____ of the building&lt;br&gt; c. Address ______________________&lt;br&gt; d. Main intersection __________________&lt;br&gt; 4. Give telephone number of pool ________&lt;br&gt; 5. State&lt;br&gt; a. Type of emergency&lt;br&gt; b. Type of accident&lt;br&gt; c. Number of victims ___________________</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SPECTATORS FORBIDDEN FROM WALKING UPON THE DECK WITHIN 1.80 METRES OF THE EDGE OF THE POOL</strong></td>
<td>100mm</td>
<td>19 (4)</td>
<td>Post at permanent spectator gallery adjacent to the deck.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Markings; water depths indicating the deep points, breaks between gentle and steep bottom slopes and the shallow points and the words DEEP AREA, SHALLOW AREA</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>19 (5)</td>
<td>On the deck clearly marked in figures at appropriate locations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CAUTION – AVOID DEEP DIVES</strong>&lt;br&gt;or&lt;br&gt;SHALLOW WATER – NO DIVING</td>
<td>150mm</td>
<td>19 (6)</td>
<td>Post at a conspicuous location, where the pool has a maximum water depth of &lt; 2.50 metres.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DANGER – AVOID DEEP OR LONG DIVES</strong></td>
<td>150mm</td>
<td>19 (8)</td>
<td>Post in a location clearly visible to divers at Class B pool equipped with a diving board.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CAUTION – NO DIVING</strong></td>
<td>150mm</td>
<td>19 (9)</td>
<td>Post conspicuously on each wall or fence enclosing the pool where a pool is provided with one more ramps.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>UNSUPERVISED BATHERS ARE NOT ALLOWED BEYOND THIS POINT</strong>&lt;br&gt;owner/operator</td>
<td>25mm</td>
<td>19 (10) (i)</td>
<td>Post at the ramp(s) - pool with one or more ramps that are not submerged.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BATHERS ARE NOT ALLOWED BEYOND THIS POINT</strong>&lt;br&gt;owner/operator</td>
<td>25mm</td>
<td>19 (10) (ii)</td>
<td>Post at the removable barrier - pool with one or more ramps that are submerged.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendices
Appendix 1 - Glossary

**apartment building**  
- a building that is divided into multiple dwelling units or suites whether leased or not but does not include a condominium, co-operative or commune property

**assistant lifeguard**  
- a person designated by the owner or operator to assist a lifeguard to supervise bather safety

**assistant lifeguard certificate**  
- the Royal Life Saving Society's of Canada's Bronze Cross or Award of Distinction

**bath**  
- a person dressed for bathing

**campground**  
- land or premises used as an overnight camping facility other than a recreational camp

**Class A pool**  
- being, a pool to which the general public is admitted,
- a pool operated in conjunction with or as a part of the program of a Young Men's Christian Association or similar institution or an educational, instructional, physical fitness or athletic institution supported in whole or in part by public funds or public subscription, or
- a pool operated on the premises of a recreational camp, for use by campers and their visitors and camp personnel

**Class B pool**  
- a pool operated on the premises of an apartment building that contains more than five dwelling units or suites, a mobile home park or a nurses' residence, for the use of the occupants and their visitors,
- a pool operated as a facility to serve a community of more than five single-family private residences, for the use of the residents and their visitors,
- a pool operated on the premises of a hotel, for the use of its guests and their visitors,
- a pool operated on the premises of a campground, for the use of its tenants and their visitors,
- a pool operated in conjunction with, a club, for the use of its members and their visitors, or
- a condominium, co-operative or commune property that contains more than five dwelling units or suites, for the use of the owners or members and their visitors,
- a pool operated in conjunction with a day nursery, a day camp or an establishment or institution for the care or treatment of persons who are ill, infirm or aged or for persons in custodial care, for the use of such persons and their visitors, or a pool other than a Class A pool, that is not exempt from the provisions of this Regulation

**current first aid certificate**  
- the St. John Ambulance Emergency, Standard or Advanced First-aid Certificate that is dated not more than three years prior to the date on which the holder is on duty,
- the Canadian Red Cross Society's Emergency, Standard or Advanced First-aid Certificate that is dated not more than three years prior to the date on which the holder is on duty,
- the Royal Life Saving Society Canada's Aquatic Emergency Care Certificate that is dated not more than three years,
- prior to the date on which the holder is on duty,
- Canadian Ski Patrol's Qualified Member or First-aid Certification prior to its date of expiry,
- or a certificate that the Minister considers equivalent to a qualification referred to.
clean water • water added to a public pool after treatment in the pool recirculation system
c
club • an organization that operates facilities for the use of its members and their guests
day camp • a camp or resort that admits persons for temporary custody for a continuous period not exceeding twenty-four hours
day nursery • a day nursery as defined in the Day Nurseries Act
deck • the area immediately surrounding a public pool
diving board • a flexible board and "board" has a corresponding meaning
diving platform • a rigid platform and "platform" has a corresponding meaning
general area • an area adjacent to the deck within a pool enclosure that is used for activities other than bathing
guest • a person who contracts for sleeping accommodation in a hotel and includes each member of the person's party
hotel • a hotel, inn, motel, resort or other building or premises operated to provide sleeping accommodation for the public
lifeguard • a person appointed by the owner or operator to maintain surveillance over the bathers while they are on the deck or in the pool and to supervise bather safety
lifeguard certificate • the National Lifeguard Service's Lifeguard Certificate
make-up water • water added to a public pool from an external source
mobile home park • land or premises maintained to provide a temporary or permanent location for mobile homes
modified pool • a public pool that has the form of a basin-shaped depression in the earth, the floor of which slopes downward and inward toward the centre from the rim
operator • a person designated by the owner of a public pool as being responsible for the operation of the pool
operating day • a day on which the pool is in operation
owner • a person who is the owner of a public pool
recirculation system • a system that, maintains circulation of water through a pool by pumps, draws water form a pool for treatment and returns it to the pool as clean water, and provides continuous treatment that includes filtration and chlorination or bromination and other processes that may be necessary for the treatment of the water
recreational camp • a recreational camp within the meaning of Regulation 568 of the Revised Regulations of Ontario, 1990
wave action pool • a public pool that is provided with a means for inducing wave motion in the water
Ontario Public Pools Regulation 565 section 6(4)(l) requires public pools to have, “a black disc 150 millimetres in diameter on a white background affixed to the bottom of the pool at its deepest point.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Black</th>
<th>Will change to grey as the water becomes cloudy.</th>
<th>Affixed to the bottom</th>
<th>Affixed – so it will always be there.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Disc 150mm in diameter</td>
<td>Size and shape helps determine if the water is clear.</td>
<td>At the deepest point</td>
<td>So you have look through all the water.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On a white background</td>
<td>To help the black disc stand out.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If the black disc is not clearly visible from the deck of the pool, clear the pool of bathers and close the pool.
Appendix - 4

Pool Circulation

Inlet
- where water enters the pool
- usually has an adjustable eye for directing the water flow

Pool Flow
- direction of flow of the pool water
- water should move around the pool towards the skimmers

Skimmers
- draws surface water from the pool

Main Drain
- draws water from the bottom of the pool
Appendix - 5

Skimmer

Skimmer Opening
- water level of the pool must be maintained at the center of the opening
- depth of the pool designed to the level
- skimmer designed to be most efficient at this level

Floating Weir
- a device that provides proper skimming action

Skimmer Basket
- intended to strain out large debris (hair, leaves) before the pool water enters the piping system

Skimmer Lid
- allows access to the skimmer for cleaning and maintenance
- must be kept in good condition and properly installed to protect bathers

Circulation

Without proper circulation pool water will not be properly filtered or chemically treated. Ontario Regulation 565 (Public Pools) requires the equivalent of the pool water volume to pass through the filter system 4 times a day for a Class A pool and 3 times a day for a Class B pool.

All pools require a flow meter device to determine if adequate flow is maintained.

A flow meter displays the rate of gallons or litres per minute passing through the system. To determine the rate of flow for the pool, take the pool volume and divide by:

480 - Class B pool
360 - Class A pool.
The flow meter is a device used to measure the litres per minute of water flow through a pool re-circulation system. This device is a clear plastic rectangular shaped block with a tube located inside the block (see above diagram).

The flow meter is required on all pools, as per the Ontario Building Code for determining the turnover rate of the system.

For the flow meter to function properly, it should be placed on the pressure side of the pump, after the filters. There should be at least 10 pipe diameters of straight uninterrupted line on the upstream of the flow meter and at least 5 pipe diameters of straight uninterrupted line on the downstream side for accurate reading of the flow meter.

Other types of flow meters may be used e.g. electronic or analog.
Filtration is the mechanical process of removing insoluble matter from swimming pool water. A pool filter consists of a tank containing some fine grain material such as sand or diatomaceous earth through which water is forced. Pool water carrying particles is passed through the filter media and returned to the pool clearer with each passing.

**Filter Head Operation**

Filter head settings have different titles or require slightly different or additional steps to perform procedures such as filtration, re-circulation, backwashing and draining.

A filter has 4 major settings:

1. **Filter**
   - normal operation
   - directs water down through the filter medium prior to going to the pool

2. **Re-circulate**
   - allows sand and water to settle
   - directs water directly back to pool by passing the filter

3. **Backwash**
   - to clean the filter medium
   - directs water up through the filter medium and to waste (opposite flow to “Filter” setting)

4. **Drain**
   - directs water directly to waste by by-passing the filter
## Appendix - 8

### Swimming Pool Filter Parameters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Filter</th>
<th>Operating Rate</th>
<th>Backwash Rate</th>
<th>When to Backwash</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rapid Flow Sand (low rate, sand &amp; gravel)</td>
<td>3 gpm/sq. ft.</td>
<td>12-15 gpm/sq.ft.</td>
<td>7-8 P.S.I. pressure difference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hi-Rate Sand</td>
<td>15-20 gpm/sq.ft.</td>
<td>15-20 gpm/sq.ft.</td>
<td>15 P.S.I. pressure difference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pressure D.E.</td>
<td>1.5-2gpm/sq.ft.</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>15 P.S.I. pressure difference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vacuum D.E.</td>
<td>1.5-2gpm/sq.ft.</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>16” Hg of vacuum</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

One common mistake is to backwash the sand filters too often, before they reach the above parameters. This practice will result in a poor filtration.
Appendix - 9

Gauges

Since one cannot see into a filter to determine how clogged it has become, filters are provided with either one or two pressure gauges which are usually located on the filter head.

Single Pressure Gauge System

The single gauge measures the back pressure the filter medium places on the water being pumped into the filter. A clean filter will have a low reading. As it collects dirt and begins to clog, the pressure level will begin to rise. The filter requires backwashing when the pressure gauge indicates an increase of 8-10 lbs/in² or manufacturers’ recommendation on pressure increase.
Two Pressure Gauge System

Influent (Incoming) Gauge  Effluent (Outgoing) Gauge

The two pressure gauge system has an influent (incoming) gauge that measures the back pressure caused by the filter medium (as does the single gauge system) as well as an effluent (outgoing) gauge that measures the pressure in the water leaving the filter. The gauges are usually located on the filter head.

With clean filter the two gauge will have similar readings. As the filter gathers dirt and becomes clogged, one pressure gauge will show a decrease in pressure and the other an increase. When there is a difference of 15 lbs/in² or manufacturers recommended pressure differential backwashing is required.

Why Follow the Gauges?

When the filter is clogged, the amount of water flowing through it decreases to the point that it is inefficient.

Following the gauges will allow you to obtain the efficient operation of the filter.
General Backwash Procedure

How to Backwash

Note: Prior to changing valve position turn the pump(s) off.

1. Turn filtered setting from “filter” to “recirculate” for 20 seconds. This allows the water in the filter to settle.

2. Turn filter head to “backwash” and start the pump. Leave it there until the water running to waste is clear.

3. Turn filter head to “drain” for 20 seconds. This allows the sand and the water to settle.

4. Turn filter head to “filter” and start the pump. This returns filter to normal operation.
Appendix - 11

**Water Balance**

Water balance is the correction of 5 factors to appropriate levels so that the water is not corrosive or scaling. Two of the factors, temperature and total dissolved solids, are of minor significance. pH, total alkalinity and hardness are of greater significance to balance pool water.

Under normal operating conditions, the parameters or factors to maintain balanced water should be in the following ranges:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Water Balance Factors</th>
<th>Ideal Levels</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>pH</td>
<td>7.4 – 7.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Alkalinity</td>
<td>80 - 120 ppm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calcium Hardness</td>
<td>200 - 400 ppm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temperature</td>
<td>20°C - 32°C (70°F - 90°F)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Dissolved Solids</td>
<td>Less than 2000 ppm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other than electrolytic chlorine generators also known as salt generators</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If one or all of the ranges are exceeded, the probability of scale formation will be greatly increased. If one or all of the ranges are low, corrosion of grout and piping etc. may occur.
Appendix - 12

**pH**

- pH is the measure of the hydrogen ion concentration. It is a measure of acidity or basicity. The scale ranges from 0 (the most acidic) to 14 (the most basic) with 7 being the neutral point.

- pH (potenz hydrogen) stands for hydrogen power. The required pH range for swimming pool water is 7.2 to 7.8.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chemical</th>
<th>Limits</th>
<th>Frequency of Test</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>pH</td>
<td>7.2 – 7.8</td>
<td>½ hour before opening and every 2 hours while pool is open</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Effects of pH**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problem</th>
<th>Solution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Low</strong></td>
<td>To raise the pH of pool water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>free chlorine active</td>
<td>• add soda ash (sodium carbonate) or,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eye irritation</td>
<td>• add pH up.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>overactive chlorine</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>corrosion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pool liner wrinkles</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **High**      | To lower the pH of pool water                 |
|               | • add muriatic acid or,                       |
|               | • add carbon dioxide or,                      |
|               | • add pH down.                                |
| chlorine effectiveness decreases |                                         |
| eye irritation   |                                           |
| chlorine inefficiency |                                    |
| short filter runs |                                         |
| scaling         |                                           |

**Note:** When mixing chemicals, add them slowly. Never add water to the chemicals, always add the chemicals to the water.
Appendix -13

Effects of pH on Hypochlorous Acid

- At a pH of 7.5, 50% of the Free Available Chlorine is in the Hypochlorous acid (HOCl) state and 50% is in the hypochlorite ion (OCl) state.
- As pH increases above this value, the effectiveness of the chlorine decreases.
- As the pH decreases below this value, the effectiveness of the chlorine increases.

Chemicals and Effects on Pool Water

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Chemical</th>
<th>Effect on the Pool Water</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sodium Carbonate</td>
<td>• increases alkalinity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• increases pH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sodium Bicarbonate</td>
<td>• increases alkalinity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• increases pH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acid</td>
<td>• decreases alkalinity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• decreases pH</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix - 14

**Total Alkalinity (TA)**

Total alkalinity is the ability of a body of water to resist changes in pH. It is the measure of dissolved bicarbonate in pool water.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chemical</th>
<th>Limit</th>
<th>Frequency of Test</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Alkalinity</td>
<td>Minimum 80 mg/l</td>
<td>Recommended weekly</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The total alkalinity should be measured and adjusted when:
- pH of the pool water is consistently high and difficult to maintain from 7.2 - 7.8 and/or
- water is cloudy and/or
- there is excessive corrosion or staining

**Effects of Total Alkalinity**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problem</th>
<th>Solution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Low</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pH bounce</td>
<td>• Add sodium bicarbonate to raise total alkalinity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staining</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased corrosion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>High</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High acid demand</td>
<td>• Add muriatic acid or pH decreaser to lower total alkalinity with the pump turned off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pH usually high</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bicarbonate scale</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix - 15

Calcium Hardness

- Calcium Hardness is the term used to describe the ability of water to form suds. It is a measure of dissolved calcium and or magnesium in pool water.
- If the calcium hardness is low, water is corrosive. If the calcium hardness is high, scaling occurs.

Effects of Calcium Hardness

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problem</th>
<th>Solution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Low</strong></td>
<td><strong>Under 100 ppm critical</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increases corrosion</td>
<td>Use calcium chloride to raise calcium hardness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Etches plaster</td>
<td>Apply directly to pool water, never through the skimmer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shorter plaster life</td>
<td>Add 1/3 total treatment no sooner than every six hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shorter vinyl life</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rough plaster, hard to clean</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creates pores for algae roots</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>High</strong></td>
<td><strong>Over approximately 450 ppm</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cloudy water</td>
<td>Dilution of pool water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scale on all surfaces</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discoloration</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rough surface, hard to clean</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Causes heater scale</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Piping scale reduces recirculation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Dissolved Solids

Total Dissolved Solids is the sum of all dissolved chemicals which have accumulated in the pool. Pools with total dissolved solids over 2000 ppm have a slight saline (salt) taste.
Appendix - 16

Types of Chlorine Residuals

Free Available Chlorine:
The amount of uncombined chlorine in the water available to sanitize, oxidize organic contaminants and to kill bacteria.

Total Chlorine:
The sum of the combined chlorine and the free available chlorine.

Combined Chlorine:
Free available chlorine which has combined with wastes to produce chloramines. Combined chlorine has little disinfecting power and causes chlorine odour in a pool. It is also responsible for eye irritation.

Frequency of Water Tests

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chemicals</th>
<th>Limits</th>
<th>Frequency of tests</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Free Available Chlorine (FAC)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unstabilized</td>
<td>Minimum 0.5 mg/l</td>
<td>½ hour before opening and every 2 hours while pool is open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stabilized</td>
<td>Minimum 1.0 mg/l</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bromine</td>
<td>Minimum 2.0 mg/l</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pH</td>
<td>7.2 – 7.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Chlorine</td>
<td>Recommended not to exceed the sum of FAC reading plus 0.5 mg/l</td>
<td>Daily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyanuric Acid</td>
<td>Maximum 60 mg/l</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Alkalinity</td>
<td>Minimum 80 mg/l</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix - 17

Chlorination

Chlorination is the addition of chlorine to pool water. Chlorine is added to sanitize and destroy harmful bacteria and to oxidize or burn out organic contaminants. When chlorine is added to pool water, it produces hypochlorous acid and hypohypochlorite ion.

\[
\text{Cl} + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{HOCl} + \text{OCl}^- \\
\text{Chlorine} + \text{Water} \rightarrow \text{hypochlorous acid} + \text{hypochlorite ion}
\]

Both these products are measured as Free Available Chlorine, however, hypochlorous acid is much more efficient as a sanitizer.

Gas Chlorine

Pale greenish-yellow poisonous gas of marked odour, irritating to the eyes and throat.

- Active strength 100%
- Available chlorine content 100%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Advantages</th>
<th>Disadvantages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Least expensive of chlorine sanitizer</td>
<td>Expensive feed equipment required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dangerous to handle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lowers pH dramatically</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chlorine residual of pool dissipates rapidly in sunlight</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Electronic Chlorine Generators /Salt Generators

A process in which salt is added directly into the pool water. As the dissolved salt passes through the electronic cell(s), gas chorine, caustic soda and hydrogen gas are created. Gas chlorine is rapidly absorbed into the water, thus resulting in chlorination of pool water.

Salt levels 2500 – 3500 ppm

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Advantages</th>
<th>Disadvantages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Relative pH neutral</td>
<td>Must maintain salt level</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Sodium Hypochlorite**

Liquid form

Strength 10% - 15%

pH 13

Large acid demand

**Advantages**
- Low cost
- Readily available
- Useful for sanitation of other surfaces

**Disadvantages**
- Loses effectiveness during storage
- Large storage area

**Calcium Hypochlorite**

White granules with a strong chorine odour. Sometimes called High Test Hypochlorite (HTH).

Active Strength 70%

Available chlorine content 70%

pH 11

**Advantages**
- Easily handled
- No significant storage

**Disadvantages**
- Can cause turbidity, scale, or clogged filters if pH and or total alkalinity are high.
Appendix - 18

Superchlorination

Superchlorination is the addition of high doses (10-20 mg/l) of chlorine to remove organic contaminants and improve water quality. The continual addition of chlorine, dirt and micro-organisms eventually causing a build-up of combined chlorine compounds. Combined chlorine causes eye irritation and chlorine odour. To rid the pool of these, add large doses of chlorine, raising the free available chlorine level to approximately 10-20 mg/l. This high dosage oxidizes the combined chlorine forming nitrogen gas and kills algae. Depending on bather load, the recommended frequency of superchlorination is every 1-2 weeks.

Stabilization

Stabilization is the addition of cyanuric acid to pool water to help minimize chlorine loss due to evaporation from sunlight. Stabilized chlorine contains both stabilizer and chlorine in its composition.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chemical</th>
<th>Limit</th>
<th>Frequency of Test</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cyanuric Acid</td>
<td>Maximum 60 mg/l</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cyanuric acid is a weak organic acid which binds the chlorine residual of the pool water and greatly reduces chlorine loss by the sun’s ultraviolet rays. Chlorine residuals that have been stabilized will last 3 to 4 times longer. The cyanurates slightly reduce the disinfection power of the chlorine, thus higher levels of chlorine must be maintained usually greater than 1.0 mg/l.

Stabilizer does not dissipate or wear-out, therefore, high levels of cyanurates can only be reduced by adding fresh water. This must be done if levels are greater than 60 mg/l. Stabilizer is most effective in the range of 25-50 mg/l.
Appendix - 19

**Bromination**

Bromination is the addition of bromine to the pool water to prevent the growth of disease causing organisms.

When bromine is dissolved in water it produces Hypobromous Acid, an extremely powerful disinfectant. Comparisons to Hypochlorous acid shows certain advantages eg. increasing bacterial kill efficiencies relative to chlorine at pH values above 7.5.

Bromine sanitizer efficiency is essentially independent of the pH, however, its use reduces the pH of pool water and subsequently reduces the total alkalinity. No known bromine stabilizer.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chemical</th>
<th>Limit</th>
<th>Frequency of Test</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bromine</td>
<td>Minimum 2.0 mg/l</td>
<td>½ hour before opening and every 2 hours while pool is open</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Effects of Bromination**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problem</th>
<th>Solution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Destroys Total Alkalinity (TA) therefore, pool could be corrosive. Causes bicarbonate to leave the pool as carbon dioxide, therefore, lowers TA</td>
<td>• Use Sodium Bicarbonate to increase TA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Reduces pH</td>
<td>• TA not to exceed 100 ppm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Causes pH reaction with reagent changing the colour to look as though the pH is higher</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix - 20

Recommendations for Cleaning a Pool Fouling

(Liquid Stool/Diarrhoea)

Normal chlorine levels cannot cope with a pool grossly fouled by vomitus or faeces. It is essential that quick action be taken when such an occurrence happens.

1. Evacuate bathers and close the pool immediately as soon as a fouling is observed.
2. Switch off the recirculation and disinfection systems.
3. Remove foreign matter by skimming, vacuuming etc. Hose off pool deck, if necessary.
4. Direct discharges from skimming and vacuuming to the sewer; if this is not possible, operate recirculation pump but by-pass the filter.
5. Raise the chlorine level in the pool water to 20 ppm free available chlorine by adding chlorine directly to the pool while recirculation system is off and ensure the pH is in the range of 7.2 to 7.5.
6. Test the pool water after addition of chlorine to ensure that 20 ppm free available chlorine residual level has been reached. Maintain pH at 7.2 to 7.5.
7. Resume recirculation systems 1/2 hour after addition of chlorine. Let circulate for 8 hours and then perform backwash procedures. Backwashing helps to reduce high chlorine levels. You may need to add fresh make-up water to the pool after backwashing.
8. If necessary, clean the pool and deck surfaces and sanitize them with a disinfectant solution having a strength equivalent to at least 50 ppm chlorine.
9. Test the pool water levels for free available chlorine and pH. Free available chlorine residual should be within the range of 1.0 – 2.0 ppm, and pH within the range of 7.2 – 7.8. Addition of chlorine neutralizer can be used to lower chlorine levels faster.
10. Disinfect all equipment used by immersion in disinfectant solution having a strength equivalent to at least 50 ppm chlorine.
11. Record test level results in the Pool Log including occurrences of pool foulings. The Public Health Inspector may ask to see the Pool Log at a later date.
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Recommendations on Localizing a Minor Fouling

(Formed Stools)

1. Evacuate bathers and close the pool immediately as soon as a fouling is observed.

2. Switch off the recirculation and disinfection system.

3. Scoop up as much of the fouling as you can by skimming and/or vacuuming.

4. Raise the free available chlorine to 2 ppm by adding chlorine directly to the pool while the recirculation system is switched off, and ensure the pH is within the range of 7.2-7.5.

5. Apply a local shock treatment at the point of fouling, suggest minimum of 1 gallon of 12% liquid chlorine, ensuring residual of at least 1.5 ppm free available chlorine to all areas of the pool.

6. Resume recirculation and disinfection system for at least ½ hour.

7. Re-open to bathers after a minimum of ½ hour has elapsed since shock treatment and the pH of the water is within the range of 7.2 to 7.8.

8. Disinfect all equipment used by immersion in disinfectant solution having a strength equivalent to at least 50 ppm chlorine.

9. Record test level results in the Pool Log including occurrences of pool foulings. The Public Health Inspector may ask to see the Pool Log at a later date.

Recommendation

For safety reasons, these procedures should only be carried out in the presence of another person.
Criteria For Closing a Swimming Pool

A swimming pool is subject to immediate closure when any of the following conditions are observed:

- Pool not made inaccessible when closed.
- Water clarity poor or black disc not available for clarity test.
- Fouling eg. faeces, vomit, blood or chemical.
- Filtration or circulation system is not operative or malfunctioning.
- Drain cover or fittings missing or not in good repair.
- Equalizer(s) valves open.
- Emergency telephone missing or malfunctioning.
- Lifesaving safety equipment not available or not in good repair.
- Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter missing or malfunctioning.
- Disinfectant not detected in pool water and not available on site to rectify the lack of disinfectant in pool water immediately.
- Lifeguard qualifications not available or lifeguard not available where applicable.
- Underwater light disconnected and not certified in writing by an electrician.
- Any other conditions that may constitute a health hazard eg. power outage, confirmation of pathogenic agents such as cryptosporidium.
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Handling Chemicals Safely

Section 6 (4) (h)

“Every owner and every operator shall ensure that,

provisions are made for the safe storage and handling of all chemicals
required in the pool operation.”

• Store pool chemicals in a cool, dry and ventilated area.
• Keep corrosive materials away from other chemicals.
• Keep all chemicals away from hot surfaces and flames.
• Have personal protective equipment available as required.
• Material Safety Data Sheets must be made available to employees for every
chemical in use.
• Do not eat, drink or smoke in the chemical storage area.
• Ensure the chemical storage room is inaccessible to unauthorized persons.
• Handle chemicals with clean and dry scoops only. Each chemical must have its
own scoop. Use scoops provided by the manufacturer if available.
• Keep containers closed when chemicals are not in use.
• Label all containers with the chemical name.
• Never re-use empty chemical containers for the storage of other chemicals.
• Never mix contaminated chemicals with your fresh supply.
• When mixing chemicals, add them slowly. Never add water to the chemicals,
always add the chemical to the water.
Appendix - 28

A Detailed View of a Typical Pool Setup
Acknowledgements

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