County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH **www.scceh.com**

Title 22 California Pool Code Changes

Effective January 1, 2015

Pool Chemistry Requirements

		Free Chlorine Residual (ppm)				Bromine Residual (ppm)		pH	Combined Chlorine (ppm)
		Without Cyanuric Acid		With Cyanuric Acid					
		Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max		
Regulated Pools *(Excluding spas, wading pools, and spray grounds)*	**New 1/1/2015**	**1.0**	**10.0**	**2.0**	**10.0**	**2.0**	**No Max**	**7.2-7.8**	**0-0.4**
	Prior	1.0	No Max	1.5	No Max	-	-	7.2-8.0	No Max
Regulated Spas, Wading Pools, and Spray Grounds	**New 1/1/2015**	**3.0**	**10.0**	**3.0**	**10.0**	**4.0**	**No Max**	**7.2-7.8**	**0-0.4**
	Prior	1.0	No Max	1.5	No Max	-	-	7.2-8.0	No Max

Additional Record Keeping Requirements

Pool operators are still mandated to check and record free chlorine/bromine and pH levels on a daily basis* and cyanuric acid level (if used) on a monthly basis. Staff must use a DPD type test kit or otherwise a kit that is capable of free halogen residual. **Records must now be kept for two years**. *Only one year of records were required in the past.* In addition the following must be checked and recorded:

Daily Records*:

- Heated pool water temperature
- Equipment readings
- Calibrations
- Corrective actions
- (Example: chemicals added)

As Required:

- Combined chlorine
- Maintenance procedures
- Repairs
- Incident log for:
  Fecal, vomit, blood contamination, near drowning, or drowning

***Record Keeping Exemption:** Complexes with fewer than 25 units may record required information at least 2 times per week with no more than 4 days between readings. California Health & Safety Code §116048*

Operational Changes

Incident Response:

- Pool operators shall respond to fecal, vomit, blood contamination, and near drowning/drowning incidents. (See page 3). *CDC recommended incident response guidance was provided in the past. This procedure is now law.*

Lifeguard /Patron Health Reporting Requirement:

Pool operators shall report immediately to the Santa Cruz County Environmental Health Service Division at (831) 454-2022 under the following conditions:

- If two or more lifeguards report diarrhea/ gastrointestinal illness within 5 days of each other
- If two or more pool users report diarrhea/ gastrointestinal illness within 5 days of each other

Safety Equipment:

- Pool operators with pools exceeding 75 feet in length or 50 feet in width shall now provide a rescue pole and a life ring at a centralized location on each opposing side of the pool. *Only one set of equipment was required in the past.* This change applies to larger pools; small pools are in compliance with only one set of safety equipment.

Flow Rate:

- The flow rate must not fall below **75%** of the rate required for the system. (Example: If the calculated flow rate should be 100 gallons per minute (GPM), the water flowing through the pump system shall not fall below 75 GPM which is 75% of 100). *Previous code allowed the flow rate to drop to 65% which in the example would allow a pool flow rate to drop to 65 GPM before becoming a violation.*

Requirements for Pools with Lifeguards

Lifeguards must be clearly identifiable and maintain continuous surveillance over pool users. Lifeguard staff must be able to provide all current certifications upon request by an inspector.

Required Safety Equipment:

- A Red Cross 10-Person Industrial First Aid Kit or equivalent
- A functional telephone-NEW
- A backboard and head immobilizer-NEW

Violations That Can Result in Closure

	VIOLATION DESCRIPTION: CHANGES ARE BOLDED
1	**Bottom of pool, at the maximum depth, is not clearly visible from the deck**
2	**Inadequate or excessive disinfection**
3	**Improper pH**
4	**Presence of inhalation hazards**
5	**Missing or broken suction outlet covers**
6	**Missing or broken pool enclosures, including fencing and gates**
7	**Hazards to pool users (such as unbolted pool lights and other electrical hazards)**
8	**Any other violation of these regulations identified by the enforcing agent (such as lack of safety equipment)**

INCIDENT RESPONSE PROCEDURES

(a) In responding to a fecal, vomit, blood contamination, near-drowning or drowning incident, the pool operator shall perform the following disinfection procedures:

1. After a fecal, vomit, blood contamination, near-drowning, or drowning incident, the pool operator shall immediately close the affected public pool to pool users. If the public pool is one of multiple public pools that use the same filtration system, then all interconnected public pools shall be closed to pool users. No one shall be allowed to enter the public pool(s) until the disinfection procedures have been completed.

2. The pool operator shall remove contaminating material and discharge the material directly to the sanitary sewer or other approved wastewater-disposal process in accordance with State or local requirements. The pool operator shall clean and disinfect the item used to remove the contaminating material.

3. The pool operator shall ensure that the pH of the public pool water is at 7.5 or lower.

4. The pool operator shall measure and maintain the public pool water temperature at 77°F (25°C) or higher.

5. The pool operator shall ensure that the filtration system is operating while the public pool reaches and maintains the required free-chlorine concentration during the disinfection process.

6. The pool operator shall disinfect the public pool water as follows:

(A) If the contaminating material is a formed fecal stool or vomit, the pool operator shall maintain the free-chlorine concentration in the pool at 2 ppm for at least 25 minutes.

(B) If the fecal material is a diarrheal stool, the pool operator shall raise the free-chlorine concentration in the pool to 20 ppm and maintain that concentration for at least 12.75 hours. If that public pool water contains a chlorine stabilizer such as cyanuric acid, the pool operator shall lower the pH to 6.5 and raise the free-chlorine concentration in the public pool to 40 ppm and maintain that concentration for at least 30 hours.

(C) If the contaminating material is blood, the pool operator shall check the free-chlorine concentration in the public pool at the time of the incident. If it is below the required minimum free-chlorine concentration, the pool operator shall immediately close the public pool until the required minimum free-chlorine concentration is achieved.

7. The pool operator shall test the free-chlorine residual at multiple points to ensure the required free-chlorine concentration is achieved throughout the public pool water for the entire disinfection time.

8. The pool operator shall replace any affected cartridge filters and shall backwash non-cartridge filters after the disinfection process has been completed. The pool operator shall ensure the effluent is discharged directly to the sanitary sewer or other approved wastewater-disposal process in accordance with State or local requirements. The pool operator shall not return the filter backwash water to the pool. The pool operator shall replace the filter media if necessary.

9. The pool operator shall not allow pool users back into the public pool until the disinfection process has been completed and the free-chlorine concentration and pH of the public pool water have returned to normal operating ranges in accordance with sections 65529 and 65530 of California Code of Regulations.

(b) The pool operator shall immediately document each fecal, vomit, blood contamination, drowning, or near-drowning incident and maintain records in accordance with section 65523 of California Health and Safety Code as follows:

1. The date and time of the incident, the affected pool, the available free-chlorine concentrations, pool temperature and pH at the time of the incident, and facts known about the circumstances and cause of the incident. This information shall also be documented after the pool operator has completed the disinfection process and again when reopening the pool to pool users.

2. Whether the fecal stool was formed or diarrheal.

3. The procedures followed in responding to the contamination incident.

4. The number of pool users in the public pool and the length of time between the occurrence, detection, and resolution of the incident.