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Environmental Health Division

Summary of the Rules for the Maintenance and Operation of Public Swimming Pools

Title 22 and Title 24 California Code of Regulations

It is the responsibility of the pool owner to provide for the proper maintenance of the pool. This includes:

- 1. **Operation records** The operator of a pool shall keep a daily record of information regarding chlorine residual, combined chlorine, pH, temperature of heated pool and maintenance procedures. If cyanuric acid is used, the cyanuric acid concentration shall be measured a minimum of once per month and records shall be kept of such testing (Section 65523).
- 2. <u>Chlorine- Pools- A free chlorine residual of at least 1.0 parts per million (ppm) shall be maintained without using cyanuric acid. A free chlorine residual of at least 2.0 ppm shall be maintained when using cyanuric acid. A combined chlorine residual shall be maintained no more than 0.4 ppm.</u>
- 3. **Spa, Wading Pool, Spray Grounds-** A free chlorine residual of at least 3.0 ppm shall be maintained. A combined chlorine residual shall be maintained no more than 0.4 ppm. (Sec. 65529).
- 4. <u>Cyanuric acid</u>- The cyanuric acid content of the pool shall not exceed 100ppm. **NO CHLORINE TABLETS SHALL BE PLACED INSIDE THE SKIMMER BASKETS.**
- 5. **pH** The pH shall be maintained between 7.2-7.8 For optimum results. (Sec. 65529).
- 6. <u>Test Kits</u>- Appropriate test kits shall be available for measuring the pH, disinfection concentration, combined chlorine and cyanuric acid (when tablets or granules are used) (Sec. 65529).
- 7. <u>Supervision</u>- Every pool shall be under the supervision of a person who is fully responsible for and capable of complying with all requirements relating to pool operation, maintenance and safety of bathers (Sec. 65521).
- 8. <u>Disinfectant/Chemical Feeders and Filter- ALL RECIRCULATION SYSTEM PARTS</u> (*DISINFECTANT/CHEMICAL FEEDERS, FILTERS, PUMPS*) SHALL BE IN OPERATION WHILE THE POOL IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC) (Sec. 65525).
- 9. <u>Maintenance of Equipment</u>- All equipment associated with the recirculation, filtration and cleaning systems shall be maintained in working order (Sec. 65535).
- 10. <u>Maintenance/cleanliness of Pool Structure</u>- All parts of the pool, including the deck shall be kept free from slime, algae and broken surface decking; maintain in working order (Sec. 65535).
- 11. <u>Maintenance of Restrooms</u>- Restrooms and fixtures shall be maintained free of broken parts (commode, handsink, towel/soap/tissue dispensers, floor/wall/ceiling material (Sec. 65535).
- 12. <u>Communicable Disease</u>- Any employee or bather of a pool who are suspected of physically demonstrating symptoms of a communicable disease while in an infectious state including Cryptosporidium, giardia, Legionnaires disease, and Pseudomonas aeruginosa infection, or while having any symptoms such as a cough, cold sores, or nasal or ear discharge or when wearing bandages, shall not enter public pool water unless the public pool employee or pool user submits a current written statement to the pool operator, signed by a licensed physician, confirming the person doesn't present a health hazard to others using the public pool or ancillary facilities. (Sec. 65541)
- 13. <u>Closure</u>- In the opinion of the health inspector, if a pool is maintained or operated whereby the pool operator has failed to meet clarity, disinfection, pH, safety or bacteriological standards, the pool may be closed by the health inspector. Such a pool shall not be reopened until all corrections have been made and specific written approval obtained from the health inspector. (Sec. 65545)

- 14. **Safety and Rescue Equipment-** These items shall be easily accessible to pool bathers:
 - **a)** A life ring with an attached rope of sufficient length to span the maximum width of the pool (Sec. 65540).
 - b) A body hook permanently attached to a pole at least 12 feet in length (Sec. 65540)
 - c) Artificial respiration and cardiopulmonary resuscitation sign. (Sec 3120B.5)
 - **d**) Emergency sign. The emergency telephone number 911shall be posted (Sec 3120B.6)
 - e) Where no lifeguard service is provided, a warning sign stating "Warning-No Lifeguard on Duty" and the sign should also state, "Children under the Age of 14 Should Not Use Pool without an Adult in Attendance" (Section 3120B.4).
 - **f**) A legible sign stating the maximum occupant capacity in the pool in letters at least 4 inches high. The maximum occupant capacity for a **SWIMMING POOL** shall be one bather for every 20 (twenty) square feet of pool surface area and for a **SPA POOL**, one bather for every 10 (ten) square feet of spa surface area (Sec. 3120B.2).
 - g) A legible spa precaution sign stating the following (Sec. 3120B.7):

"CAUTION"

- 1. Elderly persons, pregnant women, infants and those with health conditions requiring medical care should consult with a physician before entering a spa.
- 2. Unsupervised use by children under the age of 14 is prohibited.
- 3. Hot water immersion while under the influence of alcohol, narcotics, drugs, or medicines may lead to serious consequences and is not recommended.
- 4. Do not use alone.
- 5. Long exposure may result in nausea, dizziness or fainting.
- g) <u>Pools with maximum depth of water less than 6 feet</u>- A legible "*NO DIVING ALLOWED*" sign in letters at least 4 (four) inches high at pools (Section 3120B.3).
- **h**) The emergency shut-off switch shall be clearly labeled with a legible sign stating "SPA EMERGENCY SHUT-OFF SWITCH" (Sec. 680-13).
- i) All required signs must be clearly visible from the pool deck (Sec. 3120B.1).
- 15. <u>Chemical Safety Recommendations</u>- Care should be taken in the handling and storage of all swimming pool chemicals. The materials should be stored separately from one another and should <u>NEVER</u> be mixed. Pool chlorine and pool acid, if mixed, will produce chlorine gas which is <u>FATAL</u>.

 The following safety precautions should be followed:
 - NEVER mix an inorganic sanitizer (example: Calcium Hypochlorite) with an organic sanitizer (example: Sodium Dichloro-s-Triazinetrione).
 - NEVER store oxidizers (example: Chlorine, bromine) next to corrosives (examples: muriatic acid, sodium bisulfate).
 - NEVER add water to dry sanitizers add dry chemicals to plenty of water.
 - ALWAYS FOLLOW LABEL INSTRUCTIONS.
- Introducing Chemicals to The Pool Water- All chemicals must be added to the pool water through the automatic disinfectant feeder and the chemical feeder. NO CHLORINE TABLETS SHALL BE PLACED INSIDE THE SKIMMER BASKETS. Chemicals should never be added directly into the pool water while it is open for bather usage. At least 2 (two) hours should be allowed for the chemicals to circulate throughout the pool water before allowing bathers to enter the pool water.