

Health Act

On the following 3 pages are some excerpts from the Health Act of sections that I thought may be interesting to skim through. The following is a list of everything that I included and the parts that you need to know have a *star beside them.

The full document is available on the internet at the following site:

http://www.qp.gov.bc.ca/statreg/reg/H/Health/Health289_72/289_72.htm

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*need to know!

Health Act Excerpts

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Health Act

SWIMMING POOL, SPRAY POOL AND WADING POOL REGULATIONS

Part 1 — Interpretation

Definitions

"design flow rate" means the rate at which water must flow in order to pass the entire volume of the pool within a specified turnover period;

"lifeguard" means a person 16 years of age or older who, while on duty, is responsible for the conduct and safety of all persons in or near the pool, and who is the holder of one of the following valid and subsisting certificates:

- (a) Royal Life Saving Society National Lifeguard Service Award;
- (b) Royal Life Saving Society Bronze Cross;
- (c) Young Men's Christian Association Senior Life Saving Award;
- (d) Canadian Red Cross Society Leader Award;
- (e) Red Cross-Royal Life Saving Society Joint Instructor Certification;
- (f) a certificate deemed equivalent to any of the above by the YMCA, the Canadian Red Cross Society or the Royal Life Saving Society;

"lifesaving unit" shall include

- (a) a non-conductive reaching pole at least 12 feet long, and
- (b) a throwing ring with a quarter inch line securely attached having a length of not less than half the width of the pool plus 10 feet;

"public health inspector" means an inspector appointed pursuant to the Health Act;

Part 2 — Application and Approval

Application of regulation

3 These regulations shall apply to all pools within the Province, except private residential pools, and to all auxiliary structures and equipment required for the use or operation of these pools.

Part 4 — Pool Construction

Depth marks

19 Depth marks for swimming pools shall

- (a) indicate the depth of water,
- (b) be located above the water surface on the pool wall and on the walkway at the pool edge,
- (c) be located at maximum and minimum depth, at 1 foot depth increments between the shallow depth and the point of break inclusive, and at other intermediate points spaced at not more than 25 foot intervals measured peripherally,
- (d) be in arabic numerals of 4 inch minimum height, and
- (e) be a colour contrasting with background.

Slope of pool floor

20 The pool floor shall have a uniform slope not greater than 1 foot in 15 where the water depth is less than 5 feet. In commercial pools the pool floor shall have a uniform slope not greater than 1 foot in 12 feet where the water depth is less than 5 feet.

Requirements for diving

21 Pools of the type wherein diving is permitted shall have adequate clearances and depth of water for safe diving and shall be as indicated in Appendix C. For diving platforms over 3 m in height, the Federation Internationale de Natation Amateur (FINA) standards shall be followed for clearances and water depths.

29 There shall be no abrupt drop off or submerged projection in a pool other than properly marked stairs and safety ledges.

Part 5 — Recirculation and Plumbing Requirements

Water recirculation

31 All swimming pools, except flow through pools, shall be designed to recirculate water continuously. The design flow rate for swimming pools and commercial pools shall be determined on the basis of a maximum turnover period of 6 hours and 12 hours respectively.

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Maximum turnover period

31.1 Despite section 31, a pool must have a maximum turnover period of 2 hours if it

- (a) is designed for play or leisure,
- (b) is equipped to generate moving water features such as waves, rapid currents, vortices, sprays or water jets, and
- (c) has a maximum water depth of 48 inches or less.

Disinfection equipment

45 Automatic disinfection equipment shall be installed in all swimming pools and shall have sufficient capacity to feed up to 3 p.p.m. of chlorine or equivalent at indoor pools and 8 p.p.m. of chlorine or equivalent at outdoor pools, based upon the design flow rate.

Chlorine gas as disinfectant

46 When chlorine gas is used as a disinfectant,

- (a) the chlorinator room shall be located above ground level with an exit door opening outwardly and directly to the outdoors with a screened opening to the outdoors at ceiling level,
- (b) the chlorinator room shall be provided with emergency mechanical ventilation taking suction at the floor level and discharging it directly to the outdoors in a place remote from air intake structures and occupied areas, and of sufficient capacity to produce 30 air changes per hour,
- (c) all openings in the chlorinator room, such as breaks through the wall for piping, except for paragraphs (a) and (b), shall be sealed with an elastomeric caulking compound to prevent the escape of chlorine gas,
- (d) canister type or self contained respiratory protective equipment for use in a chlorine contaminated atmosphere, as required by the Workers' Compensation Board regulations, shall be provided and located outside the chlorinator room and near enough for immediate use in case of an emergency,
- (e) the chlorination equipment shall be locked and the key made readily available only to staff members trained in the proper handling of chlorine,
- (f) the chlorine cylinder valve protection hood shall be kept in place, except when the cylinder is connected to the chlorinator,
- (g) the chlorine cylinders shall be securely anchored,
- (h) a valve stem wrench shall be maintained on the chlorine cylinder or cylinders in use,
- (i) a weigh scale of suitable capacity for measuring the weight of liquid chlorine and cylinder shall be provided,
- (j) the chlorine rooms shall be equipped with a viewing window,
- (k) a combination light and fan switch shall be located outside the chlorine room beside the viewing window,
- (l) suitable warning signs shall be posted in accordance with the Accident Prevention Regulations of the Workers' Compensation Board, and
- (m) the chlorinator shall be designed to cease operation in conjunction with the shutdown of the recirculating pumps.

53(2) One drinking fountain for each 500 bathers or portion thereof, to be located in the pool area.

Part 6 — Miscellaneous Equipment

Access to diving boards and platforms

57 Diving boards and platforms more than 10 feet above the water level shall have the access designed so that it may be controlled.

Test kits

66 Every pool shall be provided with a suitable test kit for the reliable determination of disinfectant residuals and the hydrogen-ion concentration.

Lifeguard stands

69 Elevated lifeguard stands and lifesaving units shall be provided at all swimming pools on the basis of the following table:

Number of Lifeguard Stands and Lifesaving Units	
Pool Area (Square Feet)	
0	less than 1 800
1 of each	1 800 — 3 500
2 of each	3 500 — 5 000
1 of each for every 150 feet of pool perimeter	more than 5 000

Part 7 — Operation and Inspection

Pool inspection

72 The medical health officer or the minister may inspect a pool at any time to ensure that these regulations are being complied with.

Requirements for operation

73 Every swimming pool manager shall ensure that

- (a) a minimum of 2 staff members are on duty at all swimming pools when the pool is open to the public, to include one lifeguard and another person conversant with the emergency plan for the pool,
- (b) the pool is under the close supervision of either a lifeguard when the pool is open for general use or a swimming instructor when the pool is used only for instruction, or both lifeguard and instructor when the pool is used simultaneously for general use and instruction,
- (c) at least one lifeguard is on duty at pool side for each 100 persons or portion thereof within the pool area,
- (d) there is at least one lifeguard, 17 years or older, on duty at pool side,
- (e) effective measures are taken to see that dogs and other animals are not permitted to enter the pool area,
- (f) no bather is permitted to enter the pool water until he has taken a cleansing shower, using warm water and soap,
- (g) no person enters the pool who
 - (i) is obviously ill,
 - (ii) has an open wound or sore,
 - (iii) is wearing a bandage,
 - (iv) has sore or infected eyes, or
 - (v) has discharging ears or nose,

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(h) all bathing suits and towels supplied to bathers are laundered after each use, and that the method of cleaning, storing and handling rental bathing suits and towels is that approved by the medical health officer,

(i) the pool aprons, walkways, dressing rooms, shower rooms and toilets are cleaned at least daily and kept free of all equipment and material not needed for the proper operation of the pool,

(j) a standard No. 2 Unit Kit (first aid), as recommended by the Workers' Compensation Board, is fully stocked and readily available for use at all times,

(k) lifesaving units are mounted in conspicuous places and ready for use at all times,

(l) only persons in clean bathing attire, the owner of the pool and his servants or agents and persons mentioned in Part 12 of these regulations are allowed to enter the pool area, except as otherwise provided in these regulations,

(m) officials and spectators who may be dressed in street clothes are allowed to enter the pool area only for special functions,

(n) a set of rules governing the use of the pool is posted in a prominent position and states that

(i) all persons with open sores, bandages, head colds, discharging ears or noses or infected eyes are forbidden to enter the pool area,

(ii) a cleansing shower using warm water and soap is mandatory before entering the pool area,

(iii) running, fighting or any form of conduct likely to cause an accident in the pool is forbidden,

(iv) all accidents must be reported to the pool manager at once, and

(v) no bather shall be permitted to enter a swimming pool unless under supervision of a qualified swimming instructor or lifeguard,

(o) the water in a filled pool is of such clarity that the pattern of the pool drain can be clearly seen by a person standing on the edge of the pool at the deep end

(p) the pool water and the pool walls and bottom are kept free of visible dirt, litter, body oil and algal growth,

(q) the pool water is tested at least once every day of operation to determine the pH (hydrogen-ion concentration) and maintained at a value of not less than 7.4,

(r) the pool water is tested frequently for residual disinfectant before and during each period of swimming pool usage and maintained in accordance with section 75,

(s) the water in all pools except therapeutic pools is not artificially heated to a temperature above ~~85° F~~, (**2002 amendment: 98° F)

(t) a private line telephone is installed for the purpose of emergencies and a list of numbers to include the nearest available doctor, ambulance service, hospital and police or fire department rescue unit is prominently displayed adjacent to the telephone,

(u) decks and floors are maintained with a nonslip surface,

(v) the water level in the pool is maintained so that at least 50% of the design flow rate is continuously flowing to the overflow gutters or skimmers during pool use, and

(w) the lifeline or the alternate marking strip is in place at the 5 foot depth in accordance with section 59.

Restriction of use of diving boards and platforms

74 The use of diving boards and platforms shall be restricted in the interest of safety at the discretion of the swimming pool manager.

Residual disinfectant

75 A suitable residual of a disinfectant shall be maintained throughout the swimming pool water. The minimum disinfectant residual maintained, in parts per million, shall be as follows:

Disinfectant Chlorine: pH 7.4 - 7.8: 0.5ppm

Higher Than 7.8: 1.0ppm

Records

79 The manager shall keep a daily record of all accidents, maximum bathing loads, attendance, amount and types of chemicals added to the water, the results of those tests done for residual disinfectant and pH, and any other records deemed necessary by the medical health officer. The records must be available for inspection by the medical health officer and reported to him as he may direct.

Maximum number of bathers

80 The maximum number of bathers permitted in the swimming pool area at one time shall not exceed a number determined by the following formula:

$$\text{maximum bathing load} = D/27 + S/10$$

Where D = area of swimming pool in square feet where the water depth is more than 5 feet, and

Where S = area of swimming pool in square feet where the water depth is less than 5 feet.

Pool depths of less than 2 feet shall not be considered in the calculations.

The manager shall provide a method of determining the total number of bathers in the pool by numbering lockers, keys, tags, etc., so that the above requirement is met, or further limit the maximum bathing load in the interest of public safety and possible overcrowding.

Part 9 — Therapeutic Pools

Recirculation rate

85 The recirculation rate through the filter system shall be sufficient to pass the entire volume of the pool in one hour or less.

Clock

93 A clock of sufficient size and design shall be located to be seen by those in the pool.