



HEALTH CARE AGENCY/PUBLIC HEALTH ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN

To: Owners/Operators of Public Pools Located in Orange County

Subject: Changes to Public Pool Code and Safety Requirements, Effective January 1, 2015

Effective January 1, 2015, Chapter 20 of the California Code of Regulations, Title 22, was amended to include new reporting and safety requirements for public pool facilities. The following summary is intended to assist you in understanding these changes. It is not a complete list of the regulations. To obtain a copy of the regulations, visit the California Department of Public Health website at

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/healthinfo/vironhealth/water/pages/californiapublicswimmingpoolrequirements.aspx>

Emergency Response

- **Response to incidents is now required (§65546):** A pool operator is required to follow disinfection procedures for fecal, vomit, blood contamination, and fatal or non-fatal drowning incidents. The same procedure should be followed if a dead animal is found in the pool. Please see our Advisory Notice “Procedures Following a Contamination of a Public Pool by Feces, Vomitus, Blood Contamination, Near-Drowning, Drowning, or Dead Animals”
<http://ochealthinfo.com/civicax/filebank/blobload.aspx?BlobID=22684>
- **Incident logs (§65523):** Records for incidents must be retained for two (2) years and be made available at the inspector’s request. For your convenience, you can access and complete the “Pool Incident Response Form”, visit www.ochealthinfo.com/eh/water/pool.
- **Reporting requirement (§65541):** The pool operator is required to report to Environmental Health when, two (2) or more lifeguards or pool users at a public pool report within 5 days of each other to the pool operator that they have had diarrhea. To report call: (714) 433-6418.
- **Communicable disease (§65541):** No employee or person having a communicable disease (such as Cryptosporidium, Giardia, Legionnaires, Pseudomonas aeruginosa, cough, cold sore, nasal or ear discharge and when wearing a bandage) shall enter the pool/spa.

Pool Chemistry & Temperature (§65529, 65530)

This chart provides the new required chemical levels

	Free-Chlorine Residual parts per million (ppm)				Bromine Residual (ppm)		pH	Combined Chlorine (ppm)
	Without Cyanuric Acid		With Cyanuric Acid					
	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum		
All public swimming pools <u>except</u> spas, wading pools and spray grounds	1.0*	10.0*	2.0*	10.0*	2.0*	Not Specified	7.2 – 7.8	0.0 – 0.4
All public spas, wading pools & spray grounds	3.0	10.0	3.0	10.0	4.0	Not Specified	7.2 – 7.8	0.0 – 0.4

- **Required “DPD” type test kit:** A DPD (short for N, N-Diethyl-P-Phenylenediamine) type test kit used to measure the pool chemistry must be available for use when the pool is in use. If your test kit produces a pink color, you probably have a DPD kit.
- **Spray grounds & water features:** Disinfection with chlorine or bromine, and UV, ozone or other similar method shall be disinfected continuously at a minimum of 40 mJ/cm² while the spray ground and water feature is in use.
- **Water temperature:** Maximum pool water temperature shall not exceed 104 F.

Safety Equipment (§65540):

- **Required safety equipment for pools with lifeguards:** A “Red Cross 10-Person Industrial First Aid Kit” or equivalent, an operating telephone, and a backboard and head immobilizer.
- **Requirements for rescue pole and life rings:** All pools exceeding 75 feet in length or 50 feet in width must provide a rescue pole and life ring that is available on at least two (2) opposing sides of the pool at centralized locations. *Previously only one set of equipment was required.*

Operational Changes

- **Variation in flow rate (§65527):** Must not fall below 75% of the rate required by the recirculation system. (Example: If your calculated flow rate is 65 gallons per minute, your water flowing through the pump system shall be at least 75% of 65, which would be approximately 49 gallons per minute). *Previous code allowed for a flow rate reduction of 65%.*
- **Additional record keeping (§65523):** The concentration of free chlorine/bromine and pH levels are still required to be recorded on a daily basis and cyanuric acid level (if used) on a monthly basis. In addition, daily records must be kept for temperature of heated pools, equipment readings, calibrations and corrective actions taken. The following records are recorded as required: combined chlorine, maintenance procedures, and repairs. Records must be maintained for two (2) years.
- **Record keeping exemption (§116048):** Complexes with fewer than 25 units may record required information at least two (2) times per week with no more than four (4) days between readings.
- **Pool operating procedures & manuals (§65521):** Every public pool shall be under the supervision of a “pool operator”. The pool operating procedures shall be maintained onsite. In addition, manufacture equipment manuals are required to be maintained onsite.

Hazardous Conditions (§65545)

- **Please see our Advisory Notice “Public Pool Safety”:** This advisory is to alert pool owners and operators of potentially hazardous conditions which could cause Environmental Health to order a public a swimming, spa or wade pool “closed”
<http://ohealthinfo.com/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?BlobID=22681>.

If you have any further questions, visit www.ohealthinfo.com/eh/water/pool or contact Environmental Health at (714) 433-6000.