

**California Code of Regulations**  
**Title 22, Chapter 20**  
**Public Swimming Pools**

**Article 1. Definitions and Scope**

**65501. Definitions.**

- (a) **"Swimming Pool" or "Pool"** means an artificial basin, chamber or tank used, or intended to be used, for public swimming, diving, or recreational bathing, but does not include baths where the main purpose is the cleaning of the body, nor individual therapeutic tubs.
- (b) **"Wading Pool"** means an artificial basin, chamber or tank used, or intended to be used, for wading by small children and having a maximum depth of not to exceed 46 centimeters (18 inches) at the deepest point nor more than 30 centimeters (12 inches) at the side walls.
- (c) **"Special Use Pools"** means pools designed and used exclusively for a single purpose such as wading, instruction, diving, competition or medical treatment where a licensed professional in the healing arts is in attendance.
- (d) **"Enforcing Agent"** means the Health Officer or Director of Environmental Health or their designated registered sanitarian representative.
- (e) **"Temporary Training Pool"** means an artificial basin, chamber or tank intended to be used for instruction in swimming and so constructed as to be readily disassembled for storage or for transporting to and reassembling at a different location.
- (f) **"Spa Pool** means a pool, not used under medical supervision, that contains water of elevated temperature, and incorporates a water jet system, an aeration system or a combination of the two systems.
- (g) **"Department"** means the State Department of Health Services.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 100275 and 116050, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Sections 116025 through 116068, Health and Safety Code.

**HISTORY:**

1. New Chapter 20 (Articles 1-3, Sections 655017, not consecutive) filed 10-16-80; designated effective 10-1-81 (Register 80, No. 42).
2. Editorial correction of effective date of History Note No. I (Register 80, No. 52)
3. Editorial change filed 9-4-81 redesignating effective date of 10-16-80 order from 10-1-81 to 12-30-81 (Register 81, No. 36).

**65503. Scope.**

- (a) The provisions of this Chapter apply to all pools as defined in Section 65501, including but not limited to:
  - (1) Commercial pools.
  - (2) Real estate pools.
  - (3) Community pools.
  - (4) Hotel pools.
  - (5) Motel pools.
  - (6) Resort pools.
  - (7) Auto and trailer park pools.
  - (8) Auto court pools.
  - (9) Apartment house pools.
  - (10) Club pools.
  - (11) Public or Private school pools.
  - (12) Gymnasium pools.
  - (13) Health establishment pools.
  - (14) Townhouse pools.
  - (15) Condominium pools.
  - (16) Mobile home park pools.
  - (17) Campground pools.
  - (18) Homeowner association pools.
- (b) Only private pools maintained by an individual for the use of family and friends are exempt from the provisions of

this Chapter.

(c) The provisions of this Chapter shall apply to all auxiliary structures and equipment provided and maintained in connection with pools, including but not limited to:

- (1) Locker rooms.
- (2) Shower rooms.
- (3) Dressing rooms.
- (4) Toilet facilities.
- (5) Filtration equipment.
- (6) Pumping equipment.
- (7) Piping.
- (8) Disinfecting equipment.
- (9) Safety equipment.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 100275 and 116050, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Section 116025, Health and Safety Code.

## **Article 2. Plans, Construction and Inspection**

### **65505. Plans and Specifications**

- (a) A person proposing to construct, reconstruct or alter a swimming pool or auxiliary structure or equipment shall submit legible plans and specifications to the enforcing agent for review and written approval prior to commencing the work and in advance of the issuance of any building, plumbing or electrical permit.
- (b) Plans submitted for approval pursuant to this section shall be drawn to a scale of 1 centimeter equals 0.48 meters (1/4 inch equals 1 foot), except that plans for spa pools shall be drawn to a scale of 1 centimeter equals 0.12 meters (1 inch equals 1 foot).
- (c) The enforcing agent may require the submission of such additional information as may be required to determine the compliance of plans and specifications submitted for approval.
- (d) Within 30 days of the receipt of plans and specifications, the enforcing agent shall notify the person submitting the plans and specifications of their approval or disapproval.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 100275 and 116050, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Section 116038, Health and Safety Code.

### **65507. Records**

- (a) The enforcing agent shall retain one copy of the plans and specifications submitted for approval.
- (b) At the request of the Department, the enforcing agent shall make available to the Department records pertaining to swimming pools which are within the enforcing agent's jurisdiction.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 100275 and 116050, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Sections 116038 and 116058, Health and Safety Code.

### **65509. Construction**

- (a) Swimming pools shall be constructed, reconstructed or altered in compliance with plans approved pursuant to Section 65505, unless written approval of variance from such plans is obtained from the enforcing agent.
- (b) Swimming pools shall conform to the requirements of Chapter 2-90, Title 24, Building Standards, California Administrative Code.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 100275 and 116050, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Section 116038, Health and Safety Code.

### **65511. Inspection.**

- (a) The swimming pool owner, or his designated agent, shall notify the enforcing agent at least two working days before guniting or constructing the pool shell to allow inspection and approval by the enforcing agent. Following pool construction, the enforcing agent shall again be notified at least two days in advance of placing the pool in operation to allow for final inspection and approval.
- (b) No pool shall be placed in use without the written approval of the enforcing agent.

NOTE: Authority: Sections 100275 & 116050, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Sections 116038 & 116055.

## **Article 3. Maintenance and Operation**

### **65521. Pool Supervision Responsibility.**

- (a) Every pool shall be under the supervision of a person who is fully capable of, and shall assume responsibility for, compliance with all requirements relating to pool operation, maintenance and safety of bathers.
- (b) No pools shall be used or available for use unless all of the requirements of subsection (a) and the following are complied with.
  - (1) Routine (e.g., daily and weekly) operating procedures shall be permanently posted in a location accessible to and frequented by the operator.
  - (2) Manufacturers' instructions for operation and maintenance of mechanical and electrical equipment shall be kept available for the operator.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 100275 and 116050, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Sections 116050.2 and 116043, Health and Safety Code.

### **65523. Operation Records.**

- (a) The operator of each pool open for use shall keep a daily record of information regarding operation, including readings of disinfectant residual, pH and maintenance procedures such as cleaning of filters and quantity of chemicals used.
- (b) If cyanuric acid by itself or in a combined form with the disinfectant is added to a pool, the cyanuric acid concentration shall be measured a minimum of once per month and records shall be kept of the results of such testing
- (c) Data collected pursuant to subsections (a) and (b) shall be maintained at least one year for inspection by the enforcing agent, or shall be submitted to the enforcing agent upon his request.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 100275 and 116050, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Sections 116040 and 116043, Health and Safety Code.

### **65525. Recirculation and Purification System Operation.**

The pumps, filters, disinfectant and chemical feeders, flow indicators, gauges and all related parts of the pool water purification system shall be kept in operation whenever the pool is available for use, and at such additional times and periods as may be necessary to maintain the water in the pool in a clear and disinfected condition. The variation in flow during a filtration cycle shall be such as to not reduce the flow below 65 percent of the rate required in Section 9032 of Title 24, California Administrative Code.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 100275 and 116050, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Sections 116043 and 116050, Health and Safety Code.

### **65527. Clarity of Water.**

The recirculation and purification system shall be operated and maintained so as to keep the pool water clean and clear. Under no circumstances shall the pool be used if the main drain is not clearly visible from the deck. Such a pool shall be closed and shall not be reopened until the water is clean and clear, and upon specific written approval of the enforcing agent. If the pool drain is still not visible 48 hours following inspection and closure by the enforcing agent, the enforcing agent may order the pool drained as a safety precaution.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 100275 and 116050, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Sections 116043, 116050, 116053 and 116055, Health and Safety Code.

### **65529. Disinfection, pH Control and Cyanuric Acid.**

- (a) Pools, when open or in use, shall be disinfected continuously by a chemical which imparts a residual effect and shall be maintained in an alkaline condition at a pH between 7.2 and 8.0. For pools using hypochlorite or gaseous chlorine without a stabilizer, a free chlorine residual at least 1.0 ppm shall be maintained throughout the pool. If cyanuric acid or a chlorinated isocyanurate is used, a free chlorine residual of at least 1.5 ppm shall be maintained throughout the pool. The cyanuric acid concentration in any pool shall not exceed 100 ppm. Appropriate test kits for measuring the pH, concentration of the disinfectant, and, when used, concentration of cyanuric acid shall be provided at each pool. If halogens other than chlorine are used, residuals of equivalent strength shall be maintained. A test kit for measuring the concentration of the disinfectant accurate to within 0.1 ppm shall be available at each pool.

- (b) When test kits for chlorine utilize comparative color standards, the standards shall be accurate to within plus or minus 0.1 ppm. There shall be at least four color standards as follows: 0.6, 1.0, 1.5 and 2.0. The test kit shall be capable of testing for free chlorine residual.
- (c) The enforcing agent may accept other disinfecting materials or methods after they have been demonstrated to provide a readily measurable residual. Such materials or methods must be as effective as the required chlorine concentration and must not be dangerous to public health or create objectionable physiological effects.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 100275 and 116050, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Section 116043, Health and Safety Code.

### **65531. Bacteriological and Chemical Quality of Pool Water.**

- (a) Bacteriological quality of water in the pool shall be such that not more than two consecutive samples, taken when the pool is in use, shall:
  - (1) Contain more than 200 bacteria per millimeter, as determined by the standard (35 °C) plate count; or
  - (2) Contain a total coliform organism MPN (most probable number) count of 2.2 or greater per 100 milliliters of sample.
- (b) Chemical quality of water in the pool shall not cause irritation of eyes or skin of the bathers, or have other objectionable physiological effects on bathers.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 100275 and 116050, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Section 116043, Health and Safety Code.

### **65533. Cleanliness of Pool**

- (a) Floating scum, sputum or debris shall not be allowed to accumulate in the pool. Skimmers, where provided, and water levels shall be maintained and operated to remove such material continuously. The bottom and sides of the pool shall be cleaned as often as necessary to be kept in a clean condition. The sides and bottom of pools, decks and other surfaces shall be kept free of slime and algae.
- (b) Animals shall not be permitted in the pool or pool area.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 100275 and 116050, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Section 116043, Health and Safety Code.

### **65535. Cleaning and Maintenance.**

- (a) All parts of the pool and related pool facilities and equipment shall be maintained in good repair. Floors shall be kept free from cracks and other defects and in compliance with Section 3115B, Title 24, California Code of Regulations. Walls, ceilings, partitions, doors, lockers and similar surfaces and equipment shall be refinished in a manner acceptable to the enforcing agent as often as necessary to be kept in a state of good repair.
- (b) Hoses shall be provided for regular flushing and cleaning. The whole pool area shall be kept clean, sanitary and free of litter and vermin.
- (c) Toilets, urinals, showers, wash basins and other plumbing fixtures shall be maintained in a clean condition, and in good repair.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 100275 and 116050, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Section 116043, Health and Safety Code.

### **65537. Bathing Suits, Caps and Towels.**

Bathing suits and towels furnished by the management shall be laundered and clean, and caps shall be sanitized after each usage.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 100275 and 116050, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Section 116043, Health and Safety Code.

### **65539. Lifesaving, First Aid and Control of Bathers.**

- (a) Lifeguard services shall be provided in accordance with Sections 116028 and 116045 of the Health and Safety Code.
- (b) Where lifeguard service is provided, the number of lifeguards shall be adequate to maintain continuous surveillance over the bathers.
- (c) Where no lifeguard service is provided, a warning sign shall be placed in plain view and shall state "Warning-No Lifeguard on Duty" with clearly legible letters at least 10.2 centimeters (4 inches) high. In addition, the sign shall

also state "Children Under the Age of 14 Should Not Use Pool Without An Adult In Attendance".

- (d) The enforcing agent may require posting of notices directing the bathers to make use of the toilets and showers before entering the pool. At all pools, diagrammatic illustrations of artificial respiration procedures shall be posted where clearly visible from the nearby deck. Such illustrations shall be protected against the elements. Also, the telephone number of the nearest ambulance, fire and police or sheriff's department shall be kept similarly posted along with instructions that, if needed, manual or mouth-to-mouth artificial respiration should be started immediately and continued until a physician arrives or mechanical resuscitators are applied.
- (e) Every swimming pool shall be equipped for safety and rescue purposes with one or more rescue poles not less than 3.6 meters (12 feet) in length with body hooks, and one or more life rings having a minimum exterior diameter of 43 centimeters (17 inches) readily accessible for use. Such life rings shall have attached to them an 0.476 centimeter (3/16 inch) line long enough to span the maximum width of the pool. The line shall be stored when not in use in such a way as to prevent kinking or fouling. When rescue can be effected from the perimeter of a spa pool, such a pool may be exempt from the requirements of this paragraph if so approved by the enforcing agent
- (f) When, in the opinion of the enforcing agent, any pool is of such size that unaided swimming by lifeguards may not offer sufficient protection to swimmers, one or more square-sterned boats equipped with oars, oarlocks and life rings, or paddle boats, as the enforcing agent shall order, shall be provided.
- (g) A first aid kit shall be provided at all swimming pools when required by the enforcing agent.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 100275 and 116050, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Sections 116028, 116043 and 116045, Health and Safety Code.

#### **65541. Health of Employees and Patrons.**

- (a) No person having a communicable disease shall be employed at a public swimming pool.
- (b) All patrons known to be, or suspected by the enforcing agent or the management of being afflicted with an infectious disease, suffering from a cough, cold or sores, or wearing bands or bandages shall be excluded from all public bathing places unless at least one of the following conditions is met:
  - (1) The patron submits a current written statement, signed by a licensed physician, confirming that the patron does not present a health hazard to other pool users.
  - (2) Pool use by the patron is approved by the enforcing agent.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 100275 and 116050, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Sections 116040, 116043 and 116055, Health and Safety Code.

#### **65543. Wading Pool Water Clarity.**

The water of every wading pool shall be kept sufficiently clear so that the bottom of the wading pool will be visible at all times.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 100275 and 116050, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Section 116043, Health and Safety Code.

#### **65545. Pool Closure.**

- (a) If, in the opinion of the enforcing agent, a pool is maintained or operated in a manner which creates an unhealthful, unsafe, or unsanitary condition, the pool may be closed by the enforcing agent. Such a pool shall not be reopened until correction is made, and upon, specific written approval of the enforcing agent.
- (b) Unhealthful, unsafe or unsanitary conditions include, but are not limited to, the failure to meet clarity, disinfection, pH, safety or bacteriological standards.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 100275 and 116050, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Sections 116040, 116043, 116053 and 116055, Health and Safety Code.

#### **65547. Compressed Chlorine Gas.**

- (a) When compressed chlorine gas is employed, the following requirements shall be met:
  - (1) A solution of commercial strength ammonia shall be kept available for use in testing for chlorine gas leaks.
  - (2) A gas mask designed for use in a chlorine atmosphere shall be provided unless a self-contained breathing apparatus meeting the requirements of paragraph (a) (3) is provided. Gas masks shall be of a type approved by the U.S. Bureau of Mines and/or the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. The following

requirements for gas mask canisters shall be met:

- (A) A replacement canister shall be provided and kept serviceable. Any canister which has been utilized during chlorine leakage shall be discarded and a replacement canister provided.
- (B) The date of attaching a canister to the mask breathing tube shall be recorded on the canister. The canister shall be discarded one year from the date of attachment, or sooner if the canister is expended as shown by an indicator color change.
- (C) Date stamped expired canisters shall be replaced with unexpired, unused containers.

(3) A self-contained breathing apparatus may be used in place of a gas mask only if all pool attendants and lifeguards who may be responsible for the health and safety of pool users have received formal training in the use of the equipment. Following initial formal training, responsible pool attendants and lifeguards shall receive refresher training at least once every six months if working at pools which are open year-round. For pools open on a seasonal basis, all returning responsible personnel shall receive retraining on the use of the equipment before the pool is opened for the season. The self-contained breathing apparatus provided shall comply with the provisions of Section 5144 of Title 8, California Administrative Code, and the following:

- (A) Only parts approved for the specific respiratory system shall be used for replacement.
- (B) The respirator equipment shall be kept at a readily accessible point outside the room in which the chlorinator is maintained.

(4) All swimming pools with gas type automatic chlorinators shall post in a conspicuous location near the entrance to the pool an emergency pool evacuation procedure.

- (A) Emergency exit doors or gates shall not be locked when the pool is open for use. Keys to such doors and gates shall be readily available to pool attendants and lifeguards.
- (B) Pool attendants and lifeguards shall receive training in the application of effective pool emergency procedures. Such training shall be reviewed at least once every six months for pools open year-round. For pools open on a seasonal basis, training in emergency procedures shall be conducted before the pool is opened for the season.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 100275 and 116050, Health and Safety Code. Reference Sections 116040, 116043 and 116050, Health and Safety Code.

#### **65549. Replacement of Equipment or Appurtenances**

When fixed or installed equipment or appurtenances are changed or replaced, the change or replacement units shall meet applicable requirements of this Chapter subject to the provisions of Section 116050 of the Health and Safety Code, and shall first be cleared with the enforcing agent before substitution if not an exact duplicate of the units being changed or replaced.

NOTE.: Authority cited: Section 100275 and 116050, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Sections 116038, 116043 and 116050, Health and Safety Code.

#### **HISTORY**

1. New section filed 1-14-81; designated effective 10-14-81 (Register 81, No. 3).

#### **65551. Shower, Toilet and Dressing Facilities**

- (a) For shower, toilet and dressing facilities, the walls, partitions, doors, lockers and similar surfaces which require periodic cleaning shall be maintained smooth and finished so as to facilitate- cleaning.
- (b) Showers shall be provided with soap in soap dispensers or containers.
- (c) For toilet facilities, handwashing detergent or soap, sanitary towels or hot air blowers, and toilet tissues shall be provided in permanently installed dispensing devices.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 100275 and 116050, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Section 116043, Health and Safety Code.

#### **HISTORY:**

1. New section filed 1-14-81; designated effective 10-1-81 (Register 81, No. 3)