

# What's New in New Recreational Camps



## 1. What is the new Reg. 503- Recreational camps?

This legislation will **replace previous Recreational Camps O. Reg. 568 and will come in effect on July 01, 2018**. The changes will streamline the regulation to make it more concise and user-friendly.

As a part of modernization of regulations under Health Protection and Promotion Act the Ministry of Health and Long term Care wants to ensure that public health programs and services remain current to protect the health and safety of the Ontarians. These changes will directly affect the public health requirements governing the operation of your camp. ). You are highly encouraged to read the new/updated regulation at the following website <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/170503>

## 2. Are different classes of Camp still applicable?

No, there will be no class A or Class B camps. All camps that come under the definition of new Recreational Camps will only be classified as Recreational camps.

## 3. Does camp need to be open for five or more days to be considered regulated recreational camp?

No, there is no requirements of number of days the camp is operating.

## 4. Is there a change to minimum number of campers to be a regulated recreational camp?

Yes, the number of persons attending camp is reduced to minimum **five persons** of age 18 years or less, or **persons of special needs** (this is a new addition)

## 5. Are there changes to camp construction and maintenance requirements?

Yes, the new Regulation has eliminated redundancies and/or contradictions with the **Ontario Building Code** in construction and maintenance of the camp. The Camp must be located, constructed, and maintained in accordance with requirements of Ontario Building Code; this includes sanitary facilities, sleeping areas, levels of illumination and washing laundry.

## 6. Are there a changes to requirements of Food preparation, storage and cleaning & sanitizing of utensils?

Yes, the new regulation has eliminated redundancies and/or contradictions with the Food Premises Regulation and now refers to **Parts III, IV & VI** of the new Food premises regulation, Ont. Reg. 493/17 which is also coming in effect on July 01, 2018.

There is also a requirement to have a **certified food handler** or supervisor on each shift while the camp kitchen is in operation.

**7. Are there changes to the notification of commencement of operation of the Camp?**

Yes, notice of opening or commencement of a camp must be given at least **14 days** prior to commencing operations and that the contact information of the operation must also be included in the notice.

**8. Are there any other new Notification requirements?**

Yes, Camp operators must **immediately notify** the Medical Officer of Health or Public Health Inspector of an **outbreak or suspected outbreak of any communicable disease** in the camp.

And Owner or operator of the camp must notify Medical officer of health or Public Health Inspector, if the **camp is closed or abandoned**.

**9. Do inspection results need to be posted?**

Yes, operators must post on-site results of inspections conducted by the public health inspector.

**10. What are the changes to supervision requirements of the campers?**

All campers **under the age of 13 years** or campers with **special needs** should be under the continuous supervision of an adult who has received first aid training and who has experience in leadership in a recreational camp

A ratio of number of campers and supervisors must be determined separately for each category, that is campers age 13 years or older, campers under 13 years, and campers with special needs, by the operator and this ratio must be reported in camp safety plan (see below) submitted with the notice of opening.

**11. Is there a training requirements for camp operator?**

Yes, each operator must be trained in operation and maintenance of the camp and have knowledge of camp safety procedures to reduce health risks.

**12. What are the water supply requirements?**

Water supply of the recreational camp must meet certain requirements which includes that source should be approved by Medical Officer of Health or Public Health Inspector, water supply must be sufficient to meet the requirements of the camp and water provided for human consumption is potable.

**13. How is the water front supervision requirements are different then previous regulation?**

The requirement to employ a **waterfront director** from the previous regulation has been removed and replaced by the following:

Every operator shall ensure that every waterfront area that is used for aquatic activities is under the supervision of a lifeguard who holds a lifeguard certificate obtained within the

previous two years. The requirements for the contents of first aid kits has been changed (refer to the regulation for details).

#### 14. What is the Camp Safety Plan?

The Camp Safety Plan is a document that must be developed by the operator and submitted to the health unit each year **before** Camp opening (please see attached sample camp safety plan template). The plan must outline:

- a. Procedures of maintaining records regarding campers, including their name, address and emergency contact. (if available, please include a copy of sample record forms)
- b. Procedures for maintaining a record of health and safety incidents that occur in the camp (if available, please include a copy of sample record forms)
- c. The Plan must also include
  - i. Procedures for Communicable Disease Control and Fire Safety
  - ii. A description of land-based and water-based activities at the camp
  - iii. Identification of the risks of those activities and a strategy to control and minimize those risks including supervision if appropriate.
  - iv. Waterfront safety, including the availability of safety equipment and communication devices and procedures.
  - v. A list of all camp staff members who have a current first aid certificate
  - vi. The minimum ratio of camp staff members to campers ensuring that the ratio is maintained at all times while the camp is in operation.
  - vii. If the recreational camp has campers who are less than 13 years of age or campers with special needs, the operator must ensure that the campers are under continuous supervision of a staff camp member who has experience in the leadership and supervision of children.
  - viii. All health and safety incidents that occur in the recreational camp shall be recorded in accordance with procedures in the camp safety plan.

The above items are the minimum requirements for the Camp Safety Plan; you may add any additional items that are suitable for your camp. A sample camp safety plan is attached for your reference you may either use/modify it or develop your own camp safety plan.

The above are the most significant changes to the Recreational Camp Regulation. For a full review of the changes please refer to the Regulation.

If you have any questions regarding your camp or the new regulation please contact your Public Health Inspector for further information.