



# FACT SHEET

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## A GUIDE TO PUBLIC POOLS REGULATION 565/R.R.O., 1990

### Introduction

This guide highlights requirements set out in the regulation for purposes of simplification and easy reference. The wording of the regulations supersedes this guide and should be referred to for detailed interpretation.

### Classification - (Section 2)

**CLASS A:** a pool to which the general public is admitted, operated in conjunction with a Y.M.C.A. or other public institution, or operated at a summer camp.

**CLASS B:** a pool operated in an apartment with more than 5 units, a home, park or nurses residence.

a pool operated in conjunction with a hotel, campground, club.

a pool operated to serve a condo or community of five or more dwellings.

### EXEMPTIONS

**Spas, pools having a water depth of less than 0.75 M (30"), and water slides. (Section 3)**

### Opening Notification

- A. New pool or alteration - owner is to notify M.O.H. in writing of building permit number, whether pool is prepared in accordance with regulations, date of opening, Class A or B and name and address of operator (Section 5(1)). Written permission from M.O.H. is required prior to opening.
- B. Existing pool closed for more than 4 weeks. Operator or owner is to notify M.O.H. in writing of intention to re-open pool, date of re-opening, and name of operator and classification of pool. (Section 5(3)).

### 1. Operation:

It is the responsibility of the operator.

- A. To maintain the pool and equipment in a safe and sanitary condition when in use. Ensure the pool is not accessible when not intended to be open (Section 6 (2) (b)).
- B. Ensure any water added to the pool is uncontaminated and that the pool water is maintained free from visible matter that may be hazardous (Section 7 (1&3)).

- C. Ensure pool water is clear and that lighting is adequate enough to observe a 150mm diameter (6") black disc on a white background in the deepest part of the pool bottom from a distance of 9m (30 ft.) and ensure all bathers leave the pool if such standard cannot be met (Sections 7 (4) and 18 (4) ).
- D. Ensure disinfectant levels and other chemical parameters are acceptable. (See chemistry section) Maintain daily records documenting disinfectant levels, pH, number of bathers, volume of make-up water, emergencies, rescues, and breakdowns. (Section 8 (a to e)).
- E. Comply with all other requirements of the regulation in respect to construction, operation and equipment.

## 2. Safety Requirements

- A. An Emergency telephone: Class A: accessible from deck  
Class B: within 30 m (100 ft.)
- B. Written emergency and operational procedures and instructions must be available in the event of an emergency, accident, or injury and pool staff are to be trained in these procedure (Section 17).
- C. Signs, Notices and Markings
  - 1. Class B pools not providing supervision shall display in a conspicuous location in letters minimum 25 mm (1") in height.

**CAUTION**  
**THIS POOL IS UNSUPERVISED. BATHERS UNDER TWELVE YEARS OF AGE ARE NOT ALLOWED WITHIN THE POOL ENCLOSURE UNLESS ACCOMPANIED BY A PARENT OR HIS OR HER AGENT WHO IS NOT LESS THAN SIXTEEN YEARS OF AGE.**

Class B pools having a surface water area greater than 93 sq. metres (1000 sq. ft.) must add the following: Section (19) a & b)

**THE TOTAL NUMBER OF BATHERS ON THE DECK AND IN THE POOL SHALL NOT EXCEED TEN.**

**2. Post notices in at least two places indicating:**

- no person infected with a communicable disease or having open sores on his body shall enter the pool,
- no person shall bring a glass container onto the deck or into the pool,
- no person shall pollute the water in the pool in any manner and that spitting, spouting of water and blowing the nose in the pool or on the deck is prohibited,
- no person shall engage in boisterous play in or about the pool,
- the maximum number of bathers permitted on the deck and in the pool at any one time, and
- location of a telephone that is available for emergency use. (Section 19 (1) )

**maximum bather load is calculated by formula:**

$$D/2.5 + S/1.4$$

Where: D is area of pool deeper than 1.35 M (4.4 ft)  
S is area of pool shallower than 1.35 M (4.4ft)

- D. Where a pool has a water depth of less than 2.5 m (8.2 ft) in letters not less than 150 mm (6") are required stating:

**CAUTION -AVOID DEEP DIVES**

or the words (Section 19 (6))

**SHALLOW WATER - NO DIVING**

- E. Deck markings in figures not less than 100 mm (4"); water depth at break in slope and DEEP AREA and SHALLOW AREA. (Section 19 (5)).
- F. Notice that bathers must shower posted at each shower area and entrance to deck. (Section 19 (2)).

G. Safety Equipment (Section 20 (1))

- i. electrically insulated or non-conducting reaching pole 3.65 m (12 ft)
- ii. two buoyant throwing aids attached to 6 mm (1/4") diameter rope ½ the width of the pool plus 3 m (10 ft) in length
- iii. a spine board
- iv. first aid kit containing First Aid manual, one dozen safety pins, 24 adhesive dressings, 12 sterile gauze pads, 4 rolls of 50 mm gauze bandage, 6 triangular bandages, 2 rolls of splint padding and 1 roll-up splint.

**3. Pool Chemistry Requirements**

- A. Minimum free available chlorine residual 0.5 ppm; Minimum residual with stabilized chlorine 1.0 ppm
- B. Minimum bromine residual 2.0 ppm (A chlorine test kit can be used to measure bromine by testing for total residual and multiplying by 2 to obtain bromine residual)
- C. pH range - 7.2 to 7.8. High pH reduces effectiveness of chlorine
- D. Total Alkalinity - maintain a minimum of 80 ppm (ideal range 80 - 120 ppm)
- E. Cyanuric acid (stabilizer) - not to exceed 60 ppm (ideal range 25 - 30 ppm)
- F. Testing and Recording
  - i. Checking pH and Chlorine or Bromine 1/2 hour before opening and every 2 hours during operation. (Section 7 (10)).
  - ii. Check Cyanuric acid minimum once per week (Section 7 (11)).

**4. Inlet and Outlet Cover Inspections:**

- A. Every owner and operator shall ensure that water inlet and outlet covers are inspected at least once within every 30 day period of pool operation.
- B. If any covers are loose, broken or missing, the pool must remain closed until repairs are completed.
- C. A written record of inspection, to be kept for one year, is to be made by the person who made the inspection. (Section 16.1(1)(2), (O. Reg. 394/94.S.1.).



## **5. Skimmer Equalizer Valves:**

Swimming pools with multiple skimmers with equalizer fitting must have those equalizer fittings rendered inoperable. Maintain a pool water level which ensures that the skimmers will not be pumped dry so that the pool water pump is protected from damage. (Ontario Ministry of Health, March 17, 1994).

**This guide is not intended to replace the actual regulation, see legislation for details.**