

MOBILE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

RULES FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION OF PUBLIC POOLS AND SPAS



**Adopted by the Mobile County Board of Health
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**Rules for the Construction,
Maintenance and Operation of
Public Pools and Spas**

MOBILE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MOBILE, ALABAMA

Mobile County Health Department
Rules for the Construction, Maintenance and
Operation of Public Swimming Pools and Spas

Section 1	General Provisions	Page
1.1	Mandate	1
1.2	Purpose and Intent	1
1.3	Application	1
1.4	Scope	1
1.5	Standards	1
1.6	Pool or Public Pool	2
1.7	Definitions	2-9
1.8	Violation	9
1.9	Appeals	9
1.10	Effective Date	9
Section 2	Plans, Construction and Permits	
2.1	Plans	10
2.1	Water Supply for Pools and Spas	11
2.3	Sewage Systems	11
2.4	Structural Details	12
2.5	Permits	12
Section 3	Pool Shell and Deck Design	
3.1	Materials of Construction	14
3.2	Design Details-Swimming Pools	14
3.3	Slope of Pool Bottom in the Shallow Areas	15
3.4	Size of Pool	16
3.5	Diving Area Requirements and Diving Boards	16
3.6	Decks and Walkways	17
3.7	Depth Markings	17
3.8	Ladders, Recessed Ladders and Recessed Stairs	18
3.9	Pool and Deck Lighting	19
3.10	Electrical	19
3.11	Ventilation	19
3.12	Lifeguard Chairs	19
3.13	Drinking Fountains	19

Section 4 Circulation and Filtration Design

4.1	Circulation Systems	20
4.2	Filters	20-22
4.3	Pumps	22
4.4	Pump Strainer	22
4.5	Flowmeter	22
4.6	Piping	23
4.7	Inlets	23
4.8	Drain or Main Drain	24
4.9	Surface Overflow System	24-26
4.10	Vacuum Cleaner	26
4.11	Thermometers for Heated Pools	26

Section 5 Disinfection and Chemical Feeders

5.1	Disinfectants	27
5.2	N.S.F. Approval of Disinfectant and Chemical Feeders	27
5.3	Types of Feeders	27
5.4	Minimum Standards for Gas Chlorine Feeders	27
5.5	Chemical Feeders	28
5.6	Testing Equipment	29
5.7	Water Quality Parameters and Testing Frequency	29
5.8	Sampling	29
5.9	Alternate Methods for Filtration, Chemicals or Equipment	29

Section 6 Public Wading Pools

6.1	Public Wading Pools	30
6.2	Design Characteristics	30
6.3	Permit to Construct	30
6.4	Separation from Main Pool	30
6.5	Separate Circulation and Disinfectant Systems	31
6.6	Circulation System Capacity	31
6.7	Fill Spout	31
6.8	Maximum Number of Users	31
6.9	Water Quality Parameters and Testing Frequency	31

Section 7 Public Spa Design

7.1	Plans	32
7.2	Permit to Construct	32
7.3	Permit to Operate	32
7.4	Spa Design Criteria	32-34
7.5	Overflow Systems	34
7.6	Circulation System for Spas	34
7.7	Spa Inlets and Outlets	35
7.8	Piping	35
7.9	Pumps	35
7.10	Filters	35
7.11	Disinfectant and Chemical Feeders	35
7.12	Air Induction System	35
7.13	Meters and Gauges	36
7.14	Bathhouses and Sanitary Facilities	36
7.15	Water Supply	36
7.16	Water Quality Parameters and Testing Frequency	36
7.17	Testing Equipment	36
7.18	Operation and maintenance	36
7.19	Records	37
7.20	Safety	37

Section 8 Bathhouses

8.1	Bathroom Layout	38
8.2	Dressing Rooms	38
8.3	Hose Bibbs	38
8.4	Floors	38-39
8.5	Water Supplied to Shower Heads	39
8.6	Soap Dispensers	39
8.7	Mirrors	39
8.8	Toilet Tissue	39
8.9	Water	39

Section 9 Safety and Sanitary Control

9.1	Lifesaving Equipment	40
9.2	Fences and Enclosures	40
9.3	Equipment Enclosures	40
9.4	Rules and Warnings to be Posted	41
9.5	Food and Concessions	41
9.6	Visitor and Spectator Areas	41
9.7	Diseased Persons	41
9.8	Swimming Suits and Towels	41
9.9	Algae Accumulations	41
9.10	Frequency of Cleaning Pools	41
9.11	Animals Excluded	42
9.12	Operation Reports	42
9.13	Report of Death or Injury	42
9.14	Telephone Accessibility	42
9.15	Records	42

SECTION 1

GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 1.1 Mandate: By virtue of the authority vested in it by the Legislature of the State of Alabama, Code of Alabama, Section 22-2-2 (4) and 22-3-2 (4), the Mobile County Board of Health hereby promulgates the following rules governing the construction, equipment, operation and maintenance of swimming pools and spas as hereinafter defined throughout the geographical boundaries of Mobile County, Alabama.
- 1.2 Purpose and Intent: In the interest of public health and safety it is the purpose and intent of the Mobile County Board of Health to control and regulate the design, construction, operation and maintenance of all swimming pools and spas, to provide for the issuance of operational permits, to regulate the operation and to provide penalties and remedies, so that health and safety hazards may be minimized.
- 1.3 Application: These rules shall apply to public or semi-public swimming pools and spas—meaning any structure, chamber or tank containing an artificial body of water used by members of the public for swimming, diving, wading, recreation or therapy together with all buildings, appurtenances and equipment used in connection with the body of water regardless of whether a fee is charged for use. Further definition of the term includes day cares, schools, municipalities, hotels, motels, camps, RV and mobile home parks, apartments, boarding houses, private clubs, special purpose pools, condominiums or other membership pools or spas.

This article does not apply to private pools serving a single family dwelling and used by the residents of the dwelling and their guests nor to therapeutic chambers drained, cleaned and re-filled after each individual use.

- 1.4 Scope: These rules shall apply to the design and construction of all new and remodeled swimming pools within Mobile County. All existing public pools that are not in compliance at the time of enactment of these regulations shall be exempt from compliance with those provisions that do not pertain directly to the health and safety of users, but all swimming pools and spas when remodeled shall comply with all applicable provisions of these rules.
- 1.5 Standards: The Plumbing Inspection Department of the Mobile County Health Department and the Mobile County Building Inspection Department or the Inspection, Electrical, Zoning or Building Departments of the municipalities located within Mobile County shall set the standards by which swimming pools and spas are constructed.

The Mobile County Board of Health hereby adopts by reference those sections of the American National Standards Institute, Inc., Standards for Public Swimming Pools, ANSI/NSPI-1, 1991 and the American Standard for Public Spas, ANSI/INSPI-2, 1999 as are related to the health and safety of the public in the construction, operation and maintenance of public pools and spas.

1.6 Pool or Public Pool: The terms “pool” or “public pool” as used in these rules shall apply to all public spas, public swimming pools, semi-public pools and special purpose pools.

1.7 Definitions:

1. Algae—Microscopic plant-like organisms that contain chlorophyll. Sunlight is necessary for carrying out photosynthesis. They can grow rapidly into large masses and quickly become a nuisance. These organisms are green, blue-green, black, brown, and yellow-green or mustard.
2. Algicides—Chemicals which kill algae and prevent new algae growth.
3. Alkalinity—The amount of bicarbonate, carbonate, or hydroxide compound present in a water solution.
4. Anti-vortex Drain—A drain with a raised cover designed to prevent the vacuuming effect on a body that may come in contact with the drain.
5. Backwashing Piping—The piping extending from the backwash outlet of the filters to its terminus at the point of disposal.
6. Backwash—The process of thoroughly cleansing the filter media and/or elements by reverse flow.
7. Backwash Cycle—The time required to thoroughly backwash the filter media and/or elements and the contents of the filter vessel.
8. Bacteria—Single celled organisms that can cause infections or diseases.
9. Bather Load—The number of bathers determined by allowing fifteen (15) square feet of pool surface area per user with the exclusion of three-hundred (300) square feet for each diving board.
10. Board—The Mobile County Board of Health.
11. Bromide—A chemical compound containing bromine, sodium or potassium chloride in solution; will produce free bromine if an oxidizer is introduced.
12. Bromine—A chemical element that exists as a liquid in its elemental form or as a part of a chemical compound that is an oxidant and a biocidal agent used to disinfect pool water.
13. Cartridge Filter—A filter that utilizes a porous cartridge as its filter media.
14. Chelating Agents—Chemicals that combine with dissolved metals to prevent water discoloration.

15. Chlorine—A chemical element that exists as a gas in its elemental state or as part of a chemical compound which is an oxidant and biocidal agent used in pool or spa water disinfection.
16. Chlorine Demand—The materials in the water that use up chlorine, such as bacteria, algae, dirt, leaves, grass clippings and swimmers wastes. The chlorine demand must be satisfied before a chlorine residual is available to disinfect the pool water.
17. Chlorine Residual—The chlorine level in the water after the chlorine demand has been satisfied. The free chlorine residual is the true measure of potential chlorine disinfection and is the active chlorine that kills bacteria and algae and keeps pool water clear and clean. This active form of chlorine in water is known as Hypochlorous Acid.
18. Continuous Flow or Flow-through Pool—A pool in which water is added continuously and allowed to flow to the waste. **This type of pool is prohibited within Mobile County.**
19. Cyanuric Acid—See Stabilizer. Also called a conditioner.
20. Dead Spot—An area in the pool which does not receive adequate circulation to remove debris.
21. Design Rate of Flow—The average rate of flow used for design calculations in a system. Usually refers to gallons per minute (gpm) per square foot of filter surface area.
22. Diatomaceous Earth—White powder composed of fossilized skeletons of one-celled organisms called diatoms that are porous, containing microscopic holes and used as a filter medium for swimming pools.
23. Diatomaceous Earth Filter—A filter designed to use diatomaceous earth or volcanic ash as a filter medium. The filter may be either a pressure or vacuum type.
24. Disinfectant—A chemical that will destroy infection-causing organisms.
25. Effluent—The outflow of water from a filter, a pump or a pool.
26. Face Piping—The piping with all valves and fittings that are used to connect the filter system together as a unit.
27. Fill and Draw Pool—A pool that is filled with water, used for a period of time without the major addition of water and then completely drained. **This type of pool is prohibited in Mobile County.**
28. Filter—A device that separates solid particles from water by re-circulating it through a porous substance (a filter medium or element). Any material or apparatus by which water is mechanically clarified.

- A. Permanent Medium Filter: A filter that utilizes a medium, e.g. sand, that under normal use will not have to be replaced.
 - B. Diatomaceous Earth Filter: A filter that utilizes a thin coating of diatomaceous earth over a porous fabric as a filter medium that periodically must be replaced.
 - C. Cartridge Filter: A filter that utilizes a porous element that acts as a filter medium. The cartridge is disposable.
 - D. Vacuum Filter: A filter that operates under a vacuum from the suction of a pump.
29. Filter Aid—Usually refers to powder-like substance such a diatomaceous earth or volcanic ash used to coat a septum-type filter.
 30. Filter Cycle—The operating time between cleaning and/or the backwash cycle.
 31. Filter Element—That part of a diatomaceous earth filter designed to trap solids and conduct water to a manifold collection header or similar conduit and return the cleaned water to the pool or spa.
 32. Filter Gravel—Graded rock and gravel used to support filter sand.
 33. Filter Medium—The fine material that entraps suspended particles from water.
 34. Filter Sand—A type of filter medium composed of hard, sharp silica, quartz or similar particles with proper grading for size and uniformity.
 35. Filtration Rate—The rate of filtration of water through a filter during the filter cycle expressed in U.S. gallons per minute per square foot of effective filter area.
 36. Free Chlorine—See Chlorine Residual.
 37. Grab Rail—Tubular rails used as a hand-holds for entering or leaving a pool.
 38. Hardness—The amount of calcium or magnesium dissolved in the water. High levels contribute to scale deposits.
 39. Health Department—The Mobile County Health Department and its employees, agents or representatives.
 40. Health Officer—The Health Officer of Mobile County or his duly authorized agent or representative.

41. Hypochlorinator—A chemical feeder through which liquid solutions of chlorine-bearing chemicals are fed into the pool water at a controlled rate.
42. Hypochlorite—Any compound including Calcium Hypochlorite, Lithium Hypochlorite, Sodium Hypochlorite, etc. found in various forms used as a chlorine carrier in pool and spa water.
 - A. Calcium Hypochlorite: A solid white form of inorganic chlorine found in both granular and tablet forms. It has a pH of approximately eleven (11) and has 65-70% available chlorine.
 - B. Lithium Hypochlorite: A solid white granular form of inorganic chlorine that has a pH of approximately nine (9) and contains an available chlorine of 35%.
 - C. Sodium Hypochlorite: A clear liquid of an inorganic chlorine compound obtainable in concentration of 5% to 16% available chlorine.
43. Influent—The inflow of water to a filter or other device.
44. Inlet—The fitting or opening through which filtered water enters the pool.
45. Isocyanurates (ISOs)—Families of pool sanitizers that are self stabilizing by containing cyanuric acid. Also called Stabilized Chlorines.
46. Ladder—A series of vertically separated treads or rings connected by a vertical rail member or independently fastened to an adjacent vertical pool wall.
47. Make-up Water—Potable water used to fill or refill the pool or spa.
48. Main Drain Outlet—The outlet(s) at the deep portion of the pool through which the main flow of water leaves the pool.
49. Main Suction—The line connecting the main outlet to the pump suction.
50. Organic Matter—Perspiration, urine, saliva, suntan oil, cosmetics, lotions, dead skin, excrement and similar debris introduced to pool water by users and the environment.
51. Overflow Gutter—A trough-like device at the normal water level used as an overflow and to skim the pool surface.
52. Overflow System—The perimeter type overflows of various design that remove pool surface water through the use of overflows, surface skimmers and surface water collection systems.
53. pH—A value expressing the degree of acid or alkaline (base) qualities of a solution.

54. Permanent Medium Filter—A filter that utilizes a medium that can be regenerated and will not have to be replaced, i.e. sand.
55. Person—The word person shall include a corporation, firm, partnership, association, organization or any other group acting as a unit as well as a human body.
56. Phenol Red—The indicator solution that measures pH.
57. Pool Decks—The impervious area around the pool.
58. Pool Depth—The distance between the floor of the pool and maximum operating water level when the pool is in use.
59. Potable Water—Any water that is bacteriologically safe and otherwise suitable for drinking.
60. Public Bathing Places—A bathing place, together with buildings and appurtenances used in connection therewith, on artificial or natural ponds, lakes, quarries and streams or other water where the public is allowed to bathe or is open to the public for bathing purposes with the consent of the owner.
61. Public Spa Pool—Any public pool designed primarily to direct water or air-enriched water under pressure onto the bather's body with the intent of producing a relaxing or therapeutic effect.
62. Public Swimming Pool—An artificial structure and its appurtenances that contains water more than two (2) feet deep and is expressly designated or is used with the knowledge and consent of the owner or operator for swimming or recreational bathing by any segment of the public. Public swimming pools shall be defined in the following categories:
 - Class A—Competition Pool: Any pool intended for use for accredited competitive aquatic events. The pool may also be used for recreation.
 - Class B—Public Pool: Any pool intended for public recreational use such as municipal, country club, community, swimming club, institutional such as a school, YMCA, camp, etc.
 - Class C—Semi—Public Pool—Any pool operated solely in conjunction with lodging such as hotels, motels, apartment, condominiums, etc.
 - Class D—Other Pool—Any pool operated for medical treatment, therapy, exercise and other special purposes under the direction of a medical doctor. **These pools are exempt from these rules.**
63. Public Wading Pool—A Wading pool shall normally be a small pool for non-swimming children and shall have a maximum depth not greater than two (2)

feet with a minimum depth of eight (8) inches and a maximum slope of one (1) foot in twelve (12) feet.

64. Rate of Flow (GPM)—The measurement of the volume of flow per unit of time expressed in gallons per minute.
65. Rate of Flow Indicator—A device to indicate the rate of flow in a pipeline. (Sometimes referred to as a rate-of-flow meter or flow meter).
66. Recessed Stairs—A riser/tread or series of risers/treads extending down from the deck with the bottom riser/tread terminating at the spa/pool wall, thus creating a stairwell.
67. Recessed Treads or Steps—A series of vertically spaced cavities in the spa/pool wall creating tread areas for the step holes.
68. Re-circulation Piping—The piping through which the water circulates from the pool to the filter and is returned to the pool.
69. Re-circulation Skimmer—A device connected with the pump suction used to skim the pool water over a self-adjusting weir and return the water to the pool through the filter.
70. Re-circulation System—The entire system including the suction piping, pump, strainer, filter, face piping and return piping.
71. Residential Pools—Residential or private pools, excepted herein, shall be defined as any privately owned pool built in connection with a single-family residence used only by the family of each householder and their private guests. Residential pools are not included under the jurisdiction of these regulations. If this type of pool is open to others and a fee is charged for use, then this pool becomes a public pool and is subject to these rules.
72. Return Piping—The piping that carries the filtered water from the filter to the pool (also known as effluent).
73. Ring buoy—Ring-shaped floating device capable of supporting a drowning person usually attached to a light line one and one-half (1½) times the width of the pool and is kept at poolside for rescue use only.
74. Rope and Float—A continuous line not less than one-fourth (¼”) inch in diameter, which is supported by buoys and attached to opposite sides of a pool to separate the deep and shallow ends.
75. Safety Lifeline—See Rope and Float
76. Scale—The precipitate that forms on surfaces in contact with water when the calcium hardness, pH or total alkalinity levels are too high.

77. Shepherd's Crook—A pole measuring at least twelve (12) feet long with a hooked end used in poolside rescue.
78. Shock Treatment (superchlorination)—Adding significant amounts of an oxidizing chemical (chlorine) to water to destroy ammonia and nitrogenous and organic contaminants in water.
79. Skimmer—Same as re-circulation skimmer.
80. Skimmer Weir—Part of a skimmer that adjusts automatically to small changes in water level to assure a continuous flow of water to the skimmer.
81. Soda Ash—A sodium carbonate used to raise pH and increase total alkalinity in pool water.
82. Spray Pool—A pool that is similar to a wading pool except that no water is permitted to stand in the pool. Water is applied in the form of a continuous spray or shower and the water continuously leaves the pool at the same rate of entrance.
83. Stabilizer—A chemical (cyanuric acid) which helps prolong the useful life of chlorine in the water by slowing down chlorine decay due to sunlight.
84. Suction Outlet—The aperture or fitting through which the water is drawn from the pool.
85. Swimming Pool or Pool—Any concrete or impervious structure, located either indoors or outdoors, used for bathing or swimming purposes and filled with a controlled water supply together with all buildings and appurtenances used in connection therewith.
86. Total Alkalinity—The ability of water to resist change in pH. Also known as the buffering capacity of water. It is measured with a test kit and expressed as ppm.
87. Total Chlorine—The sum of the amount of free chlorine and combined chlorine.
88. Turbidity—The cloudy condition of water due to the presence of extremely fine particulate materials in suspension that interfere with the passage of light.
89. Turnover—The period of time, usually in hours, required to circulate a volume of water equal to the pool capacity. Turnover rate is the number of times a quantity of water equal to the pool capacity passes through the filters in a stated time (usually in turnovers per day).
90. User Load—The number of persons in the pool/spa area at any given moment or during any stated period of time. See Bather Load (1.7.9)

91. Vacuum Fitting—The fitting in the wall of the pool that is used as a convenient outlet for connecting the underwater suction cleaning equipment.
92. Vacuum Piping—The piping that connects the vacuum fitting to the pump suction.
93. Waste Water Disposal Systems—All water disposal systems approved by state or local authority such as a storm sewer, sanitary sewer, open pit, leach field or irrigation system used for disposal of pool water (effluent).
94. Weir—See Skimmer Weir.
95. Width and Length—The width and length of a pool shall be determined by actual water dimensions.

1.8 Violation: It shall be unlawful to construct, maintain, repair, operate or use a public swimming pool in violation of these rules.

1.9 Appeals:

- (A) Any person, partnership, corporation or other entity whose application for an operational permit has been denied or is in possession of a valid permit and is notified in writing of the intent to suspend, revoke or deny renewal of said permit shall be provided the reasons in writing thereof and may within seven (7) days of receipt of said notice, apply in writing for an informal hearing to the Health Officer of Mobile County or his designee.
- (B) If, after the informal hearing, the matter is not resolved to the satisfaction of the aforesaid person, partnership, corporation or other entity, written appeal may be made within seven (7) days following notice of the decision of the Health Officer to the Mobile County Board of Health. The Mobile County Board of Health shall then schedule a time for a hearing at which said person(s) may appear, either in person or through his/their representative(s) and present any facts or evidence concerning the denial, suspension or revocation of the permit. The Board of Health shall then confer and inform said person(s), either at the hearing or within thirty (30) working days, of its decision.

1.10 Effective Date: These regulations shall be in full force and effective immediately upon promulgation and adoption by the Mobile County Board of Health.

SECTION 2

PLANS, CONSTRUCTION AND PERMITS

2.1 Plans

1.1 Plans and specifications shall be prepared by a registered, professional engineer or architect and submitted to the municipal or county building or plumbing authority. One set shall be submitted to the Health Department, Department of Food and Lodging.

A. Plans shall be drawn to scale and shall include:

- 1) One plan view
- 2) One longitudinal section
- 3) One transverse section through the main drain
- 4) One overall plan showing the pool in relation to other facilities in the area
- 5) One detailed view with finish schedules of the equipment room layout, bathhouses and any other appurtenances
- 6) One vicinity map
- 7) One piping schematic showing piping, pipe size, inlets, main drains, skimmers, gutter outlets, vacuum fittings and all other appurtenances such as bathhouses, snack bars, etc.

B. Plan notes such as “fence by owner” or “deck to be under separate contract” shall not be acceptable as a substitute for details and scale drawings.

C. Plans shall include the following information in tabulated form on the plan view of the pool:

- 1) The legal address of the facility
- 2) The location of the facility if different from legal address
- 3) The owner’s name, address and telephone number
- 4) The surface area of the pool

- 5) The pool volume, turn over time, flow rate, filter rate/unit area, type of filter and total system head loss
- 6) Manufacturer, make and model numbers of the pump, filter and automatic chemical feed apparatus, filter head loss (clean and dirty) and pump curve showing design rate and head
- 7) Source of water
- 8) Means of backwash water disposal
- 9) Related facilities, i.e., bathhouse, snack bars, toilets, floors, plumbing, drinking fountains, etc. and finish schedules for bathhouses, toilets, showers, etc.

2.2 Water Supply for Pools and Spas

- A. All water used in pools shall be from a source approved by the Health Department. Piping arrangements shall not exist which, under any conditions, will permit sewage, wastewater or water from an unapproved source to enter the swimming pool water system. Water from the pool shall not enter the make-up water supply. Protection against back-siphonage and back flow must be installed and approved by the local plumbing or building authority.
- B. The fill spout shall be rigid and properly shielded so as not to create a safety hazard. It should be located under a diving board or adjacent to a ladder. The open end shall have no sharp edges and shall not extend more than two (2) inches beyond the edge of the pool.
- C. **Pool water shall be of drinking water quality.**

2.3 Sewage System

The sewage systems of all swimming pools and spas shall meet the standards of the local building or plumbing authority and shall comply with the following:

- A. The sewage system shall have sufficient capacity to serve the facility including the bathhouses, locker rooms, toilets and related accommodations.
- B. There shall be no direct physical connection between the sewage system and any drain from the pool or circulation system. Any pool, deck drain or overflow from the circulation system, when discharged to the sanitary sewer system, storm drain or other approved natural drainage course shall be

discharged through a suitable air gap so as to preclude the possibility of backflow of sewage or waste water into the pool or pool piping system.

- C. The sanitary sewer servicing the pool and auxiliary facilities shall discharge to a public sewer system wherever possible and in accordance with local applicable requirements. Where no such sewer is available, the connection shall be made to a suitable waste-water treatment system that has been designed and constructed and is operated and maintained in accordance with all local applicable requirements.

2.4 Structural Details

These rules are not to be construed to include structural details. Nor will these details be included in the plan review of the Mobile County Health Department. Such details will be left to the purview of the county or respective municipality building or plumbing departments.

2.5 Permits

5.1 Permit to Construct:

- A. The following are required for the construction of a public pool or public bathing place or alteration, remodeling or renovation of any public pool or public bathing place:
 - 1) Submit complete plans and specifications to the Health Department and the county or respective municipal building or plumbing department of the locality in which the pool is to be constructed.
 - 2) Receive a permit in the form of a Plan Review Letter from the Health Department.
- B. The Health Department and the county or municipal building and plumbing authority must approve any deviation from approved plans and specifications.

5.2 Permit to Operate:

A. Construction Inspection:

An approved final construction inspection of the pool and equipment by the county or municipal building or plumbing authority and by the Health Department shall be conducted prior to operation.

B. Issuance of Operational Permit

- 1) An operational permit will be issued by the Health Department provided the pool is in compliance with these rules as determined by inspection and construction has been approved in writing by the county or municipal building or plumbing authority. This permit shall remain valid for one year or until the ownership of the pool changes or the pool undergoes extensive remodeling. Operational permits are non-transferable.
- 2) The swimming pool contractor shall supply the owners and operators both oral instruction and two (2) copies of complete written instructions in the operation of the pool and all of the equipment and in the maintenance of the swimming pool water.

C. Operational Inspections

- 1) All public pools, spas and bathing places operating year-round shall be inspected by the Health Department a minimum of three (3) times annually.
- 2) Outdoor public pools operating between May and September 30 will be inspected at least three times during that period.
- 3) Upon completion of any inspection a notice will be given to correct violations noted. A reasonable period of time will be given to correct any violations noted during the inspection. However, if pool conditions are such that bathers are subject to potential or present health hazards and/or unsafe conditions, the pool shall be closed immediately and remain closed until corrections are made and authorization to re-open is granted by the Health Department.

SECTION 3

POOL SHELL AND DECK DESIGN

3.1 Materials of Construction

All public pools and spas shall be constructed in conformance with the following requirements:

- A. Public pools and spas and all appurtenances thereto shall be constructed of materials which are inert, non-toxic to man, impervious, permanent and enduring and that can withstand the design stresses with an adequate factor of safety. The materials shall provide a water-tight tank with a smooth and easy-to-clean surface or to which a smooth, easy to clean finish can be applied.
- B. Sand or earth bottoms shall not be permitted in swimming pool or spa construction.
- C. The public pool or spa finish, including bottom and sides, shall be of white or light colored materials, non-toxic to man, with a smooth, finished surface. Patterns or colors must not obscure objects or surfaces.
- D. The surfaces, such as decks and steps, that are intended to provide footing for bathers shall be designed to be slip-resistant.

3.2 Design Details – Swimming Pools (See Section 7 for Public Spa Design)

2.1 All swimming pools shall comply with the following design detail:

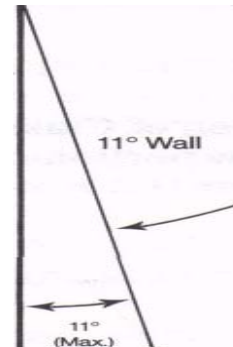
- A. Swimming pools shall be designed and constructed to withstand all anticipated loadings for both full and empty conditions.
- B. A hydrostatic relief valve shall be provided for in-ground swimming pools.
- C. The design architect or engineer shall certify the design of the swimming pool as to its safety and structural stability.
- D. No limits are specified for length and width of swimming pools except swimming pools for competition shall meet required dimensions.
- E. The design standards for diving areas as specified in Section 3.5 shall be met.
- F. Consideration shall be given to shape from the standpoint of safety and the need to facilitate supervision of bathers using the swimming pool.
- G. Provisions shall be made for complete, continuous circulation of water through all areas of the swimming pool. Public pools shall have a circulation

system with necessary treatment, disinfectant and filtration equipment as required in these regulations.

- H. The shape of any swimming pool shall not impair the circulation of water nor swimmers' safety.
- I. The minimum depth of water in the shallow end of the swimming pool shall be three (3) feet except for wading and other special purpose swimming pools. The maximum depth at the shallow end of the public swimming pool shall be 3.5 feet except for competitive or special purpose swimming pools.
- J. Facilities for infants and small children shall be physically separated from the main public pool. (See Section 6).
- K. All corners formed by intersection of walls and floors shall be covered.

2.2 Pool sidewalls with a depth of greater than five (5) feet shall have a slope no greater than eleven degrees (11°) from plumb.

2.3 For those portions of public swimming pools with water depths between three (3) and five (5) feet, the walls shall be vertical for at least two and one-half (2.5) feet and then may be curved to the bottom.



2.4 Safety ledges are not permitted in public pools.

2.5 A safety lifeline or rope and float must be present, marked with visible floats at intervals not greater than six (6) feet. The lifeline shall be placed at the shallow portion from the break in grade and shall not be placed at a depth exceeding five (5) feet. Connections for safety lines shall be recessed in the walls at the appropriate locations and in a manner that presents no hazard to swimmers.

3.3 Slope of Pool Bottom in the Shallow Area

The shallow portion of the pool shall be defined as the portion between the shallow end and either the five (5) feet depth point or the break in grade, whichever is less. The slope of the floor in the shallow portion shall be uniform and shall not be greater than one (1) foot of slope in twelve (12) feet to the point of the first slope change for Class A and B pools or one (1) foot in ten (10) for Class C pools. In portions of the pool deeper than five (5) feet, the slope of the bottom shall not be more than one (1) foot vertical in three (3) feet horizontal.

3.4 Size of Pool

The size of the pool shall be based upon the anticipated bather load or one (1) person per fifteen (15) square feet of pool surface area with the exclusion of three-hundred (300) square feet for each diving board.

3.5 Diving Area Requirements and Diving Boards

5.1 The dimensions of the diving area on public swimming pools used for diving shall conform to the following minimum dimensions as outlined in Appendix C:

A. All swimming pools shall have a least thirteen (13) feet of free and unobstructed height above each diving board as measured from the center of the front end of the board and this free, unobstructed height shall extend horizontally at least eight (8) feet to both sides of the plummet, eight (8) feet behind the board and sixteen (16) feet in front of the plummet. However, if the diving board manufacturer recommends a greater distance, at least that distance shall be provided.

B. All diving boards installed on swimming pools at heights not greater than one (1) meter above the water level shall be located at least ten (10) feet from an adjacent diving board as measured plummet to plummet and at least ten (10) feet from the side wall of the swimming pool.

C. All diving boards installed on swimming pools at heights greater than 1 meter above the water level shall be located at least ten (10) feet from an adjacent diving board as measured plummet to plummet and at least eleven (11) feet from the side wall of the swimming pool.

5.2 All diving equipment shall be anchored firmly to the deck with corrosion-resistant connections and materials and shall be installed according to the manufacturer's instructions.

5.3 Diving stands supporting diving boards more than two (2) feet above the water line shall be equipped with a stairway or ladder and two handrails.

5.4 The minimum depth of water at the deep end wall shall be six (6) feet for boards up to and including one meter. For curved wall construction the six (6) foot depth shall be no further than fifteen (15) inches from a vertical projection of the lip of the gutter. This depth shall be maintained across the deep end wall and along the side walls to a point opposite the maximum depth. This minimum depth shall be increased one (1) foot for each meter of diving board height above one (1) meter.

5.5 Diving platforms higher than three (3) meters shall not be installed at public swimming pools without the approval of the Health Department.

3.6 Decks and Walkways

- 6.1 Class A public pools shall have decks or walkways that are continuous around the pool appropriate to the activity with a minimum width of six (6) feet of unobstructed distance from the edge of the pool water or gutter to the fence or enclosure. Class B pools shall have a minimum walkway of six (6) feet, Class C pools shall have a minimum of four (4) feet and Class D pools shall have a minimum of three (3) feet of walkway, if provided. A minimum of a four (4) feet walkway shall be provided on the sides and rear of any piece of diving equipment.
- 6.2 Additional deck space shall be provided if a swimming pool is to be used extensively for teaching swimming, lifesaving, aquatics or similar activities.
- 6.3 The deck shall be constructed of impervious material, preferably concrete. The finished texture shall have a non-slip or smooth broom finish and should give no discomfort to bare feet. A nonporous, resilient artificial recreational surface may be used provided that the surfacing materials comply with ANSI, Standards for Deck design and the engineering practices for the geographical area of installation. The deck shall be pitched in accordance with ANSI recommendations and designed to conduct drainage away from the pool area. The maximum slope of all decks, other than wooden, shall be one inch per foot (1":1'). Wood decks shall slope no more than one eighth-inch per foot (1/8": 1'). Minimum slopes for deck materials:
 - A. Textured, hand finished concrete decks—one-eighth inch per one foot (1/8":1')
 - B. Exposed aggregate concrete decks—one-fourth inch per one foot (1/4":1')
 - C. Indoor/outdoor carpeting decks—one-half inch per one foot (1/2":1')
- 6.4 At least one hose bibb with a vacuum breaker shall be installed for flushing the deck area.

3.7 Depth Markings

- 7.1 The distance between depth markers shall not exceed twenty-five (25) feet. Permanent depth markers shall be provided at or above the water line on the sides of the pool and on the deck at the following locations:
 - A. The shallow end
 - B. The slope break on both sides of the pool
 - C. The deep part of pool on both sides of the pool

D. The deep end of the pool

E. The diving depth if a diving well is provided

7.2 Depth markers shall be slip resistant and in numerals of four (4) inch minimum height and of a color contrasting with the background. Depth markers shall be of a permanent type and shall be no more than eighteen (18) inches from the water's edge and shall be easily read when facing the water.

3.8 Ladders, Recessed Steps and Recessed Stairs

8.1 All pools shall have a minimum of two (2) exits or entrances located to serve both ends of the pool and all treads shall have slip-resistant surfaces. If the vertical distance from the bottom of the swimming pool to the deck is over two (2) feet at the shallow end, recessed stairs, recessed steps or ladders shall be provided. Recessed steps or ladders shall be provided at the deep portion of all pools and, if the swimming pool is over thirty (30) feet wide, such recessed steps or ladders shall be installed on each side near the deep end.

8.2 All stairs into the pool shall be recessed. Recessed stairs leading into the swimming pool at the shallow end shall be of slip-resistant design, have a minimum tread depth of twelve (12) inches and a maximum rise or height between treads of ten (10) inches. There shall be no abrupt drop-off or submerged projections into the swimming pool. A minimum of one (1) handrail is required. A treated water inlet shall be located in or near all recessed stairs.

8.3 Recessed steps shall be of slip-resistant design with a maximum rise or height between steps of ten (10) inches. If the steps are inserted in the walls or if step holes are provided they shall be of such design that they may be cleaned easily and shall be arranged to drain into the swimming pool to prevent the accumulation of dirt thereon. Step holes shall have a minimum tread of five (5) inches and a minimum width of twelve (12) inches.

8.4 Swimming pool ladders shall be corrosion-resistant and shall be equipped with slip-resistant treads. All ladders shall have two (2) handholds and shall be securely installed. There shall be a clearance of not more than six (6) inches nor less than three (3) inches between any ladder and the swimming pool wall.

8.5 Recessed steps or treads and ladders shall have a handrail at each side extending over the coping or edge of the deck. Recessed stairs shall have at least one (1) handrail.

3.9 Pool and Deck Lighting

9.1 Underwater lighting in swimming pools, must be not less than 0.5 watts per square foot of pool area. Such lights shall be spaced to provide illumination so that all portions of the pool, including the bottom, may be seen readily without glare.

9.2 When underwater lighting is provided, surface area lighting shall provide at least thirty (30) foot candles of light on the pool and deck area. When no underwater lighting is provided, surface lighting shall provide at least fifty (50) foot candles of light on the pool and deck area.

3.10 Electrical

The county or municipal building authority shall determine the wiring, grounding and placement of all lighting and electrical equipment.

3.11 Ventilation

All pool equipment and chemical feeder rooms, indoor pools, bathhouses, dressing rooms, shower rooms and toilet spaces shall be ventilated adequately either by natural or mechanical means or a combination of natural and mechanical means.

3.12 Lifeguard Chairs

All swimming pools having a water surface area of more than eighteen-hundred (1800) square feet shall be provided with at least one elevated lifeguard platform or chair. Additional chairs shall be provided on the basis of one (1) per eighteen-hundred (1800) square feet. The elevated lifeguard platforms or chairs shall be so located as to provide a clear, unobstructed view of the bottom of the swimming pool.

3.13 Drinking Fountains

The local county or municipal plumbing code shall determine the number and location of drinking fountains.

SECTION 4

CIRCULATION AND FILTRATION DESIGN

4.1 Circulation Systems

- 1.1 All swimming pools shall be equipped with a circulation system consisting of a pump, piping, a filter, suction outlets, return inlets, disinfecting equipment and any other necessary equipment.
- 1.2 The capacity of the circulation system when operating at the maximum allowable head loss on the filters shall be sufficient to recirculate and disinfect the entire volume of swimming pool water as follows:
 - A. Public Swimming Pool.....at least every.....6 hrs
4 times in 24 hours
 - B. Public Wading Pool.....at least every.....2 hrs
12 times in 24 hours
 - C. Public Spa30 minutes
48 times in 24 hours
- 1.3 Wading pool water shall not be interconnected with any other pool and all public wading pools shall have a separate circulation system consisting of a filter, pump, piping and disinfecting equipment.

4.2 Filters

- 2.1. All swimming pools shall be equipped with a filtration system for the purpose of clarifying the swimming pool water. The filtration system shall be an integral part of the circulation system and shall consist of one or more units of sand type filters or of diatomaceous earth type filters or other approved filter types.
- 2.2 All filter units shall be designed and constructed in accordance with applicable provisions of the standards of the National Sanitation Foundation, the American National Standard Institute or equivalent, pertaining to swimming pool filters.
- 2.3 The filtration system of all swimming pools shall have sufficient clarifying capacity so as to be able to return the turbidity of the swimming pool water to an acceptable level in less than twenty-four (24) hours following a peak bather load. The filtration system shall have the capacity to meet the flow rate required for the prescribed number of turnovers without exceeding the maximum allowable filtration rate.

2.4 Types of Filters

A. Sand

- 1) A sand filter may be either a gravity or a pressure sand filter. It may be either a standard-rate sand filter which shall be designed for filtration rates not in excess of three (3) gallons/minute/square foot of sand bed area or a high rate sand filter which shall be designed and NSF or ANSI approved for filtration rates not in excess of twenty (20) gallons/minute/square foot of sand bed area.
- 2) A sand filter shall be designed and installed so that it may be backwashed at a rate not less than fifteen (15) gallons/minute/square foot of filter bed area or at a rate recommended by the manufacturer. The backwash water shall be discharged to waste. A sight glass or other means for viewing the clarity of the backwash water shall be provided. The water used in cleaning the sand filter shall be discharged to waste.

B. Diatomaceous Earth Filters

- 1) A diatomaceous earth filter may be either a pressure or a vacuum type and it may be designed to operate either with or without continuous body feed. A diatomaceous earth filter with a continuous slurry or body feed shall be used for filtration rates not in excess of two and one-half (2.5) gallons/minute/square foot of filter area; and diatomaceous earth filters which operate without continuous slurry or body feed shall be used for filtration rates not in excess of two (2) gallons/minute/square foot of filter area. The water used in cleaning a diatomaceous earth type filter shall be discharged to waste.
- 2) Diatomaceous earth filters shall be designed and installed with provisions for cleaning by one or more of the following methods:
 - a. Backwashing
 - b. Air-bump-assist backwashing
 - c. Spray wash (either mechanical or manual)
 - d. Agitation

C. Other Filter types—As approved by ANSI and the Health Department.

- 2.5 All filters on swimming pools shall be designed and installed so as to provide easy accessibility for cleaning, operating, maintaining and servicing. All filter tanks shall be so positioned as to provide adequate circulation of air beneath

and around all sides, when necessary, to reduce corrosion and to facilitate cleaning.

- 2.6 All filters on swimming pools shall be equipped with approved gauges with appropriate capacity and shall be installed so that pressure or vacuum readings may be obtained on both the influent and effluent lines of the filters. The pump suction header shall be provided with gauges which indicate both pressure and vacuum and a pressure gauge shall be installed on the pump discharge line.
- 2.7 All filters on swimming pools shall be designed and installed with all the necessary valves and piping which may be needed to drain the filters completely.
- 2.8 Swimming pools with multiple filter units shall be designed and installed with all the necessary valves and piping which may be needed to isolate, backwash or drain an individual filter unit for maintenance and/or repair. Provisions shall be made so that the manufacturer's recommended backwash rate is never exceeded.
- 2.9 All pressure filters on swimming pools shall be designed and installed with an air-relief valve or valves that shall be located at or near the highpoint of the filters and capable of being operated manually.
- 2.10 Provision shall be made to bypass the filter and empty the pool to waste.

4.3 Pumps

A pump or pumps shall be provided with adequate capacity for the required number of turnovers of swimming pool water as specified in Section 4.1.2 and whenever possible shall be so located to eliminate the need for priming. If the pump or suction piping is located above the overflow level of the pool, the pump shall be self-priming. The pump shall be capable of providing a flow adequate for the backwashing of filters. Pumps and motors shall be accessible for inspection and service.

4.4 Pump Strainer

The circulation system shall include a strainer installed on the suction side of the pump to prevent hair, lint and other debris from reaching the pump. Strainers shall be corrosion resistant with openings not more than one-fourth (1/4) inch in size and shall be readily accessible for daily cleaning.

4.5 Flowmeter

A flowmeter reading in gallons per minute shall be installed between the pump and pressure sand filters so that the circulation is indicated on both filtration and backwash cycles. On other type filters, the flowmeter shall be installed in the filtered

water line. The indicator shall be capable of measuring flows which are at least one and one-half (1½) times the design flow rate, shall be accurate within ten (10) percent of true flow and shall be easy to read. The manufacturer's specification for length of straight pipe both fore and aft of the flow indicator shall be followed.

4.6 Piping

The piping of the circulation system shall be designed and installed so that the main drain or drains and the suction lines from the perimeter overflow system and/or the automatic surface skimmers shall be connected to the suction line of the circulation pump.

- A. The circulation piping shall be designed and installed with the necessary valves and pipes so that the entire return flow from the swimming pool can be from either the perimeter overflow system, the automatic surface skimmers or from the main drains.
- B. All piping shall be designed to reduce friction losses to a minimum and to carry the required quantity of water at a maximum velocity not to exceed six (6) feet per second for suction piping and not to exceed eight (8) feet per second for discharge piping. Piping shall be of non-toxic material, resistant to corrosion and able to withstand operating pressures. Pipe shall be NSF approved.
- C. The return line supplying filtered water to pool inlets shall loop the perimeter of the pool. All valves shall be permanently tagged and a valve operating schedule shall be provided for every operation.

4.7 Inlets

All swimming pools shall be equipped with inlets that shall be an integral part of the circulation system and that shall be adequate in design, number and location to ensure uniform distribution of filtered, conditioned and disinfected water throughout the swimming pool without the existence of *dead spots*. All public pools shall have a minimum of two (2) inlets.

- A. Inlets shall be installed at both ends and both sides of the pool. An inlet shall be provided in all recessed stairs.
- B. All inlets shall be so designed and installed so as not to constitute a projecting surface hazard to bathers.
- C. All inlets installed in the side and end walls of swimming pools should be installed below the operating water level.
- D. A floor inlet system may be used as an alternative or in addition to a wall inlet system provided floor inlets shall be spaced uniformly and in such a manner as to prevent creation of *dead spots*.

- E. Each inlet shall be designed and equipped as an adjustable orifice or shall be provided with replaceable orifices to permit adjustments of the water volume to obtain optimum circulation.

4.8 Drain or Main Drain

All swimming pools shall be provided with at least one drain which shall be located at the deepest section of the swimming pool. This drain should be capable of permitting the pool to be emptied completely.

- A. Whenever multiple drains are provided, they shall be spaced not more than twenty (20) feet apart, and not more than fifteen (15) feet away from the side walls.
- B. The drain outlet shall be protected by an anti-vortex cover, a twelve (12) inch by twelve (12) inch grating or other approved measures. The opening area in the grates shall be of such design as to prevent physical entrapment of extremities. A pool shall not operate without the drain covering in place, secured and in good repair.
- C. The outlet grating shall be secured in place by a screw or locking device which shall be designed to be removable only by the use of a special tool.

4.9 Surface Overflow System

All swimming pools shall be provided with a surface overflow system that shall be an integral part of the circulation system and that shall consist of either a built-in-place perimeter overflow system or recessed automatic surface skimmers.

9.1 Perimeter overflow

A built-in-place perimeter overflow system, if provided, shall be designed and installed so that:

- A. The system shall be capable of handling one-hundred (100) percent of the circulation flow (based upon the required turnover rate – See Section 4.1.2) without the overflow troughs being flooded for any appreciable period of time
- B. A surge capacity shall be provided either in the system or by use of a surge tank. The total surge capacity shall be at least equal to one (1) gallon/square foot of swimming pool water surface area.
- C. The water level of the swimming pool shall be maintained at or slightly higher than the level of the overflow rim of the perimeter overflows, except for the time needed to transfer all of the water which may be in surge

capacity back into the swimming pool after a period of use, provided that this transfer time shall not be greater than twenty (20) minutes.

- D. An automatic water fill control with a manual over-ride may be provided to maintain the water level in the swimming pool at the proper level.
- E. During quiescence, the overflow system shall be capable of providing, continuously and automatically, a skimming action to the water at the surface of the swimming pool.
- F. The overflow troughs shall be installed completely around the perimeter of the swimming pool except at steps, recessed ladders and stairs.
- G. The exposed surfaces of the overflow trough shall be capable of providing a firm and safe hand-hold.
- H. The overflow trough shall be capable of being cleaned easily and shall be of such configuration as to minimize accidental injury.

9.2 Recessed Automatic Skimmers

- A. Where recessed automatic surface skimmers are installed, they shall be designed and constructed in accordance with the applicable provisions of the standards of the National Sanitation Foundation, American National Swimming Institute or equivalent.
- B. The recessed automatic skimmer shall be designed for commercial pools, be of durable, corrosion resistant material and be equipped with an automatic skimmer weir and a removable strainer basket.
- C. Skimmers shall be provided with an equalizer device.
- D. The automatic skimmer shall be designed to obtain the turnover rate indicated in Section 4.1.2.
- E. A minimum of two (2) skimmers are required on all public pools with the exception of a spa or wading pool that may require only one. There must be one skimmer per each five-hundred (500) square feet of surface area.
- F. On outdoor pools the location of a recessed automatic surface skimmer shall be so located as to take into consideration the direction of prevailing winds.
- G. A recessed automatic skimmer shall not protrude into the pool.
- H. The weir in the skimmer shall adjust automatically and operate freely to the variations in water levels.

9.3 Roll Out Gutter

Nothing in this section shall preclude the use of roll out or deck level type of swimming pool. Such designs shall conform to the general provisions relating to surface overflow systems. The design of the curb and handhold shall conform to accepted standards and the approval of the Health Department shall be based on detailed review of this feature of construction and evaluated in the light of proposed use of the swimming pool.

9.4 Combined Perimeter Overflow and Automatic Skimmers.

Nothing in this section shall preclude use of a surface overflow system which combines both a perimeter overflow system and a recessed automatic surface skimmer or skimmers.

9.5 Pool Overflow

If pool overflows are not provided in skimmer tanks, some type of overflow shall be built into the pool wall that will be of sufficient size to carry off water that could be supplied by the fillspout. The overflow shall be located above the normal operating pool water level.

4.10 Vacuum Cleaner

A vacuum cleaner fitting may be provided as an attachment to the skimmer. If fittings are provided, they shall be located at least six (6) inches and no more than eighteen (18) inches below the water surface.

4.11 Thermometers for Heated Pools

11.1 A public pool equipped with a heater shall have a fixed thermometer in the circulation lines at the heater outlets and another near the outlets to the pool. These thermometers shall be of such design and located so that they can be easily read.

11.2 Temperatures of indoor pools shall be maintained between 75° F and 95° F, with exceptions made in Class D pools.

SECTION 5

DISINFECTION AND CHEMICAL FEEDERS

5.1 Disinfectants

All swimming pools and spas shall be equipped with disinfectant feeders and other chemical feeders as may be required to maintain the microbiological, chemical and physical characteristics of the swimming pool water within prescribed limits. The disinfectant shall provide a residual in the pool water so that it can be monitored. Pool chemicals shall not be fed by hand except in special circumstances. Disinfectants, other than chlorine, require special approval and are not to be used without prior written permission from the Health Department.

5.2 N.S.F. Approval of Disinfectant and Chemical Feeders

All disinfectant feeders (except gas chlorine feeders) and all chemical feeders which are installed on swimming pools shall be designed and constructed in accordance with applicable provisions of the standards of the National Sanitation Foundation, Standard 50 pertaining to disinfectant and chemical feeding equipment for use on swimming pools and spas.

5.3 Types of Feeders

Disinfectant feeders for use on public pools and spas may be of a chlorinator type which feeds chlorine in its elemental (gaseous) form, a hypochlorinator type which feeds as a liquid by positive displacement or a feeder type that uses controlled erosion or dissolving of a chemical by the flow through process. Feeders shall maintain a dosage proportional to the flow.

5.4 Minimum Standards for Gas Chlorine Feeders

4.1 Gas chlorine feeders shall comply with the following requirements:

- A. Shall be of such design and construction as will withstand wear, corrosion or attack by chlorine gas, chlorine vapors or chlorine solutions and will not be adversely affected by repeated regular adjustments or other conditions anticipated in the normal use of the device.
- B. Shall be capable of being easily disassembled for cleaning and maintenance and being easily reassembled.
- C. Shall be of such design and construction as to preclude stoppage from materials which may be contained in the compressed gas.

- D. Shall incorporate failure-proof features so that the chlorine gas cannot feed directly into the swimming pool, the pool piping system, water supply system or the swimming pool enclosure under any type of failure or interruption of operation of the equipment.
- E. Shall be a solution feed type, capable of delivering a chlorine solution at its maximum rate without releasing chlorine gas into the atmosphere.
- F. Shall be of such design that during accidental failure or interruptions of the water supply to the chlorinator, any leaking gas will be safely conducted to the outdoors.

4.2 Chlorine Compartment

Where gaseous chlorine equipment is provided, the mechanical proportioning device and cylinders of chlorine shall be housed in a reasonably gas-tight, corrosion-resistant and mechanically vented enclosure. There shall be air tight ducts from the bottom of the enclosure vented to the atmosphere in an unrestricted area with a motor-driven exhaust fan capable of producing at least one air change per minute. Automatic louvers of good design near the top of the enclosure for admitting fresh air are required. Electrical switches for the control of artificial lighting and ventilation shall be on the outside of the enclosure adjacent to the door. The floor area of the enclosure shall be of adequate size to house the chlorinator, fan, scales and one (1) extra chlorine cylinder. Gas masks approved by the Bureau of Mines for protection against chlorine gas shall be mounted outside of the chlorine compartment. Chlorine cylinders shall be anchored and kept upright.

5.5 Chemical Feeders

- 5.1 Chemical feeders shall be designed and installed so that they are downstream from the filter and the heater.
- 5.2 Erosion-type feeders may be installed to feed their solution to the suction side of the pump.
- 5.3 Chemical feeders equipped with their own pumps must be installed to introduce the gas or solution downstream from the heater and lower than the heater outlet fitting.
- 5.4 Chemical feeders must be wired so that they can operate only when the filter pump is running. If using an independent timer, the filter and chemical feed pump must be interlocked.

5.6 Testing Equipment

All public pools and spas shall have functional test kits or equipment for measuring pH, total alkalinity, cyanuric acid (if stabilized chlorine is used in pool water) and chlorine concentration (or concentration of other approved disinfectant).

5.7 Water Quality Parameters and Testing Frequency

For public pools see Appendix A

For public spas see Appendix B

5.8 Sampling

Samples for bacteriological analysis may be required and shall be taken in containers furnished by the Health Department. Frequency of sample collection and the sampling points shall be determined by the Health Department. The samples shall be submitted to the Alabama Department of Public Health for testing.

5.9 Alternate Methods for Filtration, Chemicals and or Equipment

The Mobile County Health Department may consider proposals for alternate methods for pool operation and in so doing shall not be restricted by the regulations provided the equipment, chemicals or methods have been tested and approved by the National Sanitation Foundation or the American National Standard for Public Swimming Pools.

SECTION 6

PUBLIC WADING POOLS

6.1 Public Wading Pools

A wading pool is a small pool for non-swimming children and shall have a maximum water depth not greater than twenty-four (24) inches with a minimum water depth of eight (8) inches and a maximum slope of one (1) foot in twelve (12) feet. **Fill and drain pools are prohibited in Mobile County.**

6.2 Design Characteristics

Every public wading pool shall be designed and constructed with the following:

- A. At least one (1) drain at its lowest point capable of emptying the entire contents of the pool. The drain shall be covered by a grating that fulfills the requirements of Section 4.8.
- B. A minimum of one skimmer shall be required capable of removing floating material.
- C. The wading pool shall be constructed in such a manner and of such materials so as to provide maximum safety to children using the facility.
- D. Inlets shall be of such size and number that the pool can be filled in one hour and located to produce uniform circulation throughout the pool.
- E. Walls shall not extend more the six (6) inches above the water line and shall be within eleven degrees (11°) of vertical.
- F. The wading pool shall be marked with depth markers on both ends and sides. The markers shall be plainly visible and in a contrasting color to the background.

6.3 Permit to Construct

No person shall begin construction of any public wading pool or shall alter remodel or renovate any public wading pool without submitting plans and receiving a plan review letter granting permission to construct as outlined in Section 2.

6.4 Separation from Main Pool

A wading pool shall be a separate, independent structure physically detached from a swimming pool. It shall be located so that at least six (6) feet of deck

3.1 shall separate it from the shallow end of the swimming pool in a Class B pool and at least four (4) feet of deck shall separate it in a Class C pool.

3.2 A wading pool shall be located so that drainage from the area will not wash contamination into the pool during rain.

6.5 Separate Circulation and Disinfectant Systems

Every wading pool located on the same premises as a swimming pool shall be equipped with a separate circulation system. This circulation system shall consist of at least a circulating pump, piping, a filter, a disinfectant feeder and inlet and outlet fittings.

6.6 Circulation System Capacity

The capacity of the circulation system required in Section 4.1.2 shall be capable of filtering and disinfecting the entire volume of water in the wading pool in two (2) hours or twelve (12) times in every twenty-four (24) hours. For filter requirements see Section 4.2; for pump requirements see Section 4.3; for piping requirements see Section 4.6; for disinfectant and chemicals see Section 5.

6.7 Fill Spout

The fill spout shall meet the requirements of Section 2.2.B.

6.8 Maximum Number of Users

The maximum number of children who may use a wading pool at any one time shall not be more than one child per ten (10) square feet of water surface area.

6.9 Water Quality Parameters and Testing Frequency

See Appendix A.

SECTION 7

PUBLIC SPA DESIGN

7.1 Plans

See Section 2.1

7.2 Permit to Construct

See Section 2.5.1

7.3 Permit to Operate

See Section 2.5.2

7.4 Spa Design Criteria

4.1 Size

Size shall be based on nine (9) square feet of water surface area for each bather. The maximum bather load equals the water surface area of the spa divided by nine (9) square feet.

4.2 Configuration

Public spas shall have no sharp edges or protrusions, extensions or means of entanglement or other obstructions in the bathing area that may cause entrapment or injury to the user. Public spas shall be shaped so as to provide complete water circulation and mixing.

4.3 Dimensions

- A. Public spas shall be no deeper than four (4) feet measured from the water line.
- B. The maximum depth of any seat or sitting bench shall be two (2) feet four (4) inches measured from the water line.

4.4 Finishes and Depth Markers

- A. Wall and floor finishes shall be of white or light colored non-toxic materials and shall be impervious and enduring. Such finishes shall be smooth and easily cleanable.
- B. Public spas shall have permanent depth markings plainly and conspicuously posted and located as follows:
 - 1. The maximum water depth shall be clearly marked.

2. Depth markings shall be at least four (4) inches in height and of a contrasting color to the background. Depth markings shall be of a permanent type.
3. Depth markings shall be placed within eighteen (18) inches of the water's edge and shall be positioned to be seen while standing on the deck facing the water.
4. Depth markings shall be spaced at no more than twenty-five (25) feet intervals and shall be uniformly located around the perimeter of the spa. In no case shall there be less than two (2) markers.

C. Spas with wooden interior surfaces are prohibited.

4.5 Illumination

5.1 Underwater Lighting

Where underwater lighting is used at public and semi-public spas, not less than 0.5 watts per square foot of spa water surface area shall be provided. Such lights shall be spaced to provide illumination so that all portions of the spa, including the bottom, may be seen readily without glare.

5.2 Deck and Area Lighting

When underwater lighting is provided, the pool and deck area shall be provided with at least thirty (30) foot candles of light. When no underwater lighting is provided, surface lighting shall be provided with at least fifty (50) foot candles of light on the pool and deck area.

4.6 Electrical

The local county or municipal building authority shall determine the wiring, grounding and placement of all lighting and electrical equipment.

4.7 Ventilation

All pool equipment and chemical feeder rooms, indoor spas, bathhouses, dressing rooms, shower rooms and toilet spaces shall be ventilated adequately either by natural or mechanical means or a combination of natural and mechanical means.

4.8 Ladders, Stairs and Recessed Steps or Treads

- A. Spa ladders, stairs, recessed steps or stairs shall be provided where spa depth exceeds twenty-four (24) inches.
- B. There shall be at least one ladder, set of recessed steps or stairway for each fifty (50) feet of spa perimeter or fraction thereof.

- C. Ladder treads, recessed step surfaces and stairs shall have slip resistant surfaces.
- D. Ladders and recessed steps shall be provided with two (2) handrails.
- E. Stairs shall be provided with at least one (1) handrail.
- F. Recessed steps shall drain into the pool.
- G. Step treads shall have a minimum unobstructed horizontal tread depth of ten (10) inches and a minimum unobstructed surface area of two-hundred-forty (240) square inches.
- H. The first tread shall not exceed twelve (12) inches from the deck surface.

4.9 Decks

- A. A four (4) feet continuous unobstructed deck shall be provided around at least 50% of the spa.
- B. Deck Material and Slope, see Section 3.6.3.

7.5 Overflow Systems

- 5.1 All public spas shall be operated with a continuous overflow through surface skimmers.
- 5.2 One surface skimmer shall be provided for each one-hundred-fifty (150) square feet or fraction thereof of the spa's water surface area.
- 5.3 When two or more skimmers are used in a spa, they shall be located so as to maintain effective skimmer action over the surface area of the spa.

7.6 Circulation System for Spas

- 6.1 Public spas shall have circulation systems, filtration systems with piping, pumps, filters, disinfection and other equipment that maintains spa water quality in accordance with Appendix B.
- 6.2 The system of pumps, filters, disinfection facilities and other equipment shall be of adequate size to re-circulate, filter and disinfect the entire volume of spa water within thirty (30) minutes or forty-eight (48) times in a twenty-four (24) hour period.
- 6.3 Public spa circulation systems shall be separate from companion swimming pools.

7.7 Spa Inlets and Outlets

7.1 Spa inlets and outlets shall be provided, sized and arranged to produce a uniform circulation of water so as to maintain a uniform disinfectant residual throughout the pool.

7.2 At least one outlet shall be provided at the lowest point of the spa floor to drain the entire floor area.

7.3 The total velocity through the outlet grate opening shall not exceed two (2) feet/second.

7.4 Drain Covers, see Section 4.8.B.

7.5 Fill spouts with air gaps shall be located beside grab rails or properly shielded so as not to create a hazard. The open end shall have no sharp edges and shall not protrude more than two (2) inches beyond the edge of the spa.

7.6 Inlets

A. One wall inlet shall be provided for each twenty (20) feet of perimeter. A minimum of two (2) wall inlets shall be provided.

B. The return line supplying treated water to the spa inlets shall loop the perimeter of the spa.

7.8 Piping

The local municipal or county plumbing department shall be the final authority in all installation of piping.

7.9 Pumps

See Section 4.3 for public pools.

7.10 Filters

See Section 4.2 for public pools.

7.11 Disinfectant and Chemical Feeders

See Section 5 for public pools.

7.12 Air Induction Systems

12.1 Air induction systems, when provided, shall totally prevent water back-up that would cause electrical shock hazards.

12.2 Air intake sources shall be designed and positioned to minimize contaminants (such as deck water, dirt, etc.) from being introduced into the spa.

7.13 Meters and Gauges

13.1 A flowmeter shall be installed in all circulation systems. Such meters shall:

- A. Measure flow in gallons per minute.
- B. Be mounted as recommended by the manufacturer.
- C. Be located so as to be easily read.
- D. Be located so as to indicate flow both on filtration and on backwash cycles with sand filters.

13.2 Influent and Effluent Gauges

Pressure gauges and/or compound gauges shall be installed on the inlet and outlet of the filter.

7.14 Bathhouses and Sanitary Facilities

These are the same requirements as Section 8 for public pools. If the spa is operated in conjunction with a companion facility, a bathhouse common to both facilities shall be acceptable provided the requirements for bathhouses are met.

7.15 Water Supply

The water supply shall be of drinking water quality from an approved source.

7.16 Water Quality Parameters and Testing Frequency

See Appendix B.

7.17 Testing Equipment

All public spas shall have functional test kits or equipment for measuring pH, chlorine concentration or concentration of other approved disinfectant, total alkalinity, turbidity and cyanuric acid if stabilized chlorine is used.

7.18 Operation and Maintenance

- A. Operators of public spas shall be thoroughly knowledgeable on good practices of the spa operation and with the laws and rules pertaining to public spas. If at any time testing indicates that the spa water does not conform with the requirements, the spa operator shall immediately close the spa to the public until the requirements are satisfied.

- B. All parts and facilities of public spas and bathhouses shall be kept clean, in good repair and free of safety hazards.

7.19 Records

- 19.1 Operators of public spas shall keep records pertaining to the operation and maintenance of the pool and shall make them available to the Health Officer upon request.
- 19.2 Such records shall be maintained daily during the period when the pool is open and shall be retained by the operator. All such records shall be retained for a period of twelve (12) months.
- 19.3 Records shall include at least the following:
 - A. Results of daily tests described in Appendix B.
 - B. Date and time of filter backwash.
 - C. Dates that the pool was emptied and/or cleaned.
 - D. Periods of circulation equipment malfunction and repair.
 - E. Date and time of superchlorination.

7.20 Safety

- 20.1 The operator of any public spa shall report in writing to the Health Department, within seven (7) days of the occurrence, any drowning, other death or serious injury occurring on the spa's premises.
- 20.2 Lifeguards, spa operators and managers shall enforce the following rules at all public spa pools:
 - A. Non-swimmers and children under fourteen (14) years of age shall not use the spa unless a lifeguard or a responsible adult observer is present.
 - B. Bathers shall take cleansing showers before entering the spa.
 - C. No person suffering from a communicable disease transmissible via water or impaired by an intoxicating liquor or drug shall use the pool.
- 20.3 Circulation pumps and heater thermostat switches shall be inaccessible to bathers.
- 20.4 All public spas shall post a sign at the entrance to the spa enclosure as indicated in Appendix D.

SECTION 8
BATHHOUSES

8.1 Bathroom Layout

Bathhouses should be considered an essential part of the swimming pool, spa or public bathing facility. Bathhouses and dressing rooms should be arranged so that the entrance from the outside will be to the dressing room and bathers must pass the toilets and showers before entering the pool enclosure at the shallow end.

8.2 Dressing Rooms

A. Adequate dressing and sanitary plumbing facilities shall be provided for Class A and B pools. Bathhouses shall be provided with dressing and sanitary facilities separate for each sex. The rooms shall be well lighted, drained, ventilated and of good construction with impervious materials in general, finished in light colors and so developed and planned that good sanitation can be maintained throughout the building at all times.

B. The minimum criteria for bathroom plumbing facilities shall be based upon the maximum bather load. A covered waste container must be provided for the female toilet area. The number of facilities will be determined by the county or municipal plumbing and building codes. However, the minimum sanitary plumbing facilities shall be provided as follows:

Number of fixtures	Male	Toilets		Urinals	Lavatory	Showers
		Male	Female	(Males)	Per Sex	Per Sex
One	1-99	1-99	1-99	1-99	1-99	1-99
Two	99-199	99-199	99-199	99-199	99-199	99-199

8.3 Hose Bibbs

Hose bibbs shall be provided for washing down the dressing rooms and bathroom interior.

8.4 Floors

4.1 Floors of all dressing rooms and bathhouses shall be constructed of impervious material, slightly roughened and shall be adequately sloped to floor drains. Design of bathroom appurtenances and floor drains shall be such as to ensure easy flushing of the entire floor and quick removal of any water on the floor. Floor drains shall be provided to ensure positive drainage from all parts of the

building with a slope in the floor of not less than one-fourth ($\frac{1}{4}$) inch per foot toward the drains.

4.2 No differences in elevation requiring steps shall be provided in the interior dressing areas. Any steps that are necessary from the bathhouse floor to pool decks, shall be positively non-slip. All partitions between portions of the dressing room area, screen partitions, shower, toilet and dressing room booths shall be of durable materials not subject to damage by water and shall be so designed that a waterway is provided between the partitions and floor to permit thorough cleaning of the floor area with hoses and brooms.

8.5 Water Supplied to Shower Heads

Tempered water only shall be provided to shower heads. The water heater and thermostatic mixing valve shall be inaccessible to bathers and shall be capable of providing two (2) gpm of 90° F water to each shower head.

8.6 Soap Dispensers

Soap dispensers for providing either liquid or powdered soap shall be provided at each lavatory and at each shower head. Dispensers must be of non-breakable type. No glass will be permitted in these units.

8.7 Mirrors

Mirrors shall be of non-breakable material.

8.8 Toilet Tissue

Toilet tissue holders and tissue shall be provided at each toilet facility.

8.9 Water

All water provided for drinking fountains, lavatories and showers shall be potable and shall conform with all requirements and standards of the Health Department.

SECTION 9

SAFETY AND SANITARY CONTROL

9.1 Lifesaving Equipment

Readily accessible lifesaving equipment that meets the specifications hereinafter listed shall be provided at all swimming pools:

- A. One unit of lifesaving equipment shall consist of: 1) One ring buoy not more than fifteen (15) inches in diameter or a similar flotation device to which shall be attached a one-fourth ($\frac{1}{4}$) inch diameter rope with a length of one and one-half ($1\frac{1}{2}$) times the width of the pool or fifty (50) feet, whichever is less. 2) One shepherd's crook or life pole having blunted ends with a minimum length of twelve (12) feet.
- B. Not less than one unit of equipment, as listed above, shall be provided at every swimming pool. One unit shall be presumed to be adequate for two-thousand (2000) square feet of water surface area of the swimming pool and one additional unit shall be provided for each additional two-thousand (2000) square feet or fraction thereof of water surface area.
- C. Life-saving equipment shall be located in conspicuous places, distributed around the swimming pool, at lifeguard platforms or chairs or other easily accessible locations.

9.2 Fence and Enclosures

All swimming pools located outdoors shall be protected by a fence, wall, building or other enclosure or any combination thereof which completely encloses the swimming pool area so that all of the following conditions are complied with:

- A. A four (4) feet minimum height is provided entirely around the swimming pool.
- B. The height of any opening under the bottom of the enclosure shall not exceed two (2) inches.
- C. All gates and doors shall be equipped with self-closing and positive self-latching closure mechanisms which shall be located at a height of at least forty-five (45) inches and shall be equipped with permanent locking devices.

9.3 Equipment Enclosure

All filters, pumps, chemical feeding apparatus and other mechanical equipment shall be secured and protected from access by unauthorized personnel by an appropriate enclosure separate and apart from the enclosure of the swimming pool.

9.4 Rules and Warnings to be Posted

- A. Suitable placards stating pool rules and instructions shall be conspicuously posted in the pool area. See Appendix E.
- B. Where no lifeguard service is provided, a warning sign must be placed in plain view and must state “**Warning-No Lifeguard On Duty**” in clearly legible letters at least four (4) inches high. In addition this sign must also state in four (4) inch letters, “**Children must not use the pool without an adult in attendance.**”

9.5 Food and Concessions

- A. Food or drink vending machine installations shall be limited to a designated area defined by a barrier, fence, enclosure, etc. and in each case shall be installed at a minimum distance of ten (10) feet from the pool deck edge or perimeter.
- B. Concession stands shall be located, operated and maintained in a manner that will prevent pool water adulteration by foods, drinks, etc.

9.6 Visitor and Spectator Areas

Whenever visitor or spectator areas are provided at swimming pools, there shall be an absolute separation between those areas and the area used by bathers. Separate toilets shall be provided for visitors and spectators.

9.7 Diseased Persons

No person with evidence of having any infectious or communicable disease shall be allowed in a pool or pool area, bathing place or bathhouse.

9.8. Bathing Suits and Towels

Bathing suits and towels provided by the pool management shall be properly laundered before each use. Acceptable equipment shall be provided for servicing the items, if cleaned on the premises.

9.9 Algae Accumulations

Walls and floors of pools and surrounding walks, scum gutters and skimmer inlets shall be kept free of algae and other accumulations.

9.10 Frequency of Cleaning Pool

All swimming pools shall be cleaned and vacuumed daily.

9.11 Animals Excluded

- A. No dogs or other animals shall be allowed in the pool area, dressing rooms or other parts of the pool enclosure.
- B. Guide dogs wearing a harness may enter the pool area and dressing rooms, but are prohibited from entering the pool.

9.12 Operation Reports and Records

- A. Operators of public pools shall be thoroughly knowledgeable on good practices of the pool operation and with the laws and rules pertaining to public pools. If at any time testing indicates that the pool water does not conform with the requirements, the pool operator shall immediately close the pool to the public until the requirements are satisfied.
- B. Operation reports consisting of a written record of all operations influencing sanitation of the pool shall be maintained daily and shall be available for inspection at all times.

Operators of public pools shall keep records pertaining to the operation and maintenance of the pool and shall make them available to the Health Officer upon request.

Such records shall be maintained daily during the period when the pool is open and shall be retained by the operator. All such records shall be retained for a period of twelve (12) months.

- C. Records shall include at least the following:
 - 1. Results of daily tests described in Appendix A.
 - 2. Date and time of filter backwash.
 - 3. Dates that the pool was emptied and/or cleaned.
 - 4. Periods of circulation equipment malfunction and repair.
 - 5. Date and time of superchlorination.

9.13 Report of Death or Injury

The operator of any public pool shall report in writing to the Health Department within seven (7) days of the occurrence any drowning, other death or serious injury occurring on the pool's premises.

9.14 Telephone Accessibility

A telephone shall be located so that it is accessible to bathers, spectators and visitors with the names and phone numbers of the nearest police, fire, ambulance service or rescue unit and/or 911 (if available).

PUBLIC SWIMMING POOL**WATER QUALITY PARAMETERS AND TESTING FREQUENCY**

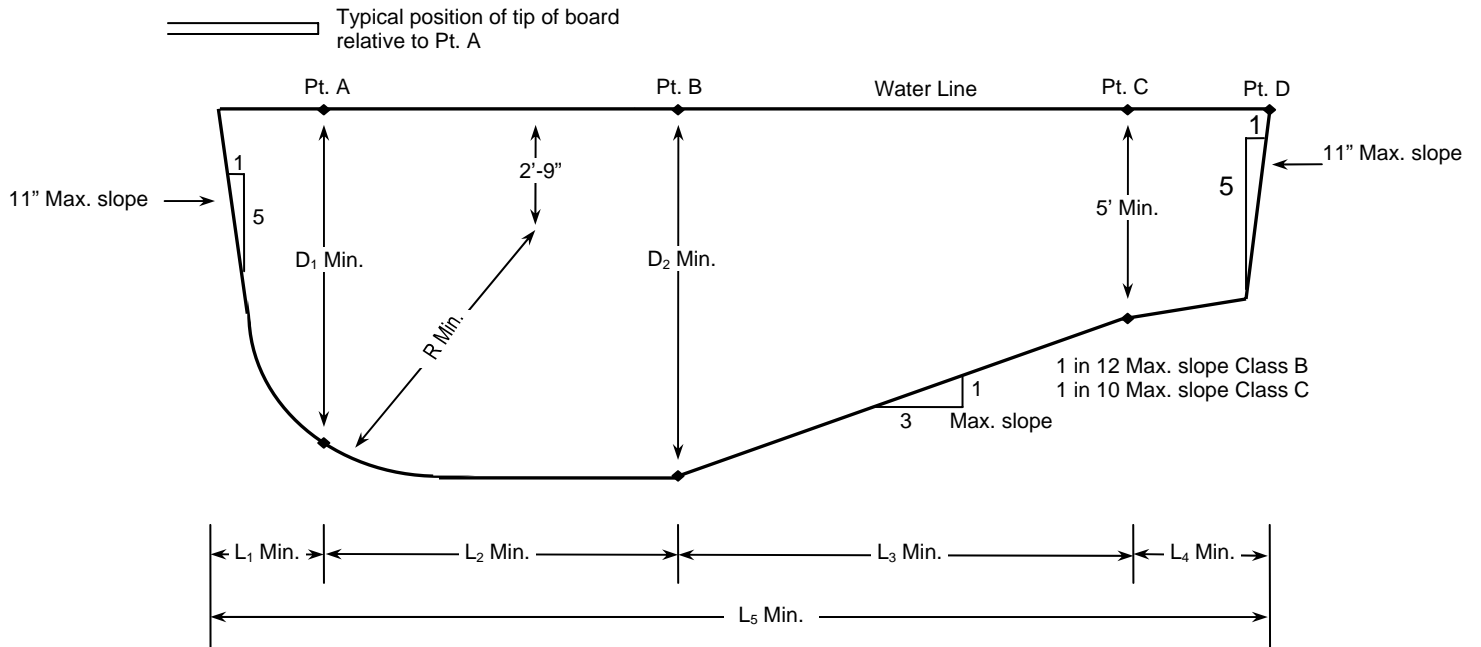
<u>PARAMETERS</u>	<u>MIN.</u>	<u>IDEAL</u>	<u>MAX.</u>	<u>FREQUENCY</u>
Chlorine	1.0 ppm	1.0-3.0 ppm	3.0 ppm	Twice daily
Bromine (if used)	2.0 ppm	2.0-4.0 ppm	4.0 ppm	Twice daily
pH	7.2	7.4-7.6	7.8	Twice daily
Total Alkalinity As CaCO ³	60 ppm	80-120 ppm	180 ppm	
Cyanuric acid (if used)	10 ppm	30-50 ppm	150 ppm	
Calcium hardness (recommended)	100 ppm		200 ppm	
Water Temperature		78°-82° F		
Total dissolved solids			1550 ppm	
Turbidity (water clarity)	Measured by using a six (6) inch black on white disk readily visible or the main drain cover is clearly visible.			Hourly
Bacteria	NOTE: It is not required that this parameter be checked routinely, but shall be monitored at the discretion of the Health Department.			

PUBLIC SPA**WATER QUALITY PARAMETERS AND TESTING FREQUENCY**

<u>PARAMETERS</u>	<u>MIN.</u>	<u>IDEAL</u>	<u>MAX.</u>	<u>FREQUENCY</u>
Chlorine	2.0 ppm	3.0-5.0 ppm	10.0 ppm	Hourly
Bromine (if used)	2.0 ppm	4.0-6.0 ppm	10.0 ppm	Hourly
pH	7.2	7.4-7.6	7.8	Hourly
Total Alkalinity As CaCO ³	60 ppm	80-120 ppm	180 ppm	
Cyanuric acid (if used)	10 ppm	30-50 ppm	150 ppm	
Calcium hardness (recommended)	100 ppm	150-250 ppm	800 ppm	
Water Temperature			104° F	
Total dissolved solids			1550 ppm	
Turbidity (water clarity)	Measured by using a six (6) inch black on white disk readily visible at the deepest point of the spa or the main drain cover is clearly visible.			Hourly
Bacteria	NOTE: It is not required that this parameter be checked routinely, but shall be monitored at the discretion of the Health Department.			

THE DIMENSIONS OF THE DIVING AREA ON ALL SWIMMING POOLS

The dimensions of the diving area on public swimming pools used for diving shall conform to the following minimum dimensions:



NOTE: L₄ is a minimum dimension to allow sufficient length opposite the board. This may be lengthened to form the shallow portion of the pool.

LENGTHS

Height of Diving Board	Water Depths		Overhang	Length of Diving Well	Run-Out	
	D-0	D-1			minimum	minimum
H	D-0	D-1	L ₁	L ₂	L ₃	L ₄
Deck Level to 2 ft	6 ft	8.5 ft	3 ft	12 ft	10.5 ft	7 ft
2 ft to 1 m	6 ft	10 ft	5 ft	12 ft	15 ft	2 ft
Above 1 m to 3 m	8 ft	12 ft	5 ft	13 ft	21 ft	0 ft

STOP!

**ALL PERSONS ARE REQUIRED TO TAKE A CLEANSING
SHOWER BEFORE ENTERING THE SPA**

CAUTION!

**ELDERLY PERSONS OR THOSE SUFFERING FROM HEART
DISEASE, DIABETES OR HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE SHOULD
CONSULT THEIR PHYSICIAN BEFORE USING THE SPA**

**NO PERSON SUFFERING FROM A COMMUNICABLE DISEASE,
TRANSMISSIBLE VIA WATER, SHALL USE THE SPA**

**PERSONS USING PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS SHOULD
CONSULT THEIR PHYSICIAN BEFORE USING THE SPA**

**PERSONS UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL ARE NOT TO
USE THE SPA**

NO PERSON SHALL USE THE SPA ALONE

**PREGNANT WOMEN SHOULD NOT USE THE SPA WITHOUT
CONSULTING THEIR PHYSICIANS**

**PERSONS SHOULD SPEND NO MORE THAN 15 MINUTES IN
THE SPA AT ANY ONE SESSION WITHOUT LOWERING THE TEMPERATURE OF THE
WATER BELOW 104° F**

**ALL CHILDREN SHALL BE
ACCOMPANIED BY RESPONSIBLE ADULTS**

**NO PERSON SHALL RUN OR ENGAGE IN
BOISTEROUS BEHAVIOR IN OR AROUND THE SPA**

**A TELEPHONE FOR EMERGENCY USE WITH NAMES AND PHONE
NUMBERS OF THE NEAREST RESCUE UNIT IS LOCATED AT THE
ENTRANCE TO THE SPA.**

Signs shall be a minimum of 24" x 18" with letters at least 3/4" in height.

RULES FOR USE OF POOL

- 1) **No running or boisterous behavior.**
- 2) **No glass containers or articles in the pool area or on the deck.**
- 3) **No animals in the pool area except assistance animals on leashes.**
- 4) **No animals in the pool.**
- 5) **Keep food, drink, containers, wrappers or other foreign objects out of the pool.**
- 6) **Swim suits only. No cut-off jeans or other articles of clothing.**
- 7) **No hanging on the Rope and Float.**
- 8) **No playing with lifesaving equipment or on lifeguard stand.**
- 9) **CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY ADULTS.**

A TELEPHONE FOR EMERGENCY USE WITH NAMES AND PHONE NUMBERS OF THE NEAREST RESCUE UNIT IS LOCATED AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE POOL.

POOL HOURS

8:00—10:00 SUNDAY-THURSDAY

8:00—11:00 FRIDAY-SATURDAY

These are *suggested rules*. Others may be added at the discretion of the owner or manager.

WARNING!

**NO LIFEGUARD ON DUTY
SWIM AT YOUR OWN RISK**

CHILDREN SHALL NOT USE THE POOL WITHOUT RESPONSIBLE
ADULTS IN ATTENDANCE!

These are *suggested warning signs*. Others may be added at the discretion of the owner or manager.

Mobile County Health Department gratefully acknowledge the reference material and information received from the following:

American National Standards Institute

National Spa and Pool Institute

Alabama Department of Public Health

The Jefferson County Health Department

The Baldwin County Health Department

The Tennessee Department of Public Health

The Florida Department of Public Health

The St. Louis, Missouri Department of Health

The National Sanitation Foundation

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention