

**CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS**  
**TITLE 22. SOCIAL SECURITY**  
**DIVISION 4. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH**  
**CHAPTER 20. PUBLIC SWIMMING POOLS**

**§ 65501. Definitions.**

(a) "Ancillary Facility" means any area used in conjunction with or for the operation of a public pool, including, but not limited to, public dressing rooms, lockers, shower or bathroom areas, drinking fountains, equipment rooms, pool deck areas, pool enclosures, or building spaces, that is intended to be used by pool users.

(b) "Clean Pool Water" means public pool water maintained free of dirt, oils, scum, algae, floating debris, or visible organic and inorganic materials that would pollute the water.

(c) "Communicable Disease" means an illness caused by an infectious agent or its toxins that occurs through the direct or indirect transmission of the infectious agent or its products from an infected individual or via an animal, vector, or the inanimate environment to a susceptible animal or human host.

(d) "Clear Pool Water" means public pool water that is free from cloudiness and is transparent.

(e) "Enforcing Agent" means the local health officer, director of environmental health, registered environmental health specialist, environmental health specialist trainee, or an inspector of the State Department of Public Health.

(f) "Pool Operator" means the pool owner or a person the pool owner delegates to conduct public pool operation and maintenance. The public pool owner may delegate pool operator responsibilities to another person, but the pool owner shall retain responsibility for ensuring compliance with these regulations.

(g) "Pool User" means a person using a public pool or ancillary facilities for the purpose of participating in or watching pool users engaged in water activities such as diving, swimming, or wading.

(h) "Public Pool" means any public swimming pool, public bathhouse, public swimming place, and public bathing place that is or includes an artificial basin, chamber, or tank constructed or prefabricated with impermeable surfaces and such pools, bathhouses, and places are used or intended to be used for public swimming, diving, or recreational water activities. "Public

Pool" does not include individual therapeutic tubs or baths where the main purpose is cleaning of the body.

(i) "Public Pool Sites" means all public pools, ancillary facilities, and water treatment systems at the public pool premises.

(j) "Recirculation System" means the system of hydraulic components designed to remove, filter, disinfect, and return water to the public pool.

(k) "Spa" means a public pool that incorporates a water jet system, an aeration system, or a combination of the two systems used in conjunction with heated water.

(l) "Special Purpose Pool" means a public pool constructed exclusively for a specific purpose, such as instruction, diving, or medical treatment.

(m) "Splash Zone" means the maximum distance the water from a spray ground can project horizontally.

(n) "Spray Ground" means a public pool with no standing water in the splash zone and consists of a surge basin with a recirculation system from which water is directed through water features for contact with pool users.

(o) "Surge Basin" means a reservoir or surge trench open to the atmosphere that receives water via gravity flow from the main drain, spray ground, or perimeter overflow system and from which the recirculation system operates.

(p) "Wading Pool" means a public pool intended to be used for wading by small children and having a maximum water depth of 18 inches (457 mm) at the deepest point.

(q) "Water Feature" means an interactive device or structure such as a water fountain, water spray, dancing water jet, waterfall, dumping bucket, or shooting water cannon through which water is directed at the pool user.

(r) "Water Treatment System" means all materials and equipment related to disinfection, water quality, recirculation, and filtration.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 116050, 131052 and 131200, Health and Safety Code.

Reference: Sections 116025, 116035, 116043, 116050 and 116055, Health and Safety Code.

**§ 65503. Scope.**

(a) The provisions of this Chapter shall apply to all public pools and public pool sites, including, but not limited to:

- (1) Amusement park pools.
- (2) Apartment house pools.
- (3) Bed and breakfast inn pools.
- (4) Campground pools.
- (5) Club pools.
- (6) Commercial pools.
- (7) Condominium pools.
- (8) Health or fitness club pools.
- (9) Homeowner association pools.
- (10) Hotel pools.
- (11) Licensed day care facility pools.
- (12) Medical facility pools.
- (13) Mineral springs pools.
- (14) Motel pools.
- (15) Municipal pools.
- (16) Public or private school pools.
- (17) Recreational vehicle or mobile home park pools.
- (18) Resort pools.
- (19) Special purpose pools.
- (20) Spray grounds.
- (21) Swim school pools.
- (22) Water park pools.
- (23) Wave pools.



(b) Mineral springs pools that meet the fresh water flow exception standard in section 3123B.1, Title 24, California Code of Regulations (CCR), must comply with all the public pool standards in this chapter except for continuous public pool disinfection requirements in section 65529, if monthly bacteriological water-quality standards are met according to section 65531. Mineral springs pools that do not meet the fresh water flow exception standard in section 3123B.1, Title 24, CCR, shall comply with all public pool standards in this chapter and Title 24, CCR.

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

- (1) Dressing rooms.
- (2) Drinking fountains.
- (3) Fencing and enclosures.
- (4) Locker rooms.
- (5) Pool decks.
- (6) Safety equipment.
- (7) Shower rooms.
- (8) Toilet facilities.
- (9) Water treatment systems.

(d) A private pool is any constructed pool, permanent or portable, that is intended for use by occupants of not more than three residential units. Private pools are not public pools for the provisions of this chapter.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 116035, 116050, 131052 and 131200, Health and Safety Code.  
Reference: Sections 116025 and 116043, Health and Safety Code.

#### **§ 65511. Inspection.**

Except after seasonal closures, the enforcing agent shall give written approval before a public pool may be placed in operation.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 116050 and 131200, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Sections 116035, 116050 and 116055, Health and Safety Code.

## **§ 65521. Public Pool Supervision and Operation.**

- (a) Every public pool shall be under the supervision of a pool operator.
- (b) The pool operator shall maintain pool operating procedures at the public pool site for use by the pool operator and for inspection by the enforcing agent.
- (c) The pool operator shall maintain manufacturers' instructions for the operation and maintenance for all mechanical and electrical equipment and water treatment systems at the public pool site for use by the pool operator and for inspection by the enforcing agent.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 116050 and 131200, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Sections 116035, 116040 and 116043, Health and Safety Code.

## **§ 65523. Operation Records.**

- (a) Except as provided in Health and Safety Code, section 116048, the pool operator of every public pool open for use at a public pool site shall test the disinfectant residual and pH of the public pool water a minimum of once per day. The pool operator shall also test heated pools' water temperature a minimum of once per day. The pool operator may perform these daily tests using a properly calibrated automatic chemical monitoring and control system if approved by the enforcing agent and in accordance with the manufacturer's equipment specifications for calibration and directions for proper use. The pool operator shall maintain a written daily record of all test results, equipment readings, calibrations, and corrective action taken at the public pool site.
- (b) If the pool operator adds cyanuric acid to a public pool, the pool operator shall measure the cyanuric acid concentration in that pool a minimum of once per month and shall maintain a written record of these test results and all corrective action taken at the public pool site.
- (c) The pool operator shall test combined chlorine at a frequency required to maintain maximum combined chlorine concentrations below 0.4 ppm. The pool operator shall maintain a written record of these test results and all corrective action taken at the public pool site.
- (d) The pool operator shall maintain a written record of routine maintenance and repairs to the public pool at the public pool site.
- (e) If a fecal, vomit, blood contamination, near-drowning, or drowning incident occurs in a pool, the pool operator shall record the incident in accordance with the requirements of section 65546 and shall identify the affected public pool in the incident record if there is more than one pool at the public pool site. This record shall be maintained at the public pool site.

(f) The pool operator shall maintain data and records collected pursuant to subdivisions (a), (b), (c), (d), and (e) for at least two years for inspection by the enforcing agent and shall submit all data and records to the enforcing agent upon the agent's request.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 116048, 116050 and 131200, Health and Safety Code.  
Reference: Sections 116035, 116040, 116043, 116050 and 116055, Health and Safety Code.

#### **§ 65525. Recirculation and Water Treatment System Operation.**

(a) The pool operator shall operate pumps, filters, disinfectant and chemical feeders, flow indicators, gauges, recirculation systems, disinfection systems, and all parts of the water treatment system whenever the public pool is available for use, and at such additional times and periods as may be necessary to maintain clean pool water, clear pool water, and the disinfection standards required in section 65529.

(b) The variation in flow rate of an operating recirculation system shall be such as not to reduce the flow below 75 percent of the rate required in section 3124B, Title 24, California Code of Regulations.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 116050 and 131200, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Sections 116040, 116043 and 116050, Health and Safety Code.

#### **§ 65527. Water Clarity.**

The pool operator shall maintain clear pool water while the public pool is in use. The pool operator shall close the public pool if the bottom of the pool at the maximum depth is not clearly visible from the deck. The pool operator shall not reopen the public pool for use until the pool water is clean and clear, and the bottom of the pool at the maximum depth is clearly visible from the deck. If the bottom of the pool is not visible 48 hours following inspection and closure by the enforcing agent, the enforcing agent may order the pool drained.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 116035, 116050 and 131200, Health and Safety Code.  
Reference: Sections 116040, 116043, 116050, 116053, and 116055, Health and Safety

#### **§ 65529. Public Pool Disinfection.**

(a) Public pools, when open or in use, shall be disinfected continuously by a chemical that imparts a disinfectant at concentrations consistent with subdivision (b) of this section. If halogens other than chlorine are used, residuals of equivalent strength shall be maintained.



(b) The minimum and maximum concentrations of disinfectant residuals in public pool water shall be:

	Free-Chlorine Residual				Bromine Residual	
	Without CYA		With CYA			
	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max
Public Pools*	1.0 ppm	10.0 ppm	2.0 ppm	10.0 ppm	2.0 ppm	--
Public Spas, Wading Pools, and Spray Grounds	3.0 ppm	10.0 ppm	3.0 ppm	10.0 ppm	4.0 ppm	--

CYA = cyanuric acid; Min = minimum; Max= maximum; ppm= parts per million.

\*This includes all public pools except spas, wading pools, and spray grounds.

(c) In addition to the requirements in subdivisions (a) and (b), a spray ground and water features with an ultraviolet light disinfection system shall be disinfected continuously at a minimum of 40 mJ/cm<sup>2</sup> by the ultraviolet light disinfection units while the spray ground and water features are in use. If the ultraviolet dosage rate drops below 40 mJ/cm<sup>2</sup> the operator shall close the spray ground and water features.

(d) The enforcing agent may accept other disinfecting materials or methods after the pool operator has demonstrated to the enforcing agent that the materials or methods provide a readily measurable disinfectant residual in the public pool. The pool operator shall demonstrate to the enforcing agent that such materials or methods are at least as effective as the required chlorine concentration and do not have adverse physiological effects on pool users.

(e) The pool operator shall maintain a test kit for measuring the disinfectant residual, pH, and, if used, cyanuric acid concentration at the public pool. This test kit shall be available for use by the pool operator and the enforcing agent at all times the public pool is in use. The chlorine or bromine test kit shall be the diethyl-p-phenylenediamine (DPD) type or otherwise be capable of testing free-halogen residual. Chlorine test kits shall be capable of testing for free chlorine and total chlorine, such that combined chlorine concentrations can be determined.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 116035, 116050 and 131200, Health and Safety Code.

Reference: Sections 116035, 116040, 116043, 116050 and 116055, Health and Safety Code.

**§ 65530. Public Pool Water Characteristics.**

The pool operator shall maintain public pool water characteristics within the following ranges:

	Minimum	Maximum
pH	7.2	7.8
Cyanuric Acid Concentration	0.0 ppm	100.0 ppm
Combined Chlorine Concentration	0.0 ppm	0.4 ppm
Pool Water Temperature	Not applicable	104° F

ppm = parts per million.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 116035, 116050 and 131200, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Sections 116035, 116040, 116043 and 116050, Health and Safety Code.

**§ 65531. Public Pool Water and Indoor Air Quality Standards.**

(a) The pool operator shall maintain microbiological water quality standards in each public pool at the site as follows:

(1) Standard Plate Count (Heterotrophic Plate): The number of colony forming units (CFU) shall not exceed 200 colonies per milliliter.

(2) Total Coliform:

(A) If the multiple-tube fermentation method is used, the most probable number (MPN) shall be less than 2.2 per 100 milliliters.

(B) If the membrane filtration technique is used, the number of coliform organisms shall be less than one colony per 100 milliliters.



(C) If an enzyme substrate method including Idexx Colilert-18 is used, an MPN shall be less than or equal to one per 100 milliliters.

(b) Chemical quality of public pool water and indoor air quality at the public pool site and ancillary facilities shall not cause adverse physiological effects, such as irritation of the eyes, lungs, or skin of the pool users.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 116035, 116050 and 131200, Health and Safety Code.

Reference: Sections 116035, 116040, 116043 and 116050, Health and Safety Code.

### **§ 65533. Public Pool Cleanliness.**

(a) The pool operator shall maintain clean pool water while the public pool is in use. The pool operator shall not allow debris, including, but not limited to, floating scum, sputum, trash, or leaves, to accumulate in the public pool. The pool operator shall ensure that water levels are maintained and operated to remove such material continuously through the pool skimming system in accordance with section 3136B, Title 24, California Code of Regulations.

(b) The pool operator shall clean the bottom, sides, and other surfaces of the public pool as often as necessary to keep the bottom, sides, and public pool surfaces clean and free of slime and algae.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 116035, 116050 and 131200, Health and Safety Code.

Reference: Sections 116035, 116040, 116043 and 116050, Health and Safety Code.

### **§ 65534. Animals.**

Animals shall not be permitted in the public pool or ancillary facilities except as provided in Civil Code sections 54, 54.1, and 54.2.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 116035, 116050 and 131200, Health and Safety Code.

Reference: Sections 54, 54.1 and 54.2, Civil Code; and Sections 116035, 116040 and 116043, Health and Safety Code.

### **§ 65535. Public Pool Site Maintenance.**

The pool operator shall keep all parts of the public pool site well-maintained, including, but not limited to, the public pools, water treatment systems, ancillary facilities, signs, showers, toilets,

dressing facilities, drinking fountains, diaper-changing stations, floors, walls, partitions, doors, and lockers.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 116035, 116050 and 131200, Health and Safety Code.

Reference: Sections 116040, 116043 and 116050, Health and Safety Code.

#### **§ 65537. Swimsuits, Towels, Caps, and Protective Head Gear.**

The pool operator shall have all swimsuits and towels furnished by the pool operator laundered and after each use, and the pool operator shall have all reusable swimming caps and protective head gear furnished by the pool operator cleaned after each usage.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 116035, 116050 and 131200, Health and Safety Code.

Reference: Sections 116040 and 116043, Health and Safety Code.

#### **§ 65539. Lifesaving and Control of Public Pool Users.**

(a) If the pool operator provides lifeguard services, they shall be provided in accordance with Health and Safety Code sections 116028, 116033, and 116045. The pool operator shall ensure that written proof of compliance with the certification requirements of Health and Safety Code sections 116028 and 116033 for each lifeguard is available for inspection by the enforcing agent at the public pool.

(b) Where lifeguard service is provided, the pool operator shall ensure lifeguards maintain continuous surveillance of the pool users.

(c) Lifeguards on duty shall only provide lifeguard services as defined in Health and Safety Code section 116028.

(d) Lifeguards shall wear swimming apparel that clearly identifies them as lifeguards to pool users.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 116035, 116050 and 131200, Health and Safety Code.

Reference: Sections 115952, 116028, 116040 and 116043, Health and Safety Code.

#### **§ 65540. Safety and First Aid Equipment.**

(a) Except for spray grounds without standing water, the pool operator shall ensure that the following safety and first aid equipment is provided and maintained readily visible and available for use at the public pool at all times:

(1) A 17-inch-minimum (exterior diameter) life ring with an attached throw rope with a minimum 3/16-inch diameter. The throw rope shall be of sufficient length to span the maximum width of the public pool and shall be stored in such a way as to prevent kinking or fouling. When rescue without a life ring can be effected from the perimeter of a spa, the enforcing agent may exempt the spa from the requirements of this subdivision.

(2) A 12-foot-minimum fixed-length rescue pole with a permanently attached body hook. For spas, the enforcing agency may approve a shorter length based on the unique configuration of each spa. For spas, the length of the rescue pole shall be of sufficient length to effectuate rescue.

(b) For public pools with lifeguard personnel on duty, the pool operator of each public pool area shall have the following additional safety equipment:

(1) A Red Cross 10-Person Industrial First Aid Kit or the equivalent.

(2) An operating telephone.

(3) A backboard and head immobilizer.

(c) For public pools that exceed 75 feet in length or 50 feet in width, the pool operator shall provide a rescue pole and a life ring on at least two opposing sides of the public pool at centralized locations.

(d) When, in the opinion of the enforcing agent, any public pool is of such size that unaided swimming by lifeguards performing rescue may not offer sufficient protection to pool users, the pool operator shall provide one or more paddle boards or square-sterned boats equipped with oars, oarlocks and life rings as ordered by the enforcing agent.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 116035, 116050 and 131200, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Sections 115950, 115952, 116028, 116040 and 116043, Health and Safety Code.

#### **§ 65541. Health of Employees and Public Pool Users.**

(a) No public pool employee having a communicable disease while in an infectious state shall work in any capacity involving contact with pool users, pool water, or the operation of the pool equipment and ancillary facilities at a public pool unless a current written statement is provided by a licensed physician as prescribed in subdivision (b).

(b) No public pool employee or pool user having a communicable disease while in an infectious state, including, but not limited to, *Cryptosporidium*, giardia, Legionnaires' disease, and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* infection, or while having any symptoms such as a cough, cold sores,

or nasal or ear discharge or when wearing bandages, shall not enter public pool water unless the public pool employee or pool user submits a current written statement to the pool operator, signed by a licensed physician, confirming that the public pool employee or pool user does not present a health hazard to others using the public pool or ancillary facilities.

(c) If two or more lifeguards or pool users at a public pool report within 5 days of each other to the pool operator that they have had diarrhea, the pool operator shall report this to the enforcing agent.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 116035, 116050 and 131200, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Sections 116040, 116043, and 116050, Health and Safety Code.

#### **§ 65545. Public Pool Closure.**

(a) A public pool that is maintained or operated in a manner that creates an unhealthful, unsafe, or unsanitary condition may be closed by the enforcing agent. Unhealthful, unsafe, or unsanitary conditions include, but are not limited to, failure to maintain clean pool water and clear pool water requirements; inadequate disinfection; improper pH; the presence of inhalation hazards; failure to meet microbiological or chemical water-quality standards; missing or broken suction outlet covers; missing or broken pool enclosures, including fencing and gates; hazards to pool users; and any other violation of these regulations identified by the enforcing agent. A public pool shall not be reopened until the unhealthful, unsafe, or unsanitary condition has been rectified and upon specific written approval from the enforcing agent.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 116035, 116050 and 131200, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Sections 116040, 116043, 116050, 116053, 116055, 116060 and 116063, Health and Safety Code.

#### **§ 65546. Fecal, Vomit, Blood Contamination, and Near-Drowning or Drowning Incident Response.**

(a) In responding to a fecal, vomit, blood contamination, near-drowning or drowning incident, the pool operator shall perform the following disinfection procedures:

(1) After a fecal, vomit, blood contamination, near-drowning, or drowning incident, the pool operator shall immediately close the affected public pool to pool users. If the public pool is one of multiple public pools that use the same filtration system, then all interconnected public pools shall be closed to pool users. No one shall be allowed to enter the public pool(s) until the disinfection procedures have been completed.

(2) The pool operator shall remove contaminating material and discharge the contaminating material directly to the sanitary sewer or other approved wastewater-disposal process in



accordance with State or local requirements. The pool operator shall clean and disinfect the item used to remove the contaminating material.

(3) The pool operator shall ensure that the pH of the public pool water is at 7.5 or lower.

(4) The pool operator shall measure and maintain the public pool water temperature at 77°F (25°C) or higher.

(5) The pool operator shall ensure that the filtration system is operating while the public pool reaches and maintains the required free-chlorine concentration during the disinfection process.

(6) The pool operator shall disinfect the public pool water as follows:

(A) If the contaminating material is a formed fecal stool or vomit, the pool operator shall maintain the free-chlorine concentration in the pool at 2 ppm for at least 25 minutes.

(B) If the fecal material is a diarrheal stool, the pool operator shall raise the free-chlorine concentration in the pool to 20 ppm and maintain that concentration for at least 12.75 hours. If that public pool water contains a chlorine stabilizer such as cyanuric acid, the pool operator shall lower the pH to 6.5 and raise the free-chlorine concentration in the public pool to 40 ppm and maintain that concentration for at least 30 hours.

(C) If the contaminating material is blood, the pool operator shall check the free-chlorine concentration in the public pool at the time of the incident. If it is below the required minimum free-chlorine concentration, the pool operator shall immediately close the public pool until the required minimum free-chlorine concentration is achieved.

(7) The pool operator shall test the free-chlorine residual at multiple points to ensure the required free-chlorine concentration is achieved throughout the public pool water for the entire disinfection time.

(8) The pool operator shall replace any affected cartridge filters and shall backwash noncartridge filters after the disinfection process has been completed. The pool operator shall ensure the effluent is discharged directly to the sanitary sewer or other approved wastewater-disposal process in accordance with State or local requirements. The pool operator shall not return the filter backwash water to the pool. The pool operator shall replace the filter media if necessary.

(9) The pool operator shall not allow pool users back into the public pool until the disinfection process has been completed and the free-chlorine concentration and pH of the public pool water have returned to normal operating ranges in accordance with sections 65529 and 65530.

(b) The pool operator shall immediately document each fecal, vomit, blood contamination, drowning, or near-drowning incident and maintain records in accordance with section 65523 as follows:

(1) The date and time of the incident, the affected pool, the available free-chlorine concentrations, pool temperature, and pH at the time of the incident, and facts known about the circumstances and cause of the incident. This information shall also be documented after the pool operator has completed the disinfection process and again when reopening the pool to pool users.

(2) Whether the fecal stool was formed or diarrheal.

(3) The procedures followed in responding to the contamination incident.

(4) The number of pool users in the public pool and the length of time between the occurrence, detection, and resolution of the incident.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 116035, 116050 and 131200, Health and Safety Code.  
Reference: Sections 116040, 116043, 116050, 116053, 116055 and 116063, Health and Safety Code.

#### **§ 65547. Compressed Chlorine Gas Safety Requirements.**

All gas chlorination equipment shall be well maintained and operational at all times in accordance with section 3135B, Title 24, California Code of Regulations.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 116035, 116050 and 131200, Health and Safety Code.  
Reference: Sections 116040, 116043 and 131200, Health and Safety Code.

#### **§ 65551. Cleaning of Ancillary Facilities.**

(a) The pool operator shall keep clean and free of slime, algae, litter, and vermin all ancillary facilities, including, but not limited to, showers, toilets, dressing facilities, drinking fountains, diaper-changing stations, floors, walls, partitions, doors, and lockers.

(b) Except for deck showers, all showers provided for pool users as required by Chapter 31B, Title 24, California Code of Regulations shall have soap in dispensers or containers.

(c) For toilet facilities, toilet tissue, handwashing soap, and paper towels or hot air blowers, shall be provided in permanently installed dispensing devices.

(d) The pool operator shall provide and maintain, in a clean and sanitary condition, a minimum of one waste receptacle in each toilet facility.

(e) Wooden slats, duckboards, and footbaths are prohibited.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 116035, 116050 and 131200, Health and Safety Code.  
Reference: Sections 116040 and 116043, Health and Safety Code.