



# SWIMMING POOL SERVICE TECHNICIAN NEWSLETTER

Los Angeles County - Department of Public Health - Environmental Health - Recreational Waters Program

JULY 15, 2015 Volume 25, Number 1

## TECHNICIAN/APPRENTICE PAYMENT CHANGES

Technicians are probable aware by now of the significant changes in Fiscal Year 2015/16 concerning the Technician/Apprentice Program billing letters. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Environmental Health is now directly billing all of its own accounts. The Technician and Apprentice Technician database have been incorporated into the Environmental Health records application, with each account receiving new identifying numbers. The bad news is that existing account numbers, Technician numbers and Apprentice Technician numbers have been discontinued. The good news is that credit card payments will be accepted online. Please enter the information from your bill and your credit card information on the Environmental Health website at: <https://ehservices.publichealth.lacounty.gov/servlet/guest?service=0&formId=37&saveAction=5>

As always payments may be mailed with a personal check (no second party checks), business check, bank check, or money order. Please make sure that to enclose the billing statement with your payment so the correct account is credited. Cash payments may be made in person to the cashier at 5050 Commerce Drive, Baldwin Park. After the payment is received, a new wallet card will be mailed to each Technician and Apprentice Technician.

Apprentice Technician's will still need to provide confirmation of employment from their Supervising Certified Technician. Since the new billing format is an automated system under control of our Finance Department, Recreational Waters Program will have limited influence over the application. Late payments will now be automatically billed immediately after the due date. Therefore it is important that each Technician and Apprentice Technician pay the yearly fee promptly to avoid a late penalty. As always, notify Recreational Waters immediately of a change in contact telephone number and/or mailing address.

## NEW CERTIFICATION EXAMINATION

A new Swimming Pool Service Technician Examination is now being offered. The new exam draws heavily on the requirements of the California Code of Regulations, Titles 22 and 24 and the Los Angeles County Code, Title 11. All of the questions on the new examination are taken from the study information currently available on the Environmental Health website. A passing score is 70%. The website link can be found at: [http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/EP/rw/rw\\_tech.htm](http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/EP/rw/rw_tech.htm)

## PROPOSED CHANGES TO LA COUNTY CODE, TITLE 11

Recreational Waters Program is currently in discussion with the Los Angeles County Counsel regarding the Apprentice Technician classification. LA County Code, Title 11 states that an Apprentice Technician "may perform the same activities as a swimming pool service technician but only under the direct and immediate supervision and employment of a certified swimming pool service technician." The current law doesn't limit the apprenticeship of an Apprentice Technician. Recreational Waters Program approached County Counsel to consider changing the code to limit apprenticeship to two (2) years only. There are a number of Apprentice Technicians that have remained in that classification for many years and haven't progressed to full Certified Technician status. Recreational Waters believes requiring Apprentice Technicians to advance is more protective of Public Health. However County Counsel's current opinion is that the Apprentice Technician Classification should be discontinued. Apprentice Technician's will be notified when a decision is made.

## **DIARRHEA NOTICE SIGN**

There is a notice making the rounds that states displaying the diarrhea notice sign is only required for new pools. Los Angeles County has reviewed the pertinent law and conferred with other counties in the region. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Environmental Health has concluded that Title 22 requires all public swimming pools to display the diarrhea notice sign. To wit: A sign [in letters not less than 1 inch high] and in a language or diagram shall state “persons having currently active diarrhea or who have had active diarrhea within the previous 14 days shall not be allowed to enter the pool water.” This sign may be posted with all the other required safety signs and not necessarily on the gates or doors leading into the pool area.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Los Angeles County, Environmental Health  
Recreational Waters Program  
5050 Commerce Drive  
Baldwin Park, CA 91706.  
(626) 430-5360  
Monday through Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm  
[rhealth@ph.lacounty.gov](mailto:rhealth@ph.lacounty.gov)

## **CHANGES TO CCR TITLE 22**

Several changes to the California Code of Regulations, Title 22 went into effect on January 1, 2015. The following is a summary of the major changes.

- The pool operator shall test the disinfectant residual and pH a minimum of once per day.
- The pool operator shall measure cyanuric acid concentration a minimum of once per month.
- The pool operator shall test combined chlorine at a frequency required to maintain concentrations below 0.4 ppm.
- The pool operator shall record incidents of fecal, vomit, blood contamination, near-drowning, or drowning.
- Pool records shall be retained for at least two years.
- Free-chlorine residual in a public pool with cyanuric acid is minimum 2.0 ppm.
- Free-chlorine residual in a public spa, wading pool, and spray grounds is minimum 3.0 ppm.
- PH is maximum 7.8.
- Pool water temperature is maximum 104°F.

The entire text of CCR Title 22 can be viewed at the Environmental Health website:

[http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/EP/rw/rw\\_tech.htm](http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/EP/rw/rw_tech.htm)