

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES ♦ DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION BRANCH
RECREATIONAL WATERS PROGRAM
5050 Commerce Drive, Baldwin Park, CA 91706 – (626) 430-5360**

GUIDELINES FOR POOL OPERATORS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Section 65521 requires that every public pool shall be under the supervision of a pool operator. Pool operators in Los Angeles County may test the water and record the test results as required in Title 22, but cannot service the pool and are specifically prohibited from adding chemicals to the pool, unless they are also a Los Angeles County Certified Swimming Pool Service Technician.

Los Angeles County Code Section 11.34.030 requires that all pools shall be maintained by a Certified Swimming Pool Service Technician. The certification process shall be for the purpose of demonstrating knowledge of pool disinfection, filtration, testing procedures, the requirements of law and the safe use of pool chemicals and their effects. The technician shall also demonstrate competency to service, clean, operate and maintain swimming pools and incidental appurtenances.

This document identifies and describes the duties of the pool operator within the County of Los Angeles.

POOL OPERATOR DUTIES

NOTE: Facilities with fewer than 25 units shall test the pool water at least twice a week, not more than 4 days apart. The following daily duties apply to facilities with 25 or more units.

- 1.** On any days that the Certified Swimming Pool Service Technician is not servicing the pool, the pool operator shall test the disinfectant residual and pH of the public pool water at least once a day and shall record the results in the log. For manual testing, the operator shall use an approved DPD testing kit. Inadequate disinfectant and/or pH shall be referred to the Certified Swimming Pool Service Technician for correction.
- 2.** The pool operator shall use an accurate thermometer to determine the temperature of the water in a heated pool at least once a day. The pool operator shall close any pool when the temperature of the water exceeds 104°F. The pool operator shall require that all bathers must exit the pool and shall notify the Certified Swimming Pool Service Technician to correct the temperature.
- 3.** The pool operator may utilize an **approved**, properly calibrated automatic chemical monitoring and control system for these daily measurements. The enforcing agent will evaluate each chemical monitoring and control system for approval prior to being used. The chemical monitoring and control system shall be operated in accordance with the manufacturer's equipment specifications for calibration and directions for proper use.

4. The pool operator shall maintain a written daily record of all test results and equipment readings taken at the public pool site. The records shall be available for review by the enforcing agent and shall be retained for two (2) years at the pool site.

5. The pool operator shall immediately close the pool and require all bathers to exit the pool in the case of an emergency. Examples of an emergency are; Death in the pool, near drowning, fecal accident, vomit or blood in the pool. The pool operator shall notify the Certified Swimming Pool Service Technician whenever there is an emergency situation at the pool. In addition, deaths and near drownings shall be reported to the Recreational Waters Program at: rhealth@ph.lacounty.gov Please provide the date and time of death or near drowning, pool address, approximate age of victim, and any circumstances that contributed to the accident.

RELEVANT CODES

CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE:

116048. Record keeping for common interest development of less than 25 units

(a) On or after January 1, 1987, for public swimming pools in any common interest development, as defined in Section 4100 or 6534 of the Civil Code, that consists of fewer than 25 separate interests, as defined in Section 4185 or 6564 of the Civil Code, the person operating each pool open for use shall be required to keep a record of the information required by subdivision (a) of Section 65523 of Title 22 of the California Administrative Code, except that the information shall be recorded at least two times per week and at intervals no greater than four days apart.

(b) On or after January 1, 1987, any rule or regulation of the department that is in conflict with subdivision (a) is invalid.

CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 22:

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.

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.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CODE, TITLE 11:

11.34.030 Swimming pool service technician—Certification requirements.

A. Every swimming pool service technician and swimming pool service technician apprentice must be certified pursuant to the requirements of this chapter.

B. Persons certified hereunder may lawfully engage in said business or occupation only to the extent permitted pursuant to said certification.

C. Every person required to be certified by the terms hereof, and before engaging in the business or activity shall make application thereof and shall, within time limitations established by rules of the director, become certified.

(Ord. 91-0099 § 4, 1991: Ord. 9375 § 1 (part), 1967: Ord. 8588 § 1 (part), 1964: Ord. 7583 Part 3 Ch. 14 § 1000, 1959.)

11.34.040 Swimming pool service technician—Activities authorized following certification.

A person certified pursuant to this chapter as a swimming pool service technician may engage in the occupation or business of treating or disinfecting swimming pool waters or cleaning, servicing, or maintaining swimming pools or facilities and appurtenances thereof.