

Be PoolSafe

HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY
SWIMMING POOL GUIDELINES 2004

Swimming Pool Operation Reference Tool



SWIMMING POOL OPERATION REFERENCE TOOL

Risk Assessment and Management

Risk management identification and planning systems provide a framework for identifying and managing any hazards in the swimming pool area.

A safety checklist provides guidance on the types of questions that should be asked.

What could go wrong? Why could it go wrong? How can we stop this happening?

It is strongly recommended that Management establish policies for the use of the pool.

The policy should include the rules of the pool, use of equipment, location of amenities and incorporate a pool users code for the behaviour of all pool users, for example:

- Supervision standards;
- Never swimming alone;
- Never swim while under the influence of alcohol or drugs;
- Take additional care if you have a medical condition;
- Dangerous / prohibited behaviour e.g. running, jumping.

Examples can be found at www.poolsafe.org.nz to assist you to develop your own policy.

Pool Water Quality

Efficient mechanical systems and chemical treatment of the water maintains the pool water in a safe and hygienic condition for your guests.

The New Zealand Standard which governs quality of water in swimming pools is NZS 5826:2000. The objective of this standard is to ensure that water in swimming pools is maintained to safe chemical and microbiological levels to:

- Protect swimmers from unsafe bacteria;
- Safeguard swimmers against chemical burns to skin and mucous membranes;
- Minimise the damage to the pool and associated equipment; and
- Have a pool which appears clean and sparkling.

For public pools the operation of the water treatment systems shall be the responsibility of person(s) holding NZQA unit standards in swimming pool water quality. Also that the management of pool water quality shall be under continuous technical supervision and the qualified person(s) shall be readily accessible when the pool is operating.

Contact Standards New Zealand or your local public pool facility for more information.
Phone: 04 498 5990 or www.standards.co.nz

Emergency Procedures

- Establish an EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN
- Ensure all staff are aware of the plan and it's requirements
- Incorporate into your poolside signage for guest's reference.

Contact Water Safety New Zealand for more information
Phone: 04 801 9600 or wsnz@watersafety.org.nz

Supervision

- Children have the right to be protected!
- The only guarantee of this is to prevent them gaining access to your pool without adult supervision.
- The Recommended Aquatic Code of Practise for Child Safety adopted by public pool that states:
 - Children under 8 years are not permitted in swimming pool premises unless supervised by a caregiver at least 16 years old.
 - As this policy has been established for pools with professional life guards on duty it should be the absolute minimum policy for your facilities pool.



Signage

Every pool should have safety signage. Good signage allows for the rules and what to do in the event of an emergency to be clearly displayed for all patrons:

- Rules about jumping, diving, running;
- Who to contact in an emergency;
- First aid kit located;
- Is the pool depth clearly marked?
- Are the pool rules clearly visible and the depth of the pool marked?

