Swimming Pool Operator’s Compliance Guide

Almost every pool will at sometime be confronted with an emergency requiring prompt and efficient handling. Insuring the safety of bathers is a concern that is shared by you and the Town of Greenwich. The following is a brief summary of the safety regulations under which you operate your pool. It is not meant to be totally inclusive nor to supercede any requirements as imposed by regulations.

1. Fencing

A fencing of at least 4 feet in height completely surrounding the pool or property is required. It must have self-closing or self-latching gates.

2. Drinking Fountains

A minimum of one drinking fountain is to be provided within the swimming area.

3. Maximum Permissible Number of Bathers

Calculate your pool’s bather capacity by dividing the number of square feet of water surface area by 25. For a pool 75’ x 30’:

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75’ \times 30’ = 2250 \text{ ft}^2 \quad \text{(pool surface area)}
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\frac{2250 \text{ ft}^2}{25} = 90 \quad \text{(maximum number of bathers)}
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4. Operator’s Records

Maintain daily records of operation including measurements of disinfectant level, pH, maintenance procedures, repairs, etc. As a minimum, disinfectant readings must be taken prior to opening of pool and at frequent intervals throughout the day. A full report of any serious accident or illness shall be reported in writing to the Department of Health within 24 hours.

5. Safety Equipment & Lifeguards

Each swimming pool shall be provided with the minimum equipment consisting of the following:

- an up to date 24 unit first aid kit within the pool area;
- a ring buoy not more than 15 inches inside diameter to which shall be attached a fifty foot length of ¼ inch line;
- four pineapples (tightly rolled balls of rope) composed of ¼ inch line 50’ in length (a torpedo buoy with line is acceptable);
- a life pole or shepherd’s crook with blunted end a minimum of 12 feet in length for each 100 feet of pool perimeter (a 75’ x 30’ pool has a 210 foot perimeter). Such poles to be mounted on opposite sides of the deep end;
 depth markers on the pool rim at points of minimum and maximum depths, at all points where the pool floor changes slope, and at appropriate points in between. For wading pools, a minimum of one depth marker should be provided on each side of the pool rim.

- a raised lifeguard stand at least 4 feet minimum in height and located adjacent the deep end of the pool shall be installed when lifeguard services are provided;

- at least one qualified lifeguard who can make rescues, give first aid and exercise control over the bathers is required for each 75 permissible bathers (limited exceptions are available).

6. Signs

Each swimming pool shall have the following signs posted at the pool, in dressing rooms, in the pool office and other areas as appropriate:

- instructions regarding emergency telephone calls (i.e. 911) in lettering at least ¼ inch high;
- the hours of operation and a prohibition against the use of the pool at any other time;
- a sign indicating when no lifeguards are on duty;
- “all persons shall bathe with water and soap before entering the pool”;
- “any person known or suspected of having a communicable disease shall not use the pool”;
- directions to the nearest telephone and nearest telephone and nearest first aid unit and resuscitation equipment

7. Spectators

Persons not dressed for swimming should be excluded from deck areas and bathers not allowed in spectator areas.

8. Safe Handling of Pool Chemicals

- Calcium or lithium hypochlorite, and chlorinated compounds in granular or tablet form by itself is not a combustible material. However, it must not be mixed or contaminated with any foreign material such as household products, soap products, ammonia, paint products, solvents, acids, vinegar, and dirty rags, since contamination or mixing with these types of chemicals and products may result in fire or explosion.
- Use in accordance with manufacturer’s directions.
- Keep Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) on file for all chemicals used.
- Prevent any burning material from falling into any container of calcium hypochlorite.
- Always use clean, dry scoops of inert materials to measure the amount. Mixing must be by pouring the chemical into the water, never by pouring water into the chemical.
- Store in a cool, dry, clean, and well ventilated place in the original container. Keep container tightly closed when not in use.
- Dispose of spilled calcium hypochlorite by flushing with large amounts of water.
- Moisture contamination or fire may liberate irritating and hazardous chlorine containing gases. Keep away from heat and moisture.
- Always remember that whenever handling or storing hypochlorite, care must be taken to avoid possible hazards. Hypochlorite is a strong oxidizing material and contact with organic matter or any foreign material may result in fire or decomposition explosion.