



OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS,
REGULATIONS, AND INSPECTIONS

Topics Covered

- The Law and Rules
- Construction Requirements vs Operation Requirements
 - Operation Requirements

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Operation Requirements:

- Permits
- Recordkeeping
- Reporting
- Operational/Emergency Response Plans
- Lifeguards
- Notification

The Law

Chapter 70.90 RCW gives the authority to:

- Washington State Board of Health to adopt rules (health codes)
- Secretary of Health to enforce the rules
- Secretary of Health to develop Joint Plan of Responsibility with any local health department



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The Rules

Chapters 246-260 WAC and 246-262 WAC:

- Provides specific health code requirements
- Provides specific information about who is responsible for what
- WAC 246-260 is for pools, spas, wading pools, splash pads...
- WAC 246-262 is for waterslides, wave pools, and other waterpark type features



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Construction Requirements vs Operation Requirements

Both WAC 246-260 and WAC 246-262 have sections for:

- Construction Design Requirements
- Operational Requirements



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Construction Requirements

These requirements are met at the time of construction:

- Plan reviewer checks the design for compliance
- Pre-opening inspection is conducted to make sure construction is in accordance to approved plans
- The design can NOT be altered without approval



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Operation Requirements

- Operational/Emergency Response Plans
- Recordkeeping
- Reporting
- Permits
- Lifeguards
- Notification



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- Operational requirements must be met at all times
 - Routine inspections mostly address these operational requirements

Operating Permits

- Operating permit must be present on site for each pool
- Good for one year
- Generally not transferable (check with the health department)
- Could be suspended or revoked if a violation(s) persist

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Recordkeeping

You are required to measure and record water quality test results for:

- Disinfectant
- pH
- Alkalinity
- Temperature
- Cyanuric acid



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- You are required to measure and record water quality test results for
 - Disinfectant (free and combined) (daily)
 - pH (daily)
 - Alkalinity (weekly)
 - Temperature (if >95°F) (daily)
 - Cyanuric acid (if used) (weekly)

Recordkeeping

You are also required to record:

- Quantities of all chemicals added
- Recirculation flow rates
- All incidents of contamination (vomit, blood, feces)
- Keep these records on site for a minimum of 3 years

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You are also required to record

- Quantities of all chemicals added (daily)
- Recirculation flow rates (daily)
- All incidents of contamination (vomit, blood, feces)

Reporting

You are required to report within 48 hours to the health department of the following:

- Drowning
- Near-drowning
- Death
- Serious injury or illness



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Reporting

You are required to provide information to help investigate:

- Injury
- Illness
- Any severe incidents such as poisonous chemicals and fire

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Operational Plans

- Every facility and pool is different and unique
- Develop plans that work for your facility
- Work with the health department when developing operation plans

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- Operation plans established and used for:
 - Physical pool facility components
 - Personnel
 - Users and spectators control
 - Emergency response
 - Environmental conditions
 - Diving during supervised swim instruction

Physical Pool Facility Components and Signage

- ➔ • Water Quality Maintenance
- Pressure and flow rate readings
- Filter maintenance
- Spa draining/cleaning schedule
- Check water levels, main drain covers, chemical feeders, barriers, steps, ladders, decks, restrooms, showers, locker rooms, rule signage...
- And more...

➔ Do you know how and when to complete these tasks?

This should be included in your operational plan.

Personnel

- ➔ • Management
- Pool Operators
- Lifeguards (certification, rotation, training, testing)
- Required training/certification
- Scheduling and shifts
- Scope of responsibility delineated

➔ Do you know who is completing certain tasks?

Who is training new operators?

Who is required to make sure everyone is completing their duties?

Users and Spectators

- ➔ • Age restrictions
- Supervision of children
- Notification of pool rules to residents
- Food/drink/alcohol consumption
- Showering
- Diving
- Waterslides

➔ How are user/spectator behavior and activities monitored and controlled?

Emergency Response Provisions



- Drowning, injuries, and sudden illnesses
- Lifeguarding plan (if applicable)
- Severe weather, fire, earthquakes
- Severe pool contamination
- Chemical leaks/reactions and explosions
- Provide and maintain life saving equipment and first-aid kits



Are you working with the local fire department?

Do you have effective communication methods?

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Environmental Conditions



- Indoor air quality (temperature and humidity)
- Inspect ventilation systems
- Dirt and debris entering the pool
- Weather conditions affecting the pool
- Ponding of water on decks and floors
- Lighting
- General cleanliness



Are you preventing an environmental condition issue?

Are you being effective?

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Diving During Supervised Swim Instruction



- Swim/dive coach certification
- Rules for using diving boards, platforms, and starting blocks
- Proper and adequate training/education



Did you know that spinal cord injuries are most common during diving head-first in depth less than 5 feet?

Are you maintaining your diving equipment properly?

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Lifeguards



- Lifeguards save lives
- Certification necessary from a recognized agency
- Continuous education/training
- Adequate staffing and stations
- Rotation
- Management
- Lifeguarding plan validation
- 30 second response rule



When are they required?

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Notification

Lifeguards are not required at Limited Use Pools

Limited Use Pools:

- Apartments
- Hotels/Motels
- RV camps
- Condominiums/HOAs/Mobile home park
- Etc.

Notification is required to inform the users about the rules and conditions:

- Age restrictions
- Supervision requirements
- Emergency equipment

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Questions?



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