



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

**Texas Department of State
Health Services**

Public Swimming Pool and Spa Rules 01/01/2021

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Adoption of the International Swimming Pool and Spa Standard (ISPSC)

Impact of the ISPSC in Regulation Public Swimming Pools and Spas In Texas



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HB 2858

- HB 2858
- Requires municipalities that regulate swimming pools and spas to adopt the ISPSC.
- Provides Construction Standards of Public, Semi-public, and Single Family Residential and Duplex Swimming Pools and Spas.
- It is part of the ICC Family of Codes.
- Must be Adopted into Municipal Code or Ordinances in Whole or in Part in order to regulate pools and spas.
- HB 2858 included the ability of municipalities to amend provisions of the ISPSC.

Opening the Texas Public Swimming Pool and Spa Rules

- The repealed public pool/spa regulations were adopted in 2002.
- The 2021 rules have adopted most of the construction requirements directly from the ISPSC.
- Portions of the Texas Rules with Requirements not found in the ISPSC will apply to all Public Pools and Spas.
- This presentation will not, for the most part, cover construction requirements.
- Focus will be upon changes that could impact the operation and maintenance of existing and new pools and spas.



Required Operator Certification

- All public swimming pools and spas shall be under the supervision and direction of a properly trained and certified operator.
- The operator does not have to be on site when the pool/spa is open.
- The operator can be responsible for multiple pools/spas at multiple locations.
- The operator's name and contact information must be available on site.



Trained and Certified Operator

- Training and certification courses include but are not limited to:
 - National Parks and Recreation *Aquatic Facility Operator*;
 - The Pool and Hot Tub Association *Certified Pool Operator*;
 - American Swimming Pool and Spa *Licensed Aquatic Facility Technician*; or
 - An equivalent course and testing, and certification up to 5 years.
 - Courses offered can be online only, in Spanish, or live presentations (Zoom).
 - There is a math assistance manual.



Responsibilities of the Operator

- Ensure on-site pool maintenance personnel are trained to properly operate all equipment.
- Ensure chemicals are used according to manufacturer's instructions, and Safety Data Sheets and proper PPE is provided on-site.
- Ensure the pool/spa is tested as required and logs, as required, are maintained properly.



Pool and Spa Chemical Testing



Testing Requirements at Pools and Spas with Onsite Pool Personnel

- Class C pools and spas that have on-site staff primarily responsible for pool/spa operations, such as lifeguards, shall test for disinfectant levels and pH 3x a day minimum.
- If an automatically controlled disinfectant and pH dispensing device is in place the levels shall be tested once a day and the controller mV reading made at the same time.
- Cyanuric acid levels shall be measured once a week.



Testing Requirements for Facilities Without Dedicated On-Site Staff

- For Class C pools and Spas without staff primarily responsible for pool/spa operations, disinfectant and pH levels shall be tested a minimum on 1x per day.
- If an automatic disinfectant and pH control system is in use and the sanitizer and pH can be transmitted to the trained operator, testing is limited to once per week with a test kit. The mV level shall also be recorded.
- Cyanuric acid levels shall be measured once per week.



Other Chemical Level Testing

- Alkalinity, Calcium Hardness and Chemical Balance shall be measured every 30 days or as often as necessary to maintain water quality.
- Testing Records shall be maintained at least 2 years and may be kept offsite.



Cyanuric Acid

- At certain levels Cyanuric Acid (chlorine sunscreen) binds with the chlorine and prevents it from sanitizing the water effectively.
- Cyanuric Acid does not dissipate or off-gas from pools and spas.
- When cyanuric acid (Cya) levels exceed 100 ppm, chlorine levels in a pool must be raised to a minimum of 2.0 ppm and maintained at that level until Cya drops below 100 ppm. Sanitizer level, pH and Cya levels must be measured once a day until Cya levels drop below 100 ppm.



New Sign Requirements

- The new safety sign requirements are for pools and spas constructed on or after 01/01/2021 or replaced on or after 01/01/2021.
- New signs can use variations in the language stated in the rules, however, those variations must be approved by local regulatory officials.
- A list of all the safety signs that need to be posted for pool/spa users and other required signs can be found at: <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/poolspa/guidance.aspx>.



Emergency “Phone”

- Alternative communication system – Devices that alert multiple on-site staff when activated (pager systems, walkie-talkie systems). Used to notify on-site EMS, on-site medical staff, or other trained and certified staff.



Emergency “Phone”

Emergency monitoring service – Service providing a device at pools and spas that is monitored 24 hours a day by off-site personnel trained to identify pool and spa related emergencies. This service can contact local EMS and provide a precise location to EMS and can provide instructions to assist with intervention when possible.



Emergency Phone

Emergency phone –
Can be a cell phone or
land line phone.
Cannot be answered
by an on-site office.
Cell phone must have
a permanent power
supply.



Emergency “Phone”

A sign shall be posted above the emergency summoning device, whether it is a phone, emergency monitoring device, or alternative communication device with the precise location of the pool or spa such as an address, building number, GPS location, or other location identifying information in letters a minimum of 1-inch in height.



Safety Equipment At Pools

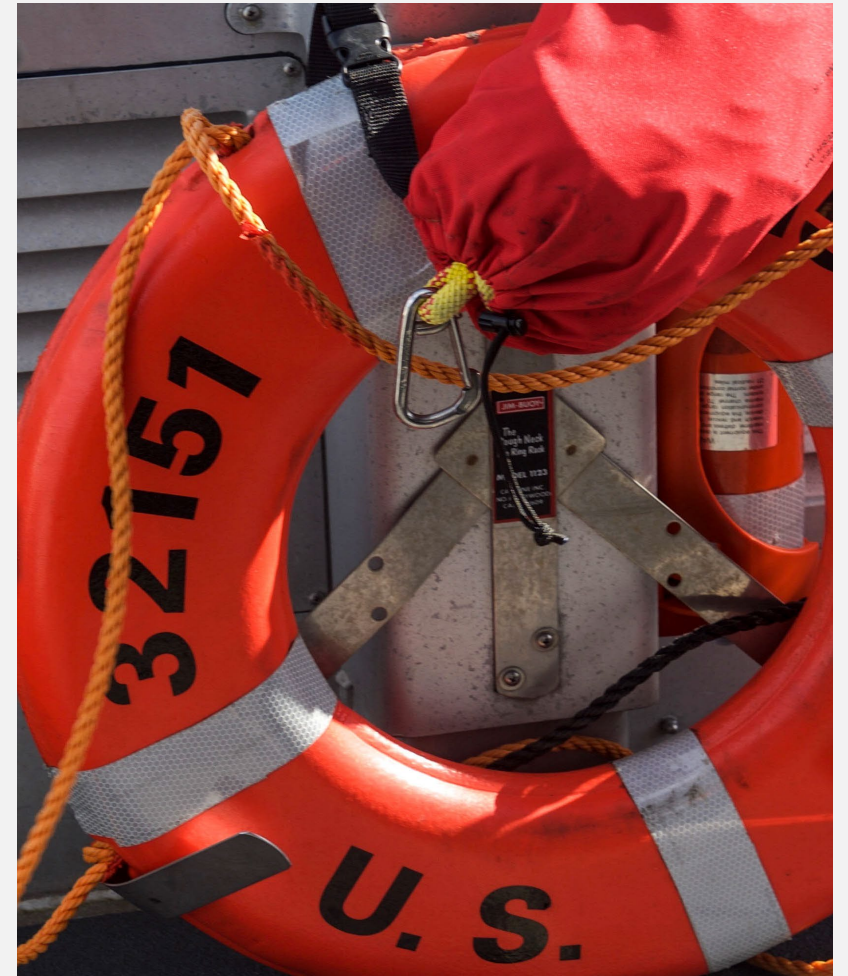
- Section 265.201(e)(3) - For Class C pools that are over 5 feet deep:
- (A) The transition point of the pool floor from the shallow area to the deep area of the pool shall be visually set apart by a 4-inch minimum width row of floor tile or other permanent method using a color contrasting with the bottom.
- (B) A rope and float line may also be used in addition to the transition line and shall meet the requirements of paragraph (1)(A) and (B) of this subsection.



Safety Equipment Required

Ring buoy, throw rope, and reaching pole. A pool shall have at least one ring buoy with throwing rope and a reaching pole for every 2000 square feet of pool surface area up to 6000 square feet. If the pool has over 6000 square feet of surface area an additional ring buoy, throw rope, and reaching pole shall be provided for each additional 4000 square feet of surface area or fraction thereof. The reaching poles and ring buoys with rope shall be visible and readily accessible from all areas of the pool yard.

The throwing rope shall be 1/4-inch to 3/8-inch in diameter, with a length at least two-thirds the maximum width of the pool. A USCG-approved ring buoy shall be attached to the throwing rope.



- (1) The reaching pole shall be light, strong, non-telescoping, and at least 12 feet long. The pole shall be constructed of fiberglass or other material that does not conduct electricity and shall have a body hook or shepherd's crook with blunted ends attached.



Other Requirements

- Written operation and maintenance instructions shall be provided for the circulation system.
- Exposed piping shall be labeled to identify the piping function and direction of flow.
- Pools and Spas constructed on or after 01/01/2021 shall have a readable schematic of the entire circulation system displayed in the mechanical room or available on site.



Emergency Shut Off Switches

- The ISPSC requires emergency shutoff switches for all pools and spas. Section 313.7: An emergency shutoff switch shall be provided to disconnect power to recirculation and jet system pumps and air blowers. Emergency shutoff switches shall be provided with access, located not less than 5 ft. horizontally from the inside walls of the pool or spa.



Spa Emergency Shutoff Switch

ISPSC Section 504.1, referring to public spas: One emergency switch shall be provided to disconnect power to circulation and jet system pumps and air blowers.

Section 504.1.1, Emergency shutoff switches shall be provided with an audible alarm rated at not less than 80 decibel sound pressure level and a light near the spa that will operate continuously until deactivated when the shutoff switch is operated.



Renovation of Pools or Spas

- Rehabilitate or remodel--To modify or remake a pool or spa in a similar but different manner, or to change the style, shape or form of a pool or spa.
- Renovation--To return a pool or spa or any part of a pool or spa that may still be operational and functional, but that is outdated or has faded, declined, or deteriorated, to its former or original state, includes remodeling or rehabilitation of a pool or spa, and has the same meaning as the definition of alteration as found in the International Swimming Pool and Spa Code. Renovation of pool or spa shall not cause existing systems to become unsafe, unsanitary, or overloaded.



Repair of Pools and Spas

Repair--The reconstruction or renewal of any part of a pool or spa for the purpose of its maintenance or to correct damage. Repair work may involve replacing like items or maintenance, such as periodic pool resurfacing or re-plastering. Repairs shall not cause existing systems to become unsafe, unsanitary, or overloaded.



Thank you!

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