



Delivering a Healthy WA



Government of **Western Australia**  
Department of Health

# Aquatic Facilities

## GUIDANCE NOTE 8

### Operation of Aquatic Facilities at a higher classification.

*(This Guidance Note does not replace Guidance Note 6 – Operation of Aquatic Facilities/Water Bodies at Reduced Classification)*

### Operation of Aquatic Facilities / Aquatic Facilities Water Bodies

All aquatic facilities must be granted a Certificate of Compliance and a Permit To Operate by the Executive Director Public Health by the 1 October 2009.

An Operator must apply to the Executive Director Public Health to vary the Permit to Operate should there be a need to operate at a higher classification in accordance with *Regulation 16 (1) of the Health (Aquatic Facilities) Regulations 2007*.

For example an Operator of a Group 4 retirement village may invite members from outside the village or conduct aqua aerobics (Group 3) or conduct physiotherapy or hydrotherapy / learn to swim sessions (Group 2) providing that all aspects of safety requirements (called *Operational Provisions* in the *Code of Practice for the Design, Construction, Operation, Maintenance and Management of Aquatic Facilities*) are met at the time of the activity. Operators will need to keep a copy of their Permit To Operate in their Operations Manual at all times.

### General Provisions

Please note that an aquatic facility reclassification process may require the EDPH or local government environmental health officer to re-inspect an aquatic facility in order to determine what additional works may be necessary to raise the Certificate of Compliance for that classification.

The aquatic facility will be deemed to be the Classification afforded by its Certificate of Compliance (always) but may have prescribed times set aside in the Permit to Operate at a higher classification.

Operational Requirements at different classifications are listed below:

### Group 2 Aquatic Facilities

*(types of Group 2 facilities include schools, learn-to-swim centres, learn-to-dive pools, nursing homes, hospitals, & hydrotherapy/ physiotherapy use pools)*

### Operational Requirements

Water sampling:

- Technical Operator must ensure good water quality - *Section 5.4* and tested 3 times per day depending on the classification.
- Pool water sampled for chemical & microbiological analysis once per month by local government (or by others by EDPH exemption).





### *First Aid Requirements*

- *Table 2 - First Aid Facilities & Table 3 – First Aid Equipment, Section 2.22 – First Aid Signage, Section 2.24 – Rescue Equipment, Section 2.25 - Safety Signage (Pool Rules) and “NO LIFEGUARD ON DUTY” sign required.*

Trained Patron Rescue & Emergency Care personnel are required in accordance with *Section 6.2.5. Group Three Facilities* and *Table 9 – Qualifications of Coaching and Instructional Staff*. Supervisors shall be not be assigned duties that would unduly distract them from supervising patrons.

An *Operations Manual & Emergency Action Plan* is required in accordance with *Section 7.8*.

## **Group 3 Aquatic Facility**

*(types of aquatic facilities include discrete user access of Group 1, 2 or 4 aquatic facilities by community/swimming groups, or; commercial developments for guests such as hotels, motels, resorts, serviced apartments, caravan parks, health clubs, mine sites, recreational camp-sites, lodging houses, staff/student accommodation complexes & places restricted to adult only access)*

### **Operational Requirements**

Water sampling:

- Technical Operator must ensure good water quality - *Section 5.4*.
- Pool water sampled for chemical & microbiological analysis once per month by local government (or by others by EDPH exemption).

### *First Aid Requirements*

- *Table 2 - First Aid Facilities & Table 3 – First Aid Equipment, Section 2.22 – First Aid Signage, Section 2.24 – Rescue Equipment, Section 2.25 - Safety Signage (Pool Rules) and “NO LIFEGUARD ON DUTY” sign required.*

Patrons swim at their own risk in accordance with the facility Pool Rules but children under 10 years must be supervised by a competent person 16 years and older.

Operators are required to be trained in *Patron Rescue & Emergency Care* in accordance with *Section 6.2.5*. However the Code has been amended so that Operators are no longer required to be onsite at all times while the pool is in use.

Alternatively the Operator may choose to prepare a risk management plan to be included in their Operations Manual demonstrating how to provide the same or better health and safety protection for all patrons using the aquatic facility whenever the pool is in use. The Operator is to provide a copy of their Operations Manual to EDPH when applying for a Permit to Operate at a higher classification. Operators may choose not to be trained in Patron Rescue to meet this requirement.

An *Operations Manual & Emergency Action Plan* (*Section 7.8*) is required.

## **Group 4 Aquatic Facility**

*(types of aquatic facilities include small temporary accommodation developments such as bed and breakfast and farm stay facilities; residential developments with 30 or more dwelling units / apartments and retirement/lifestyle villages that do not allow non-residential based club/member access to aquatic facility)*





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## Operational Requirements

Water sampling:

- Technical Operator must ensure good water quality - *Section 5.4*.
- Pool water sampled for chemical & microbiological analysis once per month by local government (or by others by EDPH exemption).

First Aid Requirements *Section 2.22* – Resuscitation Notice, *Section 2.25* Safety Signage (Pool Rules) and “NO LIFEGUARD ON DUTY” sign required.

Patrons swim at their own risk but children under 10 years must be supervised by a competent person 16 years and older.

No Operations Manual & Emergency Action Plan required.

For further information or questions about aquatic facility classifications, please contact the Department of Health at [swimmingpools@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:swimmingpools@health.wa.gov.au) or at

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