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ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICE
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**IMPLEMENTING RULES AND
REGULATIONS OF CHAPTER VIII**

**“PUBLIC SWIMMING
OR BATHING PLACES”**

**OF THE CODE ON SANITATION OF
THE PHILIPPINES
(P.D. 856)**

IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS OF
CHAPTER VIII- "PUBLIC SWIMMING OR BATHING
PLACES" OF THE CODE ON SANITATION OF THE
PHILIPPINES (P.D. 856)

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IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS OF CHAPTER VIII - "PUBLIC SWIMMING OR BATHING PLACES" OF THE CODE ON SANITATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (P.D. 856)

To carry out the provisions of Chapter VIII - "Public Swimming or Bathing Places" of the Code on Sanitation of the Philippines (P.D. 856), these rules and regulations are hereby formulated for implementation and strict compliance of all concerned.

SECTION 1. SCOPE

These implementing rules and regulations shall apply to all public swimming or bathing places including pools, bathhouses, bathing beaches and other natural bathing areas operated by individuals, corporations, partnerships, government agencies or instrumentalities, institutions or establishments but does not include private pools, private bathhouses, private bathing beaches or other private natural bathing areas.

SECTION 2. DEFINITION OF TERMS

As used in these rules and regulations, the following terms shall mean:

- 2.1 **BACK DRAIN** - a hole to allow water to escape from behind a retaining wall and thus reduce the pressure behind it.
- 2.2 **BATHHOUSE** - an establishment having individual showers and wash basin facilities.
- 2.3 **BATHING LOAD** - the maximum capacity of a swimming pool/bathing place.
- 2.4 **BACKWASHING** - washing of a filter by reversing flow of water through it to remove accumulated impurities.
- 2.5 **DEPARTMENT** - the Department of Health.
- 2.6 **DIATOMACEOUS EARTH FILTERS** - microscopic fossils of marine plants used in the filtering systems of swimming pools.

- 2.7 **ESTABLISHMENT** - a collective term construed to include hotels, motels, tourist courts, resorts, apartments or condominium houses, clubhouses, sports and recreation areas, religious areas, and other similar establishments with public swimming pools, bathhouses and other swimming or bathing places, facilities, and premises, including all appurtenances thereto.
- 2.8 **FILL AND DRAW SWIMMING POOL** - a pool filled with fresh water, used, drained, cleaned, and refilled.
- 2.9 **HEALTH CERTIFICATE** - a certification in writing, using the prescribed form, and issued by the municipal or city health officer to a person after passing the required physical and medical examinations and immunizations if deemed necessary and found to be free from communicable, contagious or infectious diseases or any other disease which may disqualify a particular person from working in any establishment.
- 2.10 **LIFEGUARD** - an expert swimmer trained on life saving procedures employed at a public bathing place to safeguard bathers and to prevent drowning.
- 2.11 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT** - the local political subdivision which refers to the province, city, municipality or barangay.
- 2.12 **LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY** - an official or employee responsible for the application of a prescribed health measure in a local political subdivision. For a province, the local health authority is the governor and for a city or municipality, the local health authority is the mayor.
- 2.13 **LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER** - the provincial, city or municipal health officer.
- 2.14 **NATURAL BATHING PLACES** - include streams, rivers, lakes, beaches, springs, falls, tidal waters and other natural bodies of water.
- 2.15 **OPERATOR** - the owner, manager, administrator, or the actual holder of the sanitary permit of the establishment.
- 2.16 **PRIVATE SWIMMING POOL, BATHHOUSE, BATHING BEACH OR NATURAL BATHING AREA** - a bathing place used only by an individual, his family or house guests for non-commercial purposes.

- 2.17 **PUBLIC SWIMMING POOL OR BATHING PLACE** - a bathing place intended to be used collectively or publicly by a number of persons for swimming or bathing and other recreational purposes operated by an operator as defined herein, whether he be the owner, lessee, licensee, or concessionaire, regardless of whether a fee is charged or not for such use.
- 2.18 **RECIRCULATION SWIMMING POOL** - a pool filled by continuous flow of water, either fresh water from the source of supply or water which has been filtered and recirculated.
- 2.19 **REGIONAL DIRECTOR** - an official who heads a regional health office of the Department of Health.
- 2.20 **SAFETY** - the condition of being free from danger which may cause accidents or diseases.
- 2.21 **SANITARY ENGINEER** - a person duly registered with the Board of Examiners for Sanitary Engineers (Republic Act 1364) and who heads or works with the sanitation division/section/unit of the provincial/ city/ municipal health office or employed with the Department of Health or its regional health offices.
- 2.22 **SANITATION INSPECTOR** - a government official or personnel employed by the national, provincial, city or municipal government, who enforces sanitary rules, laws and regulations and implements environmental sanitation activities under the supervision of the provincial/city/municipal health officer/sanitary engineer.
- 2.23 **SANITARY PERMIT** - the certification in writing by the city or municipal health officer or in his absence, by the chief or head of the sanitation division/section/unit that the establishment complies with the existing sanitation requirements upon evaluation or inspection conducted in accordance with Presidential Decree Nos. 522 and 856 and its implementing rules and regulations and local ordinances.
- 2.24 **SECRETARY** - the Secretary of Health.
- 2.25 **SEPTA** - steel shell of metal, stone, or plastic containing porous elements (tubes, leaves, disks, or trays) with openings generally less than 1.27 millimeters (0.005 inch).
- 2.26 **SKIMMER** - a device for removing floating pollutants in a swimming pool.

...any concrete or masonry structure, basin, tank, located either indoors or outdoors, used for bathing or swimming, diving or recreational purposes, religious or therapeutic healing purposes, and filled with a controlled water supply and having a depth of 91 centimeters (3 feet) or more at any point, together with appropriate buildings and appurtenances used in connection therewith.

- 2.28 **VERMIN** - a group of insects or small animals such as flies, mosquitoes, cockroaches, lice, bedbugs, mice and rats that are vectors of diseases.
- 2.29 **VERMIN ABATEMENT PROGRAM** - a series of preventive and control procedures and activities of vermin control in the establishment.
- 2.30 **WADING POOL** - any concrete or masonry structure, basin, tank, located either indoors or outdoors, used for bathing or swimming, recreational purposes, and religious or therapeutic healing purposes, and filled with a controlled water supply and having a maximum depth of 91 centimeters (3 feet) or below at any point.

SECTION 3. SANITARY REQUIREMENTS FOR OPERATING PUBLIC SWIMMING OR BATHING PLACES

3.1 Sanitary Permit

- 3.1.1 No public swimming pools, bathhouses, bathing places and establishments and facilities shall be operated for public use without a sanitary permit (EHS Form No. 101) issued by the local health officer.
- 3.1.2 Any extension or additional construction or alteration in an establishment shall require a new sanitary permit before it could operate.
- 3.1.3 **Application or Renewal of Sanitary Permit.**
 - a. The application or renewal of sanitary permit shall be filed with the city or municipal health office having jurisdiction over the establishment utilizing EHS Form No. 110.
 - b. The sanitary permit shall be issued only upon compliance to at least a satisfactory rating utilizing the Sanitary Inspection of Public Places Establishment Form (EHS Form No. 103-B).

c. Fees shall be paid to the local government unit upon application, renewal and noting of sanitary permits. The amount of fees shall be set through local ordinance.

- 3.1.4 **Noting of Permit.** If there is a change in ownership of the establishment, the new owner shall apply at the city/municipal health office within fourteen (14) working days to have such change noted in the records and sanitary permit and shall pay the corresponding fee for such noting.
- 3.1.5 **Validity.** The sanitary permit shall be valid on the day of issuance until the last day of December of the same year, and shall be renewed every beginning of the year, thereafter.
- 3.1.6 **Revocation/Suspension.** Upon the recommendation of the local health officer, the sanitary permit shall be suspended or revoked by the local health authority upon violation of any sanitary rules and regulations.
- 3.1.7 **Posting of Permit.** The sanitary permit shall be posted in a conspicuous place of the establishment for public information and shall be available for inspection by authorized health and other regulatory personnel.
- 3.1.8 **Record of sanitary permit.**
 - a. Every city or municipality shall keep a record of all establishments that have been issued sanitary permit and renewal thereof.
 - b. The record shall in every case show the following:
 - i. The name and address of the holder of the sanitary permit who in every case shall be the actual operator of the establishment;
 - ii. The location of the establishment;
 - iii. The nature/kind of business for which the permit has been issued;
 - iv. The date the first permit was issued and the dates of any renewal hereof;
 - v. Every change of occupation and management of the establishment since the first permit was issued;
 - vi. Sanitary conditions under which the permit was issued or every renewal thereof granted; and

- c. The record shall be available at all reasonable times for inspection by any authorized officer of the Department of Health or local government unit.

3.2 General Sanitary Requirements for Public Swimming or Bathing Places

The following requirements shall be enforced:

3.2.1 Water Supply

- a. The drinking water supply for the establishment shall be in accordance with Chapter II - "Water Supply" of the Code on Sanitation of the Philippines (P.D. 856) and its implementing rules and regulations and shall conform with the Philippine National Standards for Drinking Water.
- b. All portions of the water distribution system serving the swimming pool and auxiliary facilities shall be protected against backflow. Water introduced into the pool, either directly or to the recirculation system, shall be supplied through an air gap. When such connections are not possible, the supply shall be protected by a suitable backflow preventer installed in the discharge side of the last control valve to the fixture, device, or appurtenances.

3.2.2 Food and Drinks

- a. Handling, storage and serving of food and drinks in the establishment shall be in accordance with Chapter III - "Food Establishments" of the Code on Sanitation of the Philippines (P.D. 856) and its implementing rules and regulations.

3.2.3 Sewage Disposal and Drainage

- a. The sewer system shall meet the minimum requirements to serve the facility, including bathhouse, locker room, and related accommodations.

- b. There shall be no direct physical connection between the sewer system and any drain from the swimming pool or recirculation system. Any swimming pool or gutter drain or overflow from the recirculation system when discharged to the sewer system, storm drain or other approved natural drainage course shall connect through a suitable air gap so as to preclude possibility of backup of sewage or waste into the swimming pool piping system.

- c. The sanitary sewer serving the swimming pool and auxiliary facilities (applicable also to all other public swimming and bathing places) shall discharge to the public sewer system, or in the absence thereof in a manner complying with Chapter XVII - "Sewage Collection and Disposal, Excreta Disposal and Drainage" of the Code on Sanitation of the Philippines, (P.D. 856) and its implementing rules and regulations.

3.2.4 Dressing Rooms

- a. All public swimming and bathing places shall have a separate dressing room and bathhouse for each gender and facilities for checking of clothes. Entrances and exits of dressing rooms shall be located to break the line of sight.
- b. Floors of dressing and locker rooms shall be of smooth-finished material with non-slip surface, impervious to moisture, without cracks or joints, properly sloped to a drain to permit washing.
- c. Walls, partitions and lockers shall be made of smooth, impervious material, free from cracks or open joints. If walls of wood or similar material are used, all cracks and joints shall be filled and the surface kept finished with paint or other sanitary waterproof coating. Corners/edges shall be smooth and rounded.
- d. Partitions between dressing compartments shall terminate not less than 10 centimeters (4 inches) above the floor to permit flushing of the entire floor area.
- e. Lockers when provided shall be set either in solid masonry bases 10 centimeters (4 inches) high or on legs with bottom of locker at least 25.4 centimeters (10 inches) above the floor. Lockers shall be properly vented and vermin-proof.

All furniture used in the dressing room shall be of simple type and made of easily washable material.

- g. All dressing rooms and appurtenances must be kept clean at all times.

3.2.5 Water Closets, Showers, Urinals, and Lavatories

- a. The following minimum requirements for toilet and shower facilities shall be provided for bathers expected at time of maximum load in the case of continuous bathing.

Table 1. Requirements for Toilet and Shower Facilities

Number of Persons	Water Closets		Urinals	Lavatories		Showers	
	Male	Female	Male	Male	Female	Male	Female
1-50	1	1	1	1	1	2	2
51-100	2	2	2	1	1	3	3
101-150	2	3	2	2	2	4	4
151-200	3	4	3	2	2	5	5

Note: For number of persons above 200: one water closet for every 75 males and one for every 50 females; one urinal for every 75 males; one lavatory for every 100 males and one for every 100 females; one shower head for every 50 males and one for every 50 females.

- b. Fixture schedules shall be increased for swimming pools at schools or similar establishment where bather loads may reach peak due to schedule of use.
- c. All public swimming or bathing places with outdoor bathing facilities shall have at least one shower for every 50 persons.
- d. Urinals shall be a type that will not cause splashing of urine on the legs and feet of bathers. Urinals shall be so located that bathers will use them before entering the showers on their way to the swimming pool.
- e. The use of solutions containing 0.30 parts per million to 0.60 parts per million of available chlorine shall be used as a foot wash for the prevention of "athlete's foot". Bathers are required to rinse their feet in such a solution before entering the pool. Foot baths shall be located in the exit from the showers to the dressing room so as to spread the chlorine over the dressing room floor and increase the time of contact.

- a. Public swimming pools and bathing places establishments shall be provided with two types of refuse receptacles or containers made of impervious materials, one for biodegradable and one for non-biodegradable. The number of receptacles shall be determined by the local health officer.
- b. All receptacles or containers shall be provided with tight fitting lids or covers, so constructed and maintained as to be vermin-proofed and easily cleaned. The receptacles or containers shall be lined with black-colored plastic trash bags for non-biodegradable and green-colored plastic trash bags for biodegradable materials.
- c. After being emptied, each container shall be thoroughly cleaned inside and outside with water, soap and brush.
- d. Storage of refuse shall be done in such a way that it shall be inaccessible to vermin or from becoming potential insect and rodent attractants and harborage and causes of nuisance.
- e. Refuse storage areas shall be maintained clean at all times.
- f. All refuse shall be disposed off at least once a day, or at more frequencies as may be necessary, through the collection system or by any approved method and in such manner as to prevent nuisance.
- g. Burying of garbage or solid waste in the beach/sand shall be prohibited.
- h. Throwing of fruit peelings, processed food wrappers and other garbage or solid waste in water shall be prohibited.
- i. Pertinent provisions of Chapter XVIII on "Refuse Disposal" of the Code on Sanitation of the Philippines and its implementing rules and regulations shall be applicable herein.

- a. A vermin abatement program shall be maintained in public swimming and bathing places by the operators or administrators. If they fail, neglect or refuse to maintain a vermin abatement program, the local health agency shall show cause to the operators or administrators to undertake such work.
- b. The procedure and frequency of vermin abatement program shall be determined and approved by the local health office based on the provisions of Chapter XVI - "Vermin Control," of the Code on Sanitation of the Philippines (P.D. 856) and its implementing rules and regulations.

3.3 Specific Sanitary Requirements for Accessories Used by Bathers

- 3.3.1 Rented bathing suits, towels, linens or similar articles shall be washed with water and soap, thoroughly rinsed with clean water, soaked in boiling water and dried each time they are used.
- 3.3.2 Clean suits and towels shall be kept strictly separated from those that have been used and unlaundered. Clean suits and towels shall not be stored on shelves, handled in baskets, or passed out over counters where dirty suits have been placed.

SECTION 4. STRUCTURAL REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC SWIMMING OR BATHING PLACES

4.1 Site Requirements

- 4.1.1 Public swimming pools, bathhouses and other public swimming and bathing places shall be located only in places or zones assigned for the facility by existing zoning laws or ordinances. Where no zoning law or ordinance exists, the local government unit concerned shall determine the suitability of the location.
- 4.1.2 Swimming pools shall be located in areas where airborne contamination by dust, algal spores, leaves, etc., is reduced to a minimum. It shall not be less than two (2) meters from the side of the property line and back alignments and three (3) meters from a road alignment.

swimming areas shall be allowed and located only in areas approved by the local health authority per recommendation of the local health officer.

4.2 Plans and Specifications

4.2.1 For New Establishments

- a. No person shall begin construction of a public swimming pool/ bathing place or shall substantially alter or reconstruct any public swimming pool/bathing place without first submitting the plans and specifications to the local health office for review. The plans shall be prepared by a licensed sanitary engineer. All plans shall be submitted in duplicate copies.
- b. The application for permit to construct or renovate a public swimming pool or bathing place shall be on such forms as may be prescribed by the local health office, together with any supporting data as may be required for the proper review of the plans.
- c. The pool and facilities shall be built in accordance with the plans as approved unless approval of changes has been given in writing by the local health office. The operator shall notify the local health office at specific predetermined stages of construction and at the time of completion of the pool to permit inspection of the pool and related equipment during and after construction.
- d. The pool shall not be placed in operation until such inspections show compliance with the requirements of these rules and regulations.
- e. The plans shall be drawn to scale and accompanied by proper specifications so as to permit a comprehensive engineering review of the plans including the piping and hydraulic details and shall include:
 - i. Plans and sectional views with all necessary dimensions of both the pool and surrounding area.
 - ii. A piping diagram showing all appurtenances including treatment facilities in sufficient detail, as well as pertinent elevation data, to permit a hydraulic analysis of the system.

- iii. The specifications shall contain details on all treatment equipment, including catalog identification of pumps, chlorinators, chemical feeders, filters, strainers, interceptors, and related equipment.

4.2.2 For Existing Establishments

- a. Existing public swimming pool or bathing places already operating before the issuance of these rules and regulations shall be evaluated by the local health office concerned. Any additional construction, renovation, alteration or improvement in the establishment shall conform to the requirements of these implementing rules and regulations. The owner/operator shall submit the required plans before the issuance of a new sanitary permit.

4.3 Specific Structural Requirements for Public Swimming Pools and Bathhouses

To prevent pollution of the waters and to facilitate sanitation maintenance, the following shall be required:

4.3.1 General Structural Requirements

- a. Swimming pools and all appurtenances thereto shall be constructed of materials which are immovable, non-toxic to man, impervious, permanent and enduring which can withstand the design stresses, provide a tight tank with a smooth and easily cleaned surface, or to which a smooth, easily cleaned surface with a white or light color finish can be applied.
- b. All corners formed by the intersection of walls and floors shall be rounded.
- c. Sand or earth bottoms shall not be permitted in swimming pool construction.
- d. Swimming pool finish, including bottom and sides, shall be of white or light colored material, non-toxic to man, with a smooth finish surface without cracks or joints bonded to the supporting members, excluding structural expansion joints.

4.3.2 Design Detail and Structural Stability

- a. All swimming pools shall be designed and constructed to withstand all anticipated loadings for both full and empty conditions. A hydrostatic relief valve shall be provided in areas having a high water table. The structural engineer shall be responsible for certifying to the structural stability and safety of the pool.
- b. No limits are specified for length and width, however, consideration shall be given to shape from the standpoint of safety and the need to facilitate supervision of bathers using the pool.
- c. Complete, continuous circulation of water through all parts of the swimming pool shall be required. All swimming pools shall have a recirculation system with necessary treatment and filtration equipment.
- d. The shape of any swimming pool shall be such that the circulation of pool water and control of the swimmer's safety are not impaired.
- e. The minimum water depth in the swimming pool shall be 91 centimeters (3 feet) except for special purpose swimming pools or for restricted or recessed areas in general swimming which are set aside primarily for the use of children.
 - i. Such areas when included as part of the swimming pool proper shall be demarcated by means of a safety line supported by buoys and attached to the side walls.
 - ii. Wading pools or facilities for children, physically separated from the swimming pool, are preferred. Such facilities may be served by the swimming pool recirculation system with turnover rates of once every 2 hours.
- f. The maximum depth at the shallow end of the swimming pool shall not exceed 107 centimeters (3.5 feet) except for competitive or special purpose swimming pools.

a. **Depth of water**

The depth of water shall be plainly marked at or above the water surface on the vertical wall of the swimming pool, on the edge of the deck or walk next to the swimming pool at maximum and minimum points, at the points of break between the deep and shallow portions, and at the 1.50 meters (5 feet) and at intermediate 31 centimeters (1 foot) increment of depth, spaced at not more than 7.60 meters (25 feet) intervals measured peripherally. The depth in the diving areas shall be appropriately marked.

b. **Depth markers**

Depth markers shall be in numerals of 10.20 centimeters (4 inches) minimum height, and in such a color that contrast with the background. Where depth markers cannot be placed on the vertical walls above the water level, other means shall be used. The markings shall be plainly visible to persons in the swimming pool.

c. **Lane lines**

Lane lines or other markings on the bottom of the swimming pool shall be a minimum of 25.4 centimeters (10 inches) in width and in such a color that contrast with the background.

4.3.4 **Inlets and Outlets**

a. **Outlets**

- i. All swimming pools shall be provided with an outlet at the deepest point to permit the pool to be completely and easily emptied.
 1. Openings shall be covered by a proper screen that is not readily removable by bathers.
 2. Outlet openings of the screen in the floor of the pool shall be at least 4 times the area discharge pipe or provide sufficient area so that the maximum velocity of the water passing the screen will not exceed 46 centimeter per second (1.50 feet per second).

3. The minimum width of grate openings shall be 1.30 cm. (0.50 inch), and the maximum not over 2.54 centimeters (1 inch).

- ii. In swimming pools with deep water at or near one end, multiple outlets shall be provided where the width of the pool is more than 9.10 meters (30 feet). In such cases, outlets shall be spaced not more than 9.10 meters (30 feet), nor more than 4.60 meters (15 feet) from side walls.
- iii. No direct connections with sewer shall be permitted and all drains from the swimming pool to sewers shall be broken at a point where any sewage which may back up from the sewer will overflow to waste instead of reaching the pool.
- iv. Valves and/or pumps used for draining swimming pools shall be sized to prevent the surcharging of the sanitary sewer.

b. **Inlets**

- i. For fresh and/or repurified water, the inlets shall be so located as to produce uniform circulation of water and to facilitate the maintenance of a uniform disinfectant residual throughout the entire swimming pool, without existence of deadspots.
- ii. Inlets from the circulation system shall be flushed with the pool wall and submerged at least 30.50 centimeters (12 inches) below the water level.
- iii. Where water from the public water system is added to the pool, cross-connections between the public water system and the pool water shall be eliminated by pumping make-up water from a pump suction well or admitting water to the pool by means of an air gap connection preferably located under a low diving board.
- iv. Where the distance across the shallow portion of the swimming pool is more than 4.60 meters (15 feet), multiple inlets shall be provided, so spaced that each inlet will serve a linear distance of not more than 4.60 meters (15 feet).

148.70 square meters (1,600 square feet) or length in excess of 18.30 meters (60 feet), side inlets shall be placed at 4.60 meters (15 feet) intervals around the entire perimeter. In any case, an adequate number of inlets shall be provided, properly spaced and located to accomplish complete and uniform disinfectant residual at all times.

- vi. Each inlet shall be designed as an orifice subject to adjustment or must be provided with an individual gate or similar valve to permit adjustment of water volume to obtain the best circulation.

4.3.5 Slope of Bottom

- a. The slope of the bottom of any portion of the swimming pool having a water depth of less than 1.50 meters (5 feet) shall not be more than 30.50 centimeter (1 foot) in 3.70 meters (12 feet) and said slope shall be uniform. In portions with a depth greater than 1.50 meters (5 feet), the slope shall not exceed 30.50 centimeter (1 foot) in 0.90 meter (3 feet).

4.3.6 Side Walls

- a. Walls of a swimming pool shall be either vertical for water depth of at least 1.80 meters (6 feet); or vertical for a distance of 0.90 meter (3 feet) below the water level below which the wall may be curved to the bottom with a radius not greater than the difference between the depth at that point and 0.90 meter (3 feet), provided that vertical is interpreted to permit slopes not greater than 30 centimeters (1 foot) horizontally for each 1.50 meters (5 feet) of depth of side wall (11 degrees from vertical).
- b. Safety ledges when provided on vertical walls in the deep portion of the swimming pool shall be not over 10.0 centimeters (4 inches) wide, at least 1.20 meters (4 feet) below the water surface, and shall slope 1.30 centimeters (1/2 inch) in 10 centimeters (4 inches) toward the pool.

4.3.7 Overflow Gutters

- a. Overflow gutters shall be required on all swimming pools having a surface area of greater than 149 square meters (1,600 sq. feet). Pools having a surface area of less than 149 square meters shall be provided either with overflow gutters or skimmers.
- b. Overflow gutters shall meet the following general specifications:
 - i. The overflow gutter shall extend completely around the swimming pool, except at steps or recessed ladders.
 - ii. The overflow gutter shall also serve as a handhold.
 - iii. The gutter shall be capable of continuously removing 50% or more of the recirculated water and return it to the filter.
 - iv. All overflow gutters shall be connected to the recirculation system through a properly designed surge tank.
 - v. The gutter, drains, and return piping to the surge tank shall be designed to rapidly remove overflow water caused by recirculation displacement, wave action, or other causes produced from the maximum pool bathing load.
 - vi. The opening into the gutter beneath the coping shall be not less than 10 centimeters (4 inches) and the interior of the gutter shall be not less than 7.60 centimeters (3 inches) wide with a depth of at least 7.60 centimeters (3 inches).
 - vii. When large gutters are used, they shall be designed to prevent the entrance or entrapment of bather's arms or legs.
 - viii. The overflow edge or lip shall be rounded and not thicker than 6.40 centimeters (2 1/2 inches) for the top 5.10 centimeters (2 inches).
 - ix. The overflow outlets shall be provided with outlet pipes that shall in any case be at least 5.10 centimeters (2 inches) in diameter.

Skimmers shall have a clear opening in the grating at least equal to 1-1/2 times the cross-sectional area of the outlet pipe.

4.3.8 Skimmers

- a. Skimmers are allowed on public swimming pools with not more than 149 square meters (1,600 square feet) of water surface area, provided that approved handholds are installed and sufficient motion to the pool water is induced by the pressure return inlets.
- b. At least one skimming device shall be provided for each 46.50 square meters (500 sq. feet) of water surface area or fraction thereof. Where 2 or more skimmers are required, they shall be so located as to minimize interference with each other and to insure proper skimming of the entire pool surface.
- c. Handholds shall consist of bull-nosed coping not over 6.40 centimeters (2-1/2 inches) thick for the outer 5.0 centimeters (2 inches) or an approved handhold. The handholds must be no more than 23 centimeters (9 inches) above the normal water line.
- d. Skimming device shall be built into the pool wall and shall develop sufficient velocity on the pool water surface to induce floating oils and wastes into the skimmer from the water surface of the entire pool area.
- e. Skimming devices shall meet the following general specifications:
 - i. The piping and other pertinent components of skimmers shall be designed for a total capacity of at least 80% of the required filter flow of the recirculation system and no skimmer shall be designed for a flow-through rate of less than 113.40 liters per minute (30 gallons per minute) or 14.20 liters per minute (3.75 gallons per minute) per lineal inch of weir.
 - ii. The skimmer weir shall be automatically adjustable and shall operate freely with continuous action to variations in water level over a range of at least 10 centimeters (4 inches). The weir shall be of such buoyancy and design so as to develop an effective velocity.

through which all overflow water must pass shall be provided to trap large solids.

- iv. The skimmer shall be provided with a device to prevent air-lock in the suction line. If an equalizer pipe be used, it shall provide an adequate amount of water for pump suction should the water of the swimming pool drop below the weir level, provided that, if any other device, surge tank, or arrangement be used, a sufficient amount of water for pump suction shall be assured.
- v. Where the equalizer pipe is used, it shall be sized to meet the capacity requirements of the filter and pump and shall in no case be less than 5.0 centimeters (2 inches) in diameter. This pipe shall be located at least 30 centimeters (1 foot) below the lowest overflow level of the skimmer. It shall be provided with a valve or equivalent device that will remain tightly closed under normal operating conditions, but will automatically open when the water level drops as much as 5.0 centimeters (2 inches) below the lowest weir level.
- vi. The skimmer shall be of sturdy, corrosion-resistant materials.

4.3.9 Recirculation Systems

- a. A recirculation system, consisting of pumps, piping, filters, water conditioning, and disinfection equipment and other accessory equipment shall be provided which will clarify and disinfect the swimming pool volume of water in eight hours or less, thus providing a minimum turnover of at least three times in 24 hours except that the recirculation rate shall be increased to provide a 6 hours turnover for swimming pools subjected to heavy bather loads.
- b. Piping
 - i. All piping shall be designed to reduce friction losses to a minimum and to carry the required quantity of water at a maximum velocity not to exceed 183 centimeters per second (6 feet per second).

... of the material, resistant to corrosion, and able to withstand operating pressures.

iii. All pipes shall be identified by color codes or tags.

c. Strainer

i. The recirculation system shall include a strainer to prevent hair, lint, etc. from reaching the pump and filters.

ii. Strainers shall be corrosion-resistant with openings not more than 0.30 centimeter (0.125 inch) in size providing a free flow area at least four times the area of pump suction line and shall be readily accessible for frequent cleaning.

d. A vacuum-cleaning system shall be provided. When an integral part of the circulation system, sufficient connections shall be located in the walls of swimming pool, at least 20.30 centimeters (8 inches) below the water line.

e. A rate-of-flow indicator, reading in liters per minute, shall be installed, preferably on the swimming pool return line, so that the rate of circulation and backwash rate will be indicated. The indicator shall be capable of flows measuring at least 1.50 times the design flow rate, accurate within 10% of true flow, and easy to read.

f. Pumps

i. Pumps shall be of adequate capacity to provide the required number of turnovers of swimming pool water and whenever possible shall be so located as to eliminate need for priming.

ii. If the pump or suction piping be located above the overflow level of the pool, the pump shall be self-priming.

iii. The pump or pumps shall be capable of providing flow adequate for backwashing of filters.

supply the recirculation at a dynamic head of at least 15 meters (50 feet) for pressure sand-type filters or at least 24 meters (80 feet) for diatomaceous earth-type filters.

g. Swimming pools equipped with heaters shall have a fixed thermometer in the recirculation line at the heater outlet and another near the outlet to the pool.

h. For fill and draw pools, water shall be kept clean by complete removal and daily replacement of the water.

i. For flow-through pools, water shall be kept clean through circulation of water by natural or artificial means but the overflow must be wasted where filtration is not applied.

4.3.10 User Loading

a. For the purposes of computing user loading, the portion of the swimming pool 1.50 meters (5 feet) or less in depth shall be designated as the "swimming" area.

b. In order to compute swimmer and bather capacity, swimming pool areas shall be determined as follows:

i. 0.90 square meter (10 square feet) of pool water surface area shall be provided for each non-swimmer expected at time of maximum load.

ii. 2.20 square meters (24 square feet) shall be provided for each swimmer expected at time of maximum load.

iii. 28.00 square meters (300 square feet) of pool water surface area shall be reserved around each diving board or diving platform and this area shall not be included in computing the area of the swimming section.

iv. There shall be provided additional allowance of bathers in cases of swimming pools with extensive deck areas used by patrons for lounging or sunbathing.

c. The maximum bathing capacity of the swimming pool shall be posted conspicuously.

4.3.11 Sand-Type Filters

The following requirements are equally applicable to either gravity or pressure sand-type filters.

- a. Pressure-sand-type filters shall be designed for a filter rate of 127 liters per minute per square meter (3 gallons per minute per square foot) of bed area at time of maximum head loss with sufficient area to meet the design rate of flow required by the prescribed turnover.
- b. **Filtering Material**
 - i. Filtering material shall consist of at least 50 centimeters (20 inches) of screened, sharp filter sand with an effective size between 0.40 millimeter and 0.55 millimeter, and a uniformity coefficient not exceeding 1.75, supported by at least 25.40 centimeters (10 inches) of graded filter gravel.
 - ii. Anthracite having an effective size between 0.60 millimeter and 0.80 millimeter, with a uniformity coefficient of not greater than 1.80 may be used in lieu of the sand.
 - iii. The gravel shall effectively distribute water uniformly during filtration and backwashing.
 - iv. A reduction in depth or an elimination of gravel may be permitted where equivalent performance and service are demonstrated.
- c. **Underdrain System**
 - i. The underdrain system shall be of corrosion-resistant and enduring material, so designed and of such material that the orifices or other openings will maintain approximately constant area.
 - ii. It shall be designed to provide even collection or distribution of the flow during filtration and backwashing.
- d. At least 30 centimeters (12 inches) of freeboard shall be provided between the upper surface of the filter media and the lowest portion of the pipes or drains that serve as overflow during backwashing.

- e. The filter system shall be provided with influent and effluent pressure gauges, backwash sight glass on the waste discharge line and air-relief valves at or near the high point of the filter.
- f. The filter system shall be designed with necessary valves and piping to permit:
 - i. Filtering to swimming pool;
 - ii. Individual backwashing of filters to waste at a rate of not less than 611 liters per minute per square meter (15 gallons per minute per square foot) of filter area;
 - iii. Isolation of individual filters for repair while other units are in service;
 - iv. Complete drainage of all parts of the system; and
 - v. Necessary maintenance, operation and inspection in a convenient manner.
- g. Each pressure-type filter tank shall be provided with an access opening of not less than a standard 28 centimeters by 38 centimeters (11 inches by 15 inches) manhole and cover.
- h. Devices with reasonably accurate dosage control features shall be provided for adding coagulants ahead of the filters.
 - i. On pressure-type filters, the tank and its integral parts shall be constructed of substantial material capable of withstanding continuous anticipated usage and shall be designed for a pressure safety factor of 4 based on the maximum shut off head of the pump. This shut off head for design purposes shall in no case be considered less than 1.02 kilograms per square centimeter (50 pounds per square inch).

4.3.12 Diatomaceous Earth-Type Filters

- a. Sufficient filtering area shall be provided to meet the design pump capacity.

b. Rate of Filtration:

- i. The design rate of filtration shall not be greater than 81 liters per minute per square meter (2.0 gallons per minute per square foot) of effective filtering surface without continuous body feed, and not greater than 102 liters per minute per square meter (2.50 gallons per minute per square foot) with continuous body feed.
- c. Where body feed is provided, the device shall be accurate and dependable, and shall be capable of continually feeding within a calibrated range, adjustable from 2 parts per million to 6 parts per million, at the design capacity of the recirculation pump.
- d. Filtering area, where fabric is used, shall be determined on the basis of effective filtering surfaces as created by the septum supports with no allowances for areas of impaired filtration, such as broad supports, folds or portions which may bridge.
- e. The filter and all component parts shall be of such materials, design and construction to withstand normal continuous use without significant deformation, deterioration, and corrosion or wear which could adversely affect filter operation.
- f. The filter shall be so designed and constructed, or provision made, to preclude the introduction of appreciable quantities of filter-aid into the pool during precoating operations.

g. Filter Types

- i. The tank containing the filter elements shall be constructed of steel, plastic, or other suitable material, which will satisfactorily provide resistance to corrosion, with or without coating.
- ii. Pressure-type filters shall be designed for a minimum working pressure of 3.52 kilograms per square centimeter (50 pounds per square inch) with a four to one safety factor.

iii. Vacuum-type filters shall be designed to withstand the pressure developed by the weight of the water contained therein and closed vacuum-type filters shall, in addition, be designed to withstand the crushing pressure developed under a vacuum of 63.50 centimeters (25 inches) of mercury with a safety factor of 1.50 in both instances.

iv. The septa or elements that support the filter-aid shall be of corrosion-resistant materials. The septa shall be constructed to be resistant to rupture under condition of the maximum differential pressure between influent and effluent which can be developed by the circulating pump and of adequate strength to resist any additional stresses developed by the cleaning operation.

h. Where dissimilar metals, which may set up galvanic electric currents, are used in the filters, provision shall be made to resist electrolytic corrosion. The filters shall be designed in such a manner that they may be easily disassembled with allowances made for adequate working space above and around the filter to allow the removal and replacement of any part and for proper maintenance.

i. The filter plant shall be provided with such pressure, vacuum or compound gauges as are required to indicate the condition of the filter. In vacuum-type filter installations where the circulating pump is two horsepower (2 HP) or higher, an adjustable high vacuum automatic shut off shall be provided to prevent damage to the pump by cavitation.

j. All filters shall be equipped for cleaning by one or more of the following methods: back washing, air-pump-assist back washing, spray wash (mechanical or manual), or agitation.

k. Provision shall be made for completely and rapidly draining the filter.

a. Steps

- i. Steps or ladders shall be provided at the shallow end of the swimming pool if the vertical distance from the bottom of the pool to the deck or walk be over 60 centimeters (2 feet).
 - ii. Recessed steps or ladders shall be provided at the deep portion of the swimming pool, and, if the pool is over 9.0 meters (30 feet) wide, such steps or ladders shall be installed on each side.
- b. Steps leading into the swimming pool shall be of non-slip design and shall have a minimum tread of 30 centimeters (12 inches) and a maximum rise or height of 25.40 centimeters (10 inches). There shall be no abrupt drop off or submerged projections into the pool, unless guarded by handrail.

c. Ladders

- i. Swimming pool ladders shall be corrosion-resistant and shall be equipped with non-slip treads.
- ii. All ladders shall be so designed as to provide a handhold and shall be rigidly installed.
- iii. There shall be a clearance of not more than 13 centimeters (5 inches) nor less than 8 centimeters (3 inches) between any ladder and the pool wall.
- iv. If steps be inserted in the walls or if stepholes be provided, they shall be of such design that they may be cleaned readily and shall be arranged to drain into the pool to prevent the accumulation of dirt thereon. Stepholes shall have a minimum tread of 13 centimeters (5 inches) and a minimum width of 36 centimeters (14 inches).

- d. Where steps, stepholes, or ladders are provided within the swimming pool, there shall be a handrail at the top of both sides thereof, extending over the coping or edge of the deck.

e. Supports, Platforms and Steps

- i. Supports, platforms and steps for diving boards shall be of substantial construction and of sufficient structural strength to carry safely the maximum load.
- ii. Steps shall be of corrosion resistant material, easily cleanable, and of non-slip design.
- iii. Handrails shall be provided at all steps and ladders leading to diving boards more than one meter above the water, except those set at 15° or more from the vertical.
- iv. Platforms and diving boards which are over one meter high shall be protected with guard railings.

4.3.14 Decks and Walkways

- a. A continuous deck at least 1.50 meters (5 feet and preferably 8 feet or more) wide shall extend completely around the swimming pool. The deck shall be sloped away from the pool to drain at a grade of 2.0 to 3.1 centimeters per meter (0.25 inch to 0.375 inch per lineal foot) and shall have a non-slip surface.

4.3.15 Diving Areas

- a. The dimensions of the swimming pool in the diving area shall conform to the following minimum requirements:

Table 2. Requirements for Diving Areas

Height of Board in Meters	Minimum Water Depth at End of Board and 3.7 Meters (12 Feet) Beyond	Minimum Pool Width at End of Board and 3.7 Meters (12 Feet) Beyond
2.0 or below	2.6 meters (8 ½ feet)	6.1 meters (20 feet)
2.1 - 3.0	3.0 meters (10 feet)	9.2 meters (30 feet)
3.1 or more	3.5 meters (11½ feet)	9.2 meters (30 feet)

- b. At least 4.60 meters (15 feet) of unobstructed headroom shall be provided above diving boards.

- c. Horizontal separations of 3 meters (10 feet) shall be provided between diving boards and side walls except that this may be reduced to 2.40 meters (8 feet) for surface boards.
- d. Diving towers shall be rigidly constructed and properly anchored at the bottom with sufficient bracing to insure stability under the heaviest load.

4.3.16 Disinfectant and Chemical Feeders

The swimming pool (except fill and draw type of swimming pool) shall be equipped with a chlorinator, hypochlorinator, or other disinfectant feeder or feeders that shall meet the following requirements:

- a. The feeder shall be of sturdy construction and materials that can withstand wear, corrosion, or attack by disinfectant solutions or vapors; and which are not adversely affected by repeated regular adjustments or other conditions anticipated in the use of the device.
- b. The feeder shall be capable of being easily disassembled for cleaning and maintenance.
- c. The design and construction shall be in such a way as to preclude stoppage from chemicals intended to be used or foreign materials that may be contained therein.
- d. The feeder shall incorporate failure-proof features so that the disinfectant cannot feed directly into the swimming pool, the pool piping system, water supply system, or the swimming pool enclosure under any type of failure of the equipment or its maintenance.
- e. The feeder shall be capable of supplying at least the equivalent of one-half kilogram of chlorine per eight hours for each 37,800 liters (one pound of chlorine per eight hours for each 10,000 gallons) of swimming pool capacity under conditions of operation to be anticipated at the proposed installation. This requirement may be reduced for special purpose swimming pools.
- f. The feeder shall have a graduated and clearly marked dosage adjustment to provide flows from full capacity to 25% of such capacity. The device shall be capable of continuous delivery within 10% of the dosage at any setting.

- g. When the disinfectant is introduced at the suction side of the pump, a device or method shall be provided to prevent air lock of the pump or recirculation system.
- h. When compressed chlorine gas is used, the following additional features shall be provided:
 - i. The chlorine and chlorinating equipment shall be in a separate well-ventilated room. Such room shall not be below ground level and shall be provided with vents near the floor that terminates outside. The door of the room shall not open to the swimming pool, and shall open to the outside.
 - ii. Chlorine cylinders shall be anchored to prevent falling over. A valve stem wrench shall be maintained on the chlorine cylinder so that the supply can be shut off quickly in case of emergency. Valve protection hood shall be kept in place except when the cylinder is connected.
 - iii. The chlorinator shall be a solution-feed type, capable of delivering chlorine at its maximum rate without releasing chlorine gas to the atmosphere.
- i. When a hypochlorite solution is used to feed through a hypochlorinator equipment, such equipment shall also provide the following additional features:
 - i. The feed in the circulation system shall be of positive pressure under all conditions, and without artificial constriction on the pump suction line whether this line be under vacuum or pressure head.
 - ii. Regulation shall be provided to insure constant feed with varying supply of back pressure.
 - iii. The equipment shall have provision to prevent back-flow from the recirculation system to the solution container, and provision to reduce to a minimum the entry of free calcium released from calcium hypochlorite into the swimming pool.

- iv. The equipment shall have provision to prevent siphoning of hypochlorite solution when the recirculation pump and hypochlorinator are both turned off. This only applies to aforementioned swimming pool level installations.

4.3.17 Lighting and Ventilation

- a. Where underwater lighting is used, there shall not be less than 5.38 watts per square meter (0.50 watt per square foot) employed on the swimming pool water surface area. Such lights shall be spaced to provide illumination so that all portions of the pool, including the bottom may be clearly seen without glare.
- b. Area lighting shall provide at least 6.45 watts per square meter (0.60 watt per square foot) of deck area. If such lighting is used for night swimming, the lighting within the swimming pool area shall provide at least 21.52 watts per square meter (2 watts per square foot) of pool area with 2-foot candles of illumination.
- c. All electrical wiring shall conform to the existing laws.
- d. All indoor swimming pools, bathhouses, dressing rooms, shower rooms and toilet spaces shall meet the minimum requirements of ventilation either by natural or mechanical means.

4.3.18 Location and Layout of Pools

- a. The layout or arrangement of entrances and exits of the pool room in relation to the dressing rooms, showers and toilets shall be in such a way as to provide proper routing of bathers.
- b. Entrances and exits shall be located at the shallow water portion of the pool.
- c. If the pool is a recirculation type, ample room shall be provided for filters and other units. All recirculation piping, inlet and outlet valves shall be located where they will be readily accessible.

- d. At pools where chlorine disinfection is to be used, the chlorine apparatus shall be so located as to be readily observed, and the location shall be such that there is a minimum opportunity for leakage into equipment rooms or areas where persons gather. An exhaust fan for ventilation is a good safeguard.

4.3.19 Visitors' Gallery

- a. There shall be an absolute separation of the space used by spectators and that used by bathers.
- b. There shall be no means by which non-bathers can enter the swimming pool area.
- c. Visitors' quarters shall have a separate entrance.
- d. Galleries for spectators shall not overhang any portion of the pool surface.
- e. Floor and foot rail of the gallery shall be of tight construction to prevent dirt from getting into the pool.
- f. Gallery floor shall slope to a drain and shall be flushed down with hose regularly.
- g. The drainage from the spectators area shall in no case be allowed to drain upon the area used exclusively by bathers.
- h. A curb or other provision shall be used to prevent litter and dirt from being kicked or scuffed by spectators into the pool or pool area.
- i. Seats in galleries shall be of non-absorbent materials to permit washing.

4.4 Requirements for Bathing Loads of Public Swimming Pools and Bathhouses

- 4.4.1 The total number of bathers using a swimming pool or bathhouse shall not exceed one (1) person per 2 cubic meters of water.

4.4.2 At any pool where the addition of disinfectants is not continuous during the bathing period, the total number of persons permitted to use the pool between any consecutive disinfections shall not exceed seven (7) persons per 3.8 cubic meters (1,000 gallons) of water in the pool, and each disinfection shall be sufficient to insure that the bacteriological quality of the water shall conform at all times to the limits stated in Section 6 of these implementing rules and regulations.

4.4.3 The capacity of the swimming pool or bathhouse shall be about 5% - 10% of the total potential population to be served by the establishment, i.e. the camp, hotel, motel, resort, or park capacity.

SECTION 5. SAFETY PRECAUTIONS AT PUBLIC SWIMMING OR BATHING PLACES

5.1 Safety Precautions at Public Swimming Pools or Bathhouses

5.1.1 Every swimming pool or bathhouse shall be under the supervision of a trained individual who shall be responsible for pool operation and maintenance, safety of bathers, and sanitation of the pool or bathhouse.

- a. When the swimming pool or bathhouse is not open for use, access to the pool shall be prevented.
- b. The maximum bather load capacity of the swimming pool or bathhouse shall not be exceeded at any time.

5.1.2 A swimming pool or bathing place shall have an adequate number of lifeguards in constant attendance when in use.

- a. Adults shall always accompany children while within the vicinity of the pool or bathing place and while swimming.

5.1.3 Every swimming pool or bathhouse shall be equipped with a standard 24-unit first aid kit that shall be kept filled and readily accessible for emergency use.

5.1.4 Every swimming pool or bathhouse shall have designated and readily accessible room or area, equipped for emergency care of casualties at a point nearest to the greatest hazard. Minimum equipment for an emergency room shall be a first aid kit, a stretcher, and two woolen blankets for emergency use only.

5.1.5 Lifesaving Equipment

a. Every swimming pool or bathhouse shall be equipped with one unit of lifesaving equipment consisting of the following:

- i. One or more light but strong poles (bamboo, wood or polyvinyl) with blunted ends not less than 3.7 meters (12 feet) in length, for reaching or assisting rescued persons;
- ii. One or more throwing ring buoys not more than 38 centimeters (15 inches) in diameter having 18 meters (60 feet) of 48 millimeters (3/16 inches) rope attached, placed on racks at strategic points adjacent to the pool;
- iii. Ropes and other necessary life-saving equipment which shall be kept in good repair and readily accessible.

b. One unit of lifesaving equipment shall be required for a 200 square meters of water surface area or a fraction thereof. One additional unit shall be provided for each additional 200 square meters, or major fraction thereof, of water surface area.

c. Lifesaving equipment shall be mounted in conspicuous places, distributed around swimming pool decks, at lifeguard chairs, or elsewhere, readily accessible, its function plainly marked, and kept in good repair and ready condition. Nobody shall be permitted to tamper with, use for any purpose other than its intended use, or remove such equipment from its established location unless for emergency use.

5.1.6 Periods of permissible use when a lifeguard is on duty shall be prominently posted or when no lifeguard service is available, a warning sign shall be placed in plain view and shall state "Warning - No Lifeguard on Duty" with clearly legible letters, at least 10 centimeters (4 inches) high. In addition, the sign shall also state "Children Are Prohibited To Use The Pool Without An Adult In Attendance."

5.1.7 A competent lifeguard trained for life-saving and artificial resuscitation shall always be present during all swimming periods.

- a. All swimming pools or bathing places operated primarily for unorganized use and having an area of more than 200 square meters of water surface area shall be provided with an elevated lifeguard platform or chair.
- b. In pools with 370 square meters or more of water surface area, additional elevated chairs or stations shall be provided, located so as to provide a clear unobstructed view of the pool bottom in the area under surveillance.

5.1.8 Every swimming pool or bathing place shall post to its telephone booth a list of telephone numbers for the nearest available doctors, ambulance, hospitals and police or fire department rescue squads or paramedics when available.

5.1.9 All walk areas used by patrons in bare feet shall be constructed of non-slip material.

5.1.10 The depth of water at the deepest point and at the 1.5 meters (5 feet) point shall be conspicuously marked on both sides of a pool with deep water at one end. Marking shall show depths in a 30 centimeters (1 foot) increments.

5.1.11 Suitable placards specifying the sanitary practices under these regulations and any other information concerning the proper use of swimming pool or bathhouse by the public shall be conspicuously posted in the dressing rooms and other places suitable for such posting.

5.1.12 Operation

- a. The operator of each pool shall keep a daily record of information regarding operation including disinfectant residuals, pH, maintenance procedures, recirculation rate of water in the pool and other data. These data shall be kept in file by the operator for six months for review by the health authorities or submitted periodically to the local health office.
- b. The pumps, filters, disinfectant and chemical feeders, and related appurtenances shall be kept in operation at all times when the swimming pool is in use and for such additional period as needed to keep the pool water clear and of satisfactory bacteriological quality. Continuous operation of the recirculation system shall be maintained in swimming pools having a capacity of 757 cubic meters (200,000 gallons) or more during seasons of regular use.

c. Cleaning of Swimming Pools

- i. Visible dirt on the bottom of the swimming pool shall be removed every 24 hours or more frequently as required.
- ii. Visible scum or floating matter on the swimming pool surface shall be removed within 24 hours by flushing or any other effective means.

5.2 Safety Precautions at Public Natural Bathing Places

5.2.1 No public bathing place shall be maintained on a natural body of water that has been determined and declared by the Department of Health or the local health office to be unsafe for bathing or may pose to be a menace to health of the bathers.

5.2.2 Swimming within 305 meters (1,000 feet) radius of a sewer outfall or stormwater outfalls or any source of contamination, and in any bathing place in which the investigation of the Department of Health or the local health office reveals the presence of sewage sludge, sewage surface slick, or any substance or debris found in raw sewage regardless of the result of the bacteriological analysis, shall be prohibited. The shores of such body of water shall be marked by the local government unit as unsafe for bathing purposes with signs and placards.

5.2.3 Warning signs with words "**Bathing Beyond This Line Is Dangerous**" shall be clearly displayed in prominent places at public natural bathing place.

5.2.4 The following safety measures shall be required for public natural bathing places:

a. Lifeguards

- i. Public bathing beaches and other public natural bathing places shall have one or more lifeguards on duty during the bathing hours. He must be a holder of a nationally recognized life-saving certificate.

- ii. There shall be an assigned lifeguard for every 100 bathers in a confined area with one (1) guard in a tower for every 90 meters (300 feet) of beach plus one (1) guard in a boat for every 180 meters (600 feet) in the swimming area.

b. Life Ring

- i. Every public bathing beach or other public natural bathing places shall be provided with sufficient number of life rings 40 centimeters (16 inches) in diameter with 23 meters (76 feet) of 0.50 centimeter (0.20 inch) main line attached to each.
- ii. Ring buoys when not in use shall be hung on racks equipped with 3 or 4 pins placed some 25 centimeters apart in triangle or diamond formation on which rope can be coiled without sinking.
- iii. One or more rescue devices known as swimming rescue buoys (diamond or torpedo type) equipped with 30 - 90 meters (100 feet - 295 feet) or longer if necessary of trail line (0.32 centimeters of specially prepared stout cotton) shall be placed ready for use on each lifeguard stand.

c. Life Boats

- i. Every public bathing beach or other public natural bathing areas shall be provided with at least one square-sterned boat equipped with oars, oar locks, and a life ring, ready for use.
- ii. The lifeboat shall patrol the outer fringe of bathers, one boat to every 180 meters (600 feet) of beach or bank used for bathing purposes.
- iii. Boats shall not be permitted in the swimming area except when stationed there for emergencies.

- iv. In all large bathing areas, especially large beaches, a surf boat not less than 5 meters (16.4 meters) long shall be provided. On each side of the boat, there shall be hanging ropes arranged so that persons in the water can easily catch hold of same and be supported thereby. Such boat shall be equipped with 2 or more sets of oars and 2 sets of oar locks and at least 2 life buoys or life-preservers with 0.64 centimeters (0.25 inches) Manila line but not less than 30 meters (76 feet) in length with suitable reels attached thereto.

SECTION 6. STANDARD REQUIREMENTS FOR DETERMINING THE WATER QUALITY OF PUBLIC SWIMMING AND BATHING PLACES

6.1 Swimming Pools and Bathhouses

6.1.1 Chemical and Physical Quality of Water in Swimming Pool or Bathhouse

- a. **Excess Chlorine.** Whenever chlorine, calcium hypochlorite, or other chlorine compounds are used for swimming pool or bathhouse disinfection, the amount of available or excess chlorine in the water at all times when the pool is in use shall not be less than 0.50 parts per million or more than 1.0 parts per million. A testing kit for measuring the concentration of the disinfectant, accurate within 0.10 parts per million shall be provided at each swimming pool/bathhouse.
 - i. If other halogens are used, residuals or equivalent disinfecting strength shall be maintained. Its use shall have the approval of the local health officer.
- b. **Acidity/Alkalinity.** The swimming pool water at all times shall show that the hydrogen ion content (pH) is not below 7.4 nor above 7.8.
 - i. A pH testing kit accurate to the nearest 0.20 pH unit shall be provided at each swimming pool/bathhouse.
 - ii. The alkalinity of water shall be at least 50 parts per million as measured by the methyl-orange test.

sufficiently clear to permit a black disc 15 centimeter (6 inches) in diameter on a white field, when placed on the bottom of the pool at the deepest point, to be visible from the sidewalls of the pool at all distances up to 9 meters measured from a line drawn across the pool at the disc.

6.1.2 Bacteriological Quality of Water in Swimming Pool or Bathhouse

- a. **Bacterial Count.** Not more than 15% of the samples covering any considerable period of time shall either contain more than 200 bacteria count per ml, as determined by the standard (35°C) agar plate count; or show positive test (confirmed test) for coliform organisms in any of the five 10 ml. portions of a sample or more than 1.0 coliform organisms per 50 ml. of sample when the membrane filter test is used. All primary fermentation tubes showing gas shall be confirmed. All samples shall be collected, dechlorinated and examined.
- b. **Preparation of Bottle for Sampling.** All samples of chlorinated swimming pool or bathhouse water shall be collected in bottles containing 0.10 ml of a 3% solution of sodium thiosulfate for every 100 ml. of water sample.
- c. **Collection of Samples.** Samples shall be collected only when the pool is in use and preferably during periods of heaviest bathing loads during the day. At least one sample shall be collected every week.
 - i. When collecting sample, the sample bottle shall be kept unopened until it is ready for filling. It shall be filled without rinsing and ample space (at least 2.5 centimeters) shall be left for mixing samples. The stopper or cap shall be replaced with a protective cover for additional protection.

6.2 Natural Bathing Places

- 6.2.1 The quality of water for natural bodies of water used for swimming, bathing, or other contact recreation purposes shall be within the standard set by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

For drinking water, total coliform shall not exceed 1,000 MPN per 100 ml of water sample, fecal coliform shall not exceed 200 MPN per 100 ml of water sample, and a pH range of 6.5 - 8.5.

- b. **Marine and Estuarine Waters.** For marine water, total coliform shall not exceed 1,000 MPN per 100 ml of water sample, fecal coliform shall not exceed 200 MPN per 100 ml of water sample, and a pH range of 6.0 - 8.5.

SECTION 7. REQUIREMENTS FOR BATHERS

- 7.1 All persons using the swimming pool or bathhouse shall be required to take a cleansing shower bath by using a soap and thoroughly rinsing off soap suds, before entering the pool room or bathhouse.
- 7.2 A bather leaving the pool or bathhouse to use the toilet shall be required to take a second cleansing bath before returning.
- 7.3 Every bather shall be instructed to use the toilet and urinate first before taking a cleansing bath and entering the pool.
- 7.4 Any person having a skin disease, sore or inflamed eyes, cold, nasal or ear discharges, or any communicable disease must be excluded from using a public swimming pool or bathhouse.
- 7.5 Persons having a considerable area of exposed sub-epidermal tissue, open blisters, cuts, etc., shall be warned that they are likely to become infected and advised not to use the pool.
- 7.6 Spitting, spouting of water, blowing of nose etc., in the pool shall be strictly prohibited. Bathers shall be instructed that the overflow gutter is provided for expectoration.
- 7.7 All bathers shall be instructed that blowing of nose to remove water is likely to force infectious matter into the sinus and inner ear cavities and possibly cause serious consequences.
- 7.8 Divers shall be advised to wear rubber caps over the ears, and use nose clips for their protection.
- 7.9 No boisterous or rough play, except supervised water sports, shall be permitted in the pool, on the runways, diving boards, floats, platforms or in dressing rooms, shower rooms, etc.

and those relating to suits and towels shall be conspicuously posted in the pool room or enclosure and in the dressing rooms and offices at all swimming pools or bathhouses.

- 7.11 Bringing of food and liquor in the swimming area shall be prohibited.
- 7.12 Persons intoxicated with liquors and drugs shall be prohibited from using the swimming pool or bathhouse.
- 7.13 Persons intending to use the swimming pool shall wear proper swimming attire approved by the establishment.

SECTION 8. REQUIREMENTS FOR PERSONNEL

- 8.1 No person shall be employed in a public swimming or bathing place without an updated health certificate (EHS Form 102-B; light green color) issued by the local health office. This certificate shall be issued only after the required physical and medical examination and immunization are performed.
- 8.2 The health certificate shall be renewed at least once a year.
- 8.3 Health certificate is non-transferable and shall be clipped visibly (except for lifeguards) in the upper left portion of the garment of the employee while working.

SECTION 9. EVALUATION OF PUBLIC SWIMMING OR BATHING ESTABLISHMENTS

9.1 Sanitary Inspection

9.1.1 Responsible Officer

It shall be the duty of the local health officer to cause the inspection and evaluation of every public swimming or bathing place requiring a sanitary permit for its operations, at least every three (3) months and shall cause as many additional inspections and re-inspections and evaluation as deemed necessary for the enforcement of the provisions of these rules and regulations. Inspection of the establishment shall be conducted within seven (7) working days after payment of the inspection fee to the city or municipal treasurer concerned.

9.1.2 Sanitation Inspection Fee

The fees payable for every inspection shall be of such amount as prescribed by local ordinance.

9.1.3 Mission Order

- a. The city or municipal health officer or the chief of the sanitation division/section/unit of the local health office, as the case may be, shall issue a mission order (EHS Form No. 112) for every sanitation inspection that will be conducted by the sanitary engineer/sanitation inspector.
- b. The mission order must contain date, mission order number and series, the name of the inspector and the I.D. number, the business names, addresses, categories of establishments to be inspected and the scheduled dates of inspections. This must be shown to the owner/operator of the establishment before any inspection is conducted. The immediate supervisor of the inspector shall monitor the enforcement of the mission order.
- c. Sanitary inspection conducted without a mission order is prohibited.
- d. The operator of the establishment shall report to the local health officer or chief of sanitation division/section/unit any unauthorized inspection that was executed.

9.1.4 Uniform of Sanitation Inspector and Aids to Inspection

- a. The sanitation inspector shall wear the prescribed uniform of the office with the proper identification card while conducting the inspection.
- b. He shall likewise bring all the equipment and supplies needed in the inspection such as the sanitary inspection of public places establishment form (EHS Form No. 103-B), clipboard, thermometers, flashlight, measuring tape, camera, light meter, water pressure gauge, residual chlorine and pH comparator kits, blacklight, copy of the sanitation laws, regulations, standards and other reference materials needed in the inspection.

9.1.5 Frequency of Inspections

Inspection of establishments shall be conducted at least once every three(3) months.

9.1.6 Recording of Inspection

- a. The sanitary engineer/sanitation inspector shall record his findings in an inspection form (EHS Form No. 103-B).
- b. The sanitary engineer/sanitation inspector shall furnish the original of such report to the operator of the establishment.
- c. Demerits entered in the appropriate column of the inspection form shall indicate that the item does not conform with the requirements of these rules and regulations.
 - i. The inspection form has twenty (20) items. Non-complying items are indicated with an (X). Every such item is weighted with a demerit of 5. The rating of the establishment is therefore 100 less (number of demerits x 5). The result is expressed as a percentage (%) rating.

d. Sanitation Standard

- i. The percentage rating has an equivalent sanitation standard as follows:

Table 3. Sanitation Standard Rating

Percentage Rating	Sanitation Standard	Color Code
90 - 100 %	Excellent	Luminous Green
70 - 89 %	Very Satisfactory	Luminous Yellow
50 - 69 %	Satisfactory	Luminous Red

- ii. Public swimming or bathing places with percentage rating below 50% shall be recommended for suspension of operation until compliance.

Form No. 104-A/C) shall be posted in a conspicuous part of the establishment, preferably at the door, for guidance of the customers. It shall be updated once every three (3) months, unless revoked earlier.

- e. The average sanitation standard of every public swimming or bathing places shall be evaluated by the local health officer/chief of the sanitation division/section/unit every year end to determine its improvement/ maintenance rating.

9.1.7 Report of Inspection

- a. The sanitary engineer/sanitation inspector who conducted the inspection shall complete the sanitary inspection report, and whenever an inspection form issued indicates non-complying item, the inspector shall notify the holder of the sanitary permit, of the corrections to be made and indicate a reasonable period for its compliance.
 - i. The recommended corrective measures shall be specific in nature for the easy understanding of the owner or manager or occupier of the establishment.
 - ii. Reasonable period for compliance or grace period shall be inclusive of Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.
- b. The sanitary engineer/sanitation inspector who conducted the inspection shall likewise prepare a sanitary order (EHS Form No. 107) for approval by the city or municipal health officer or chief of the sanitation division/section/unit, as the case may be.
- c. Within 48 hours after the inspection or evaluation, the original of the inspection report (EHS Form No. 103-B) and the sanitary order shall be furnished and acknowledged by the holder of the sanitary permit or the owner/operator of the establishment. The inspection report shall be personally delivered, or shall be sent through the postal service, registered with return card.

- a. If upon re-inspection of the establishment after the deadline, the sanitary engineer/sanitation inspector finds that correction has not been effected, he shall report to the local health officer who shall recommend to the local health authority the revocation of the sanitary permit.
- b. A copy of the inspection form and any notice served shall, in all cases be filed and kept by the local health office and be available for inspection by authorized officials.

9.2 Service of Notice

- 9.2.1 Whenever an inspection or evaluation form indicates non-complying items, the city/municipal health officer shall serve to the operator of the establishment a sanitary order requiring him, within the grace period stated in the order, to take such remedial action as may be specified therein.
- 9.2.2 In the case of non-compliance with the terms of the first sanitary order, the health officer may cause the issuance of a second notice to the holder of the permit, owner, or operator:

a. Second Sanitary Order

- i. If the owner of the establishment needs additional time to comply with the first sanitary order, he shall request the local health officer in writing, prior to the expiration of the Sanitary Order, for an extension of the grace period. The local health officer, upon the recommendation of the sanitary engineer/sanitation inspector who conducted the inspection, will act on such request.
- ii. Notice of Hearing (EHS Form No. 118). The city/municipal health officer shall call the holder of the sanitary permit to show cause, at a time and place stated in the notice, why the sanitary permit issued in respect of the establishment shall not be revoked.

- 9.3.1 After prior notice and hearing as provided above, the local health officer, if satisfied that the terms of the two notices have been not complied with or that failure to comply therewith is not excusable, shall recommend to the local health authority the revocation of the said permit, or;
- 9.3.2 After the second sanitary order on an extended grace period, a re-inspection was conducted and still the owner or operator of the establishment fails to comply with such order as reported by the sanitary engineer/sanitation inspector, the local health officer shall recommend to the local health authority the revocation of the sanitary permit without delay and shall inform other related agencies of the city or municipality of such revocation.
- 9.3.3 Lifting of suspension of permit may be recommended when the owner/operator of the establishment complies with the notices.
- 9.3.4 The owner/operator of the establishment may file a motion for reconsideration to the local health authority if he is not satisfied with the action of the local health officer.
- 9.3.5 The local health authority may file court proceedings against any establishment continuously operating after the revocation of its permit.

9.4 Summary Suspension of Permits

Whenever the city/municipal health officer finds unsanitary or unhealthy conditions in the operation of an establishment which in his judgment constitute a substantial hazard to public health, the local health officer may recommend to the local health authority the immediate suspension of the sanitary permit and closure of the establishment. Any person to whom such order is issued may file a written petition and shall be afforded a hearing within 48 hours.

9.5 Appeals

The person or panel conducting the hearing may confirm, modify or reverse the decision appealed from which decision shall be final.

Any sanitary engineer/sanitation inspector or duly authorized officer of the Department of Health or of the provincial, municipal or city health offices, upon presentation of proper credentials may at all reasonable times enter into any premises of any establishment used for any of the purposes referred to in these rules and regulations for the purpose of inspection or any other action necessary for administration of these rules and regulations.

9.6.1 Sanitary inspections shall be conducted by officials in accordance with sub-section 9.1.3 of these rules and regulations.

9.6.2 Sanitary inspections shall be done preferably during the time while the establishment is in operation.

9.7 Hearings

The local health authority may conduct hearings regarding erring establishments to include appeals from establishments. The decision of the local health authority shall be deemed final and executory.

SECTION 10. RESPONSIBILITY OF THE OPERATOR OF PUBLIC SWIMMING OR BATHING PLACES

10.1 Operators shall comply with all the sanitary requirements and standards for public swimming or bathing places stated in these implementing rules and regulations.

10.2 The operator shall maintain operational records which shall be kept for six months and include the following information:

10.2.1 Health record of personnel

10.2.2 Number of bathers per month

10.2.3 Period when each filter is backwashed or cleaned

10.2.4 Results of all test for pH, residual chlorine, bacteriological quality of water

10.2.5 Types, quantity and amount of chemical added

10.2.6 Other pertinent information required by the local health office

Immediately after a drowning incident in a public swimming or bathing place, whether or not it results in a fatality, the operator or person in charge shall report the incident to the local health office and local police station and shall furnish such information as the local health office may require.

10.4 Assign a qualified attendant, trained in first aid and resuscitation, who shall be on duty at all times when the swimming or bathing place is in operation, and shall be in full charge of bathing and have authority to enforce all rules of safety and sanitation.

10.5 Employ a competent and trained lifeguard who shall be on duty at all times when the swimming or bathing place is in operation.

10.6 Conduct regular in-house inspection of the swimming pool or bathing place to ascertain compliance with these implementing rules and regulations.

10.7 Posting and updating of Sanitation Standard Rating Sticker, sanitary permit and health certificates.

SECTION 11. RESPONSIBILITY OF THE LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY

11.1 Enforce the implementing rules and regulations of the Code on Sanitation of the Philippines (P.D. 856).

11.2 Cause the revocation of the permit or closure of the establishment when it is deemed necessary for the protection of public health.

SECTION 12. RESPONSIBILITY OF THE LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER

12.1 Inspect the state of sanitation of public swimming or bathing places.

12.2 Ascertain if the personnel of the establishment are examined regularly for the presence of any infectious, communicable or contagious diseases.

12.3 Ensure the validity of the sanitary permit of the public swimming or bathing places.

12.4 Issue and ensure the validity of health certificates of employees of the establishment.

12.5 Ensure the employment and training of lifeguards and the required number as compared to the bathing load of the establishment.

public swimming or bathing places including its appurtenances and premises.

- 12.7 Ensure the test for the bacteriological quality of water, chlorine content of water, ventilation and lighting.
- 12.8 Examine sanitation records of the establishment.
- 12.9 Observe the pool load, safety devices, and safety of personnel and clients.
- 12.10 Conduct sanitary surveys of outdoor bathing places.
- 12.11 Inspect the water distribution system, mechanical apparatus for cross-connection and other defects.
- 12.12 Investigate reported drowning incidents in coordination with the local police and institute preventive measures to mitigate the spread of communicable, contagious or infectious diseases coming from these establishments and facilities.
- 12.13 Coordinate with other government agencies and non-government organizations in the enforcement of these rules and regulations.
- 12.14 Issue mission order to sanitation inspector in conducting inspections.

SECTION 13. PENAL PROVISION

- 13.1 Any person who shall violate, disobey, refuse, omit or neglect to comply with any of the provisions of these rules and regulations, shall be guilty of misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be punished by imprisonment for a period not exceeding six (6) months or by a fine not exceeding Php 1 000.00 or both depending upon the discretion of the court.
- 13.2 Any person who shall interfere with or hinder, or oppose any officer, agent or member of the Department of Health or of the bureaus and offices under it, provincial, city or municipal health officers, sanitary engineers and sanitation inspectors in the performance of his duty as provided for under these rules and regulations, or shall tear down, mutilate, deface or alter any placard, or notice, affixed to the premises in the enforcement of these rules and regulations shall be guilty of misdemeanor and punishable upon conviction by imprisonment for a period not exceeding six (6) months or by a fine not exceeding Php 1 000.00 or both depending on the discretion of the court.

In the event that any rule, section, paragraph, sentence, clause or word of these rules and regulations is declared invalid for any reason, the other provisions thereof shall not be affected thereby.

SECTION 15. REPEALING CLAUSE

All pertinent rules and regulations which are inconsistent with the provisions of these rules and regulations are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SECTION 16. EFFECTIVITY

These rules and regulations shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from date of publication in the official gazette or a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved on this 30th day of January nineteen hundred ninety eight, Manila, Philippines.



CARMENCITA NORIEGA-REODICA, M.D., M.P.H., CESO II
Secretary of Health

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