

## SECTION 6 - QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR AQUATIC FACILITY OPERATORS, SUPERVISORS AND EMERGENCY CARE PERSONNEL

This Section defines management requirements for operation, supervision and emergency care using the aquatic facility classification defined in Section 1.

Aquatic facilities vary in their size, design, and patron characteristics. It is essential that aquatic facility management and staff possess qualifications and skills that enable them to effectively operate the facility, supervise and control users and provide adequate emergency care.

Management is expected to be able to carry out all required tasks, including operation of the filtration plant and equipment, maintaining water quality, general upkeep and maintenance of the facility.

Management is responsible for ensuring the facility implements adequate measures to supervise all patrons. A lifeguard service providing effective supervision of patrons, can prevent drowning, and is essential in higher-risk facilities. It is important that lifeguards hold suitable, current qualifications and skills. Lifeguards must be able to provide supervision at all times, and not be allocated duties that could interfere with their ability to respond immediately to an emergency.

It is also important for higher-risk facilities to have qualified personnel on the premises, who are able to carry out emergency care, until the casualty recovers or is transferred to the care of a paramedical or medical professional.

Group Three and Group Four facilities that do not provide a lifeguard service are required to implement other measures, to reduce the risk to bathers. Examples of such measures include providing qualified instructors, controlling patron usage, or informing patrons of the need to arrange their own supervision.

In circumstances where a facility is operated and supervised by one person, that person will need to comply with all the qualification requirements that apply to that facility. In circumstances where a facility is operated and supervised by a team of personnel, the qualification requirements may be satisfied by the collective qualifications held by individual team members.

### 6.1 INTERPRETATION

All Units of Competence listed in this Section are sourced from the National Community Recreation Industry Training Package (SRC99), published by the Australian National Training Authority.

References to “approved” shall be construed as meaning “approved by the Executive Director Public Health”.

For the purposes of this Section of the Code, provisions in the Pool Safety Guidelines incorporating the word “should” shall be construed as mandatory requirements.

### 6.2 QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

#### 6.2.1 Group One Facilities

The operator of a Group One facility shall ensure that whenever the facility is open or available for use by the public, personnel are on the premises that hold qualifications in Technical Operations, Patron Supervision and Emergency Care, as detailed below. *[Section 6.2.1 Group One Facilities amended 31 Oct 2007]*

##### 6.2.1.1 Technical Operations

Each technical operator of a Group One facility shall have completed an approved training program. An approved training program shall consist of the following units of competency or equivalent:

- SRC AQU 001B Monitor Pool Water Quality.
- SRC AQU 002B Operate Aquatic Facility Plant and Equipment.
- SRC AQU 004B Maintain Pool Water Quality.
- SRC AQU 005B Implement Aquatic Facility Plant and Equipment Maintenance Program.

SRX OHS 001B Follow Defined Occupational Health and Safety Policies and Procedures.  
SRX EMR 002A Coordinate Emergency Response.  
SRX RIK 001A Undertake a Risk Analysis of Activities.  
SRC AQU 018A Operate Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus in an Aquatic Facility.

Participants shall be assessed in accordance with Guideline TO 1.07 - *Accreditation for Pool Plant Operators - 2003* from the Pool Safety Guidelines or equivalent.

Currency of practice will be demonstrated by maintaining accreditation with the Leisure Institute of Western Australia (Aquatics) or an approved equivalent. The Accreditation Certificate is to remain at the Aquatic Facility and made available, when requested by an Environmental Health Officer. The accreditation process will require individuals to meet the following criteria every three years and hold the following:

1. Evidence of successful completion of a recognised pool operators' training course.
2. A current Senior First Aid Certificate or equivalent.
3. A current Pool Lifeguard Award or equivalent.
4. Details of current and past employment in the aquatic industry.
5. Evidence of attendance at two professional development seminars over the three-year period.

*[Section 6.2.1.1 Technical Operations amended 12 Feb & 15 Sep 2008]*

#### **6.2.1.2 Patron Supervision**

Group One facilities shall be provided with lifeguards who have completed an approved training program. The training program shall consist of the following units of competency or equivalent:

SRC AQU 003B Respond to an aquatic emergency using basic water rescue techniques.  
SRC AQU 006B Supervise clients at an aquatic facility or environment.  
SRC AQU 007B Respond to aquatic emergency using advanced water rescue techniques.

Participants shall be assessed and re-assessed in accordance with Guideline SU 1.03 - *Assessment Criteria for Accreditation for Pool Lifeguards - 2003* from the Pool Safety Guidelines or equivalent.

Currency of practice shall be demonstrated by holding a valid Royal Life Saving Society Australia, Pool Lifeguard award or approved equivalent. This award shall be updated every 12 months.

*[Section 6.2.1.2 Patron Supervision amended 15 Sep 2008]*

#### **6.2.1.3 Emergency Care**

Group One facilities shall be provided with emergency care personnel who have completed an approved training program. The training program shall consist of the following unit of competency or equivalent:

HLTFA 1A Apply Basic First Aid.

Participants shall be assessed and re-assessed in accordance with Guideline FA 1.06 - *Accreditation for First Aiders - 2003* from the Pool Safety Guidelines or equivalent.

Currency of practice shall be demonstrated by holding a valid Senior First Aid Certificate or approved equivalent. This certificate shall be updated every 3 years.

*[Section 6.2.1.3 Emergency Care amended 15 Sep 2008]*

### **6.2.2 Alternative Compliance Provisions - Group One Facilities**

#### **6.2.2.1 Existing Qualifications**

Each technical operator of Group One facility who holds qualifications approved prior to the introduction of this Code, shall be deemed to satisfy the requirements of this Section for the 3 years following the commencement of the Code. Such persons shall be required to obtain Leisure Institute of Western Australia (Aquatics) Accreditation or an approved equivalent within three years of the commencement of this Code.

*[Section 6.2.2.1 amended 15 Sep 2008]*

#### **6.2.2.2 Collective Use of Staff Qualifications**

A Group One facility operated and supervised by a team of personnel may satisfy the qualification requirements by the collective qualifications held by individual team members.

The operator of such a facility shall ensure sufficient staff members who collectively hold qualifications that satisfy the requirements of this Section, are on the premises whenever the facility is open or available for use.

#### **6.2.3 Special Requirements for Waterslides**

Waterslide landing pools and flume exits shall be supervised by personnel holding Emergency Care qualifications as listed in 6.2.1.3 above. A competent person shall supervise the flume entrance of the waterslide.

#### **6.2.4 Group Two Facilities**

The operator of a Group Two facility shall ensure that the facility is operated and maintained by personnel who hold qualifications, as detailed in 6.2.4.1 Participant Supervision/6.4 Alternate Supervision Arrangements, 6.2.4.2 Emergency Care and 6.2.7 Technical Operations Requirements for Group Two, Three and Four Facilities.

The operator shall ensure that personnel holding qualifications in Participant Supervision and Emergency Care are on the premises whenever the facility is open or available for use.

*[Section 6.2.4 Group Two Facilities amended 15 Sept 2008]*

*[Section 6.2.4.1 Technical Operations deleted 15 Sept 2008]*

##### **6.2.4.1 Participant Supervision**

Group Two facilities shall be provided with program supervisors who have completed an approved training program. The training program shall consist of the following unit of competency or equivalent:

SRC AQU 003B Respond To An Aquatic Emergency Using Basic Water Rescue Techniques

Currency of practice shall be demonstrated by holding a valid Royal Life Saving Society Australia, Aquatic Rescue Award or Swimming Teacher Rescue Award, or approved equivalents or higher qualification. This qualification shall be re-assessed annually.

Participants shall be assessed and re-assessed in accordance with Guideline PR 1.12 - *Accreditation for Aquatic Rescue Award - 2003* from the Pool Safety Guidelines or equivalent.

*[Section 6.2.4.1 Participant Supervision amended 15 Sept 2008]*

##### **6.2.4.2 Emergency Care**

Group Two facilities shall be provided with emergency care personnel who have completed an approved training program. The training program shall consist of the following unit of competency or equivalent:

HLTFA 1A Apply Basic First Aid.

Currency of practice shall be demonstrated by holding a valid Senior First Aid Certificate, or approved equivalent or higher qualification. This Certificate shall be updated every 3 years.

Participants shall be assessed and re-assessed in accordance with Guideline FA 1.06 - *Accreditation for First Aiders* from the Pool Safety Guidelines or equivalent. *[Section 6.2.4.2 Emergency Care amended 15 Sept 2008]*

#### **6.2.5 Group Three Facilities**

The operator of a Group Three facility:

- a. Shall ensure that the facility is operated and maintained by personnel who hold qualifications, as detailed in 6.2.5.1 Patron Rescue and 6.2.5.2 Emergency Care and 6.2.7 Technical Operations Requirements for Group Two, Three and Four Facilities, or:

- b. As an alternative to qualifications in Patron Rescue and Emergency Care, the Operator of a Group 3 facility may manage their risk and duty of care to patrons by documenting within their Operations Manual precisely how they are providing the same or better health and safety protection to patrons (e.g.) Only permitting competent swimmers, having persons with adequate safety or first aid qualifications, placing restrictions on use/behaviour, adult supervision of children who are not competent swimmers, having adequate signage, i.e. safety, pool depth, first aid information).

*[Section 6.2.5 Group Three Facilities amended 9 September 2009]*

Group Three qualified rescue and emergency care personnel are not required to provide supervision of patrons at all times. *[Section 6.2.5 Group Three Facilities amended 15 Sept 2008]*

*[Section 6.2.5.1 Technical Operations deleted by EDPH 15 Sept 2008]*

#### **6.2.5.1 Patron Rescue**

The operator of a Group 3 facility shall ensure that there are personnel, who have completed an approved patron rescue training program but are not to be on the premises at all times.

The approved training program shall comprise of either of the following:

1. National unit of competency: 'SRC AQU 003B Respond to an aquatic emergency using basic water rescue techniques' or equivalent, or higher level national unit of competency for aquatic rescue, or;
2. Performance criteria of Guideline PR 01.12 - *Patron Rescue Accreditation for Group 3 Pools - 2008* from the Pool Safety Guidelines or equivalent.
3. Bronze Medallion Award. *[Section 6.2.5.1 amended 9 September 2009]*

Participants shall be re-assessed every 3 years in accordance with Guideline PR 01.12 above or equivalent.

*[Section 6.2.5.1 amended 15 Sept 2008]*

Patron Rescue Requirements shall not apply to Group 3 spa pools.

*[Section 6.2.5.2 amended 9 September 2009]*

#### **6.2.5.2 Emergency Care**

The operator of a Group 3 facility shall ensure that there are personnel who hold a current first aid qualification incorporating, national unit of competency: 'HLTFA201A - Provide Basic Emergency Life Support', or equivalent, or higher competency standard but are not required to be on the premises at all times.

*[Section 6.2.5.2 amended 9 Sept 2009]*

#### **6.2.6 Group Four Facilities**

The operator of a Group Four facility shall ensure that the facility is operated and maintained by personnel who hold qualifications, as detailed in Section 6.2.7 Technical Operator Requirements for Group Two, Three and Four Facilities. *[Section 6.2.6 Group Four Facilities amended 15 Sept 2008]*

*[Sections 6.2.6.1 Technical Operations & 6.2.6.2 Patron Supervision and Emergency Care deleted 15 Sept 2008]*

#### **6.2.7 Technical Operator Requirements for Group Two, Three and Four Facilities**

Operators of Group Two, Three and Four facilities are required to ensure that the ongoing operation of aquatic facility water quality, plant, and equipment service and maintenance, is undertaken by, or done under the direction of a technical operator who has completed an approved training program.

The approved training program shall consist of the following units of competency or equivalent:

- SRC AQU 001B Monitor pool water quality.
- SRC AQU 002B Operate aquatic facility plant and equipment.

SRC AQU 004B Maintain pool water quality.  
SRX OHS 001B Follow Defined Occupational Health and Safety Policies and Procedures.

A person other than a technical operator may undertake the required daily manual water chemistry testing of an aquatic facility water body, providing that the technical operator, Environmental Health Officer of the local government of the district, or other equivalently competent person has instructed and shown them how to undertake prescribed manual water chemistry tests.

If a person who is not a technical operator identifies water chemistry levels outside the prescribed parameters, it is recommended that they contact the designated technical operator, to obtain relevant instruction necessary to remediate water chemistry parameters as appropriate, or alternatively await remedial technical operator intervention.

It is recommended that as a temporary response aquatic facility personnel display a sign and restrict patrons from entering the aquatic facility/water body, if the technical operator is not able to immediately remediate water chemistry problems, to ensure that the health of a person who uses the aquatic facility water body is not adversely impacted.

Operators shall record the name and contact details of the nominated technical operator and the nominated person/s to undertake daily water chemistry testing into their facility operations manual and/or log-book.

*[Section 6.2.7 Technical Operator Requirements for Group Two, Three & Four Facilities inserted 15 Sept 2008]*

### **6.3 EVIDENCE OF QUALIFICATIONS**

Operators of aquatic facilities that are required by this Section to provide qualified technical operators, or supervisors, shall ensure that copies of such personnel's qualifications are kept on-site at the aquatic facility, and made available when requested by an Environmental Health Officer.

### **6.4 ALTERNATIVE SUPERVISION ARRANGEMENTS**

This Section requires certain aquatic facilities to provide qualified supervisors.

Such facilities shall be deemed to comply with these requirements where patrons are taking part in specific aquatic activities, and are supervised by coaches or instructional staff holding qualifications in accordance with provision 12 of Section 7 of this Code.