

## SECTION 7 - GENERAL SANITATION AND OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Aquatic facilities are continuously subjected to contamination.

The main source of contamination is material brought into the water by patrons. This includes bodily fluids and solids, urine, nasal mucus, saliva, sweat, hair, skin and faecal matter. Other contaminants include dirt collected on the body before bathing, dirt on patrons' feet from the concourse, unclean bathing costumes, cosmetics, oils, hairspray, lotions and sunscreen.

A variety of contaminants may also be found in the replacement (make-up) water, and in run-off from rainwater and the environment.

Although these materials are pollutants in themselves, they may also be accompanied by a variety of micro-organisms. Some of these micro-organisms may be transmitted to patrons, where they can produce a range of infections. Strategies need to be implemented to minimise the risk of infections from these micro-organisms.

Many pollutants can be removed or inactivated by effective operation of the filtration system, and maintaining appropriate water chemistry and clarity standards.

Implementing patron hygiene and behaviour rules, including exclusion of persons who are unclean or carrying obvious infectious diseases, reduces the amount of contaminants entering the facility.

Regular servicing and maintenance of the water treatment system, along with other equipment and structures, will ensure all equipment is functioning at maximum efficiency.

Structured cleaning programs assist in preventing the build up of micro-organisms.

Operations manuals provide a useful tool for ensuring aquatic facility operators have access to information required to run a facility. Emergency Action Plans allow operators to access important information without delay when emergencies arise.

Animals can be a significant source of contamination and, therefore, are not permitted to enter water bodies.

Automatic cleaners are used to improve cleaning efficiency. Inappropriate use of this equipment can create a number of hazards to aquatic facility patrons.

Exposure of patrons to excessive chemical levels can be prevented by ensuring chemicals are not added directly to water bodies whilst facilities are in use. **All chemicals must be added prior to or post-filtration.**

Controls need to be developed for the conduct of specific activities, and only staff with appropriate qualifications shall be involved in instruction or coaching to facilitate that activity. Young children are not allowed to enter an aquatic facility unless accompanied by an adult.

Towels and bathing costumes pick up a variety of micro-organisms and other contaminants when used by patrons. Some facilities operate hire services, resulting in towels and bathers being used by a number of patrons. This practice can result in infectious micro-organisms being transferred between patrons. An approved process of cleaning must be implemented to prevent incidences of cross-infection that can result from this practice.

## **7.1 CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS**

All parts of an aquatic facility shall be maintained in good repair and in a sound working condition. All parts of an aquatic facility shall be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition, free of litter and vermin, to prevent the transmission of infectious disease.

These requirements apply to all parts of an aquatic facility, including associated plant, fixtures and equipment.

## **7.2 AUTOMATIC ELECTRIC CLEANER SAFETY**

Automatic electric cleaners shall not be used, or be left in the water, whilst an aquatic facility is open for use.

## **7.3 HEAT BLANKET SAFETY**

Aquatic facilities that use heat blankets shall use them in accordance with the requirements of Guideline GO 1.05 - *Pool Covers - 1996* of the Pool Safety Guidelines. For the purposes of this Clause, provisions incorporating the word "should" shall be construed as mandatory requirements.

## **7.4 ELECTRICAL SAFETY**

General Power Outlets installed around the concourse shall not be used to power equipment whilst people are in the water. Electrical equipment powered by mains supply shall only be used on dry surfaces.

Residual current devices, cord extension sets and any portable or mobile electrical equipment shall be tested at six month intervals by an appropriately licensed electrical worker, in accordance with the tests prescribed by AS 3760 - 2003: In-service safety inspection and testing of electrical equipment. Where facilities operate on a seasonal basis, only one test is required prior to the start of each season.

Faulty electrical equipment shall be immediately withdrawn from use, or isolated for repair.

## **7.5 HAND DOSING OF CHEMICALS**

Hand dosing, or the introduction of chemicals directly into the water body, shall not occur when the water body is occupied by patrons/ bathers.

## **7.6 PROHIBITION OF ENTRY INTO WATER BODY**

The following persons are not to be permitted to enter a water body of an aquatic facility, a person who is:

- (a) suffering from any gastrointestinal disease, skin infection or other disease that is communicable in an aquatic environment; or
- (b) in an unclean condition; or
- (c) wearing unclean clothes; or
- (d) under the apparent influence of alcohol, drugs or alcohol and drugs; or
- (e) a baby or young child who ordinarily wears a nappy - not wearing an aqua nappy.

Subclause (a) does not apply to a person who has a written statement by a medical practitioner to the effect that the person will not be a health hazard to other users of the water body.

## **7.7 PROHIBITION OF ANIMALS**

Any animal belonging to a person, under his or her control is not to be permitted to enter or remain in an aquatic facility. The following exceptions apply:

- (a) a guide dog; or
- (b) a dog trained to assist the person in activities where hearing is required; or
- (c) any other animal trained to assist the person to alleviate the effect of a disability the person has;

However no animal is to be permitted to enter the water body.

## **7.8 OPERATIONS MANUALS AND EMERGENCY ACTION PLANS**

### **7.8.1 GROUP ONE FACILITIES**

Group One aquatic facilities shall establish an operations manual and an emergency action plan. The operations manual shall be prepared in accordance with Guideline G01.01- Operation Manuals - 1996, of the Pool Safety Guidelines.

The emergency action plan shall be prepared in accordance with Guideline G01.02 - Emergency Action Plans - 1996 of the Pool Safety Guidelines. For the purposes of this section of the Code, provisions of the Guidelines incorporating the word “should” shall be construed as Code requirements.

### **7.8.2 GROUP 2, 3 & 4 AQUATIC FACILITIES**

Group 2, 3 & 4 aquatic facilities shall establish an AQUATIC FACILITY OPERATION MANUAL. The manual shall use a similar format and contain the information as detailed within the example manual in Appendix 10 of this Code.

[Section 7.8.2 amended 21 September 2009]

## **7.9 MINIMUM ENTRY AGE**

The operator of an aquatic facility shall ensure that children under 10 years of age are not permitted to enter the facility unless under the supervision of a person 16 years or older, in accordance with Guideline SU 1.11 - *Parental Supervision - 1996* of the Pool Safety Guidelines. Waterslides are exempted from complying with 4.2 of this guideline. For the purposes of this Clause, provisions incorporating the word “should” shall be construed as mandatory requirements.

## **7.10 SUPERVISION REQUIREMENTS**

For Group One facilities, the minimum ratio of supervision shall be 1 lifeguard for up to 100 patrons in the water in accordance with section 4.4, *Ratios*, contained within Guideline SU 1.01 - *Bather Supervision - 1996* of the Pool Safety Guidelines.

Supervisors of Group One and Group Two facilities shall be located in a position to maintain supervision of the water. Supervisors shall not be assigned duties that would unduly distract them from supervising patrons or program participants at all times, or unduly inhibit their ability to provide immediate assistance to patrons or program participants in distress.

Group Three and Group Four facilities are not required to ensure patrons engaging in aquatic activities are supervised.

## **7.11 OPERATION OF DIVING FACILITIES AND STARTING PLATFORMS**

Diving facilities shall be operated in accordance with Guideline SU 1.13 - *Supervision of Diving Towers and Springboards - 1996* of the Pool Safety Guidelines.

Starting platforms shall be operated in accordance with clauses 5.2 and 5.3 of Guideline SU 1.23 *Safe Diving for Competitions - 2002* of the Pool Safety Guidelines.

For the purposes of this Clause, provisions incorporating the word “should” shall be construed as mandatory requirements.

## **7.12 QUALIFICATIONS OF COACHING AND INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF**

The operator of an aquatic facility shall ensure that personnel providing instruction in specific aquatic activities hold an appropriate and approved qualification, as detailed in Table 9.

**Table 9 - Qualifications of Coaching and Instructional Staff**

<b>Aquatic Activity</b>	<b>Approved Industry Standard or Approved Equivalent</b>
Swimming and Water Safety Instruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Royal Life Saving Instructor of Swimming and Water Safety Certificate <i>or</i></li> <li>▪ AUSTSWIM Teacher of Swimming and Water Safety</li> <li>▪ World Aquatics Certificate</li> </ul>
Competitive Swimming Coaching	Australian Swimming Coaching Qualification
Platform and Springboard Diving	Australian Diving Association Coaching Qualification
SCUBA Diving	Dive instructor qualification from a recreational scuba training organisation.
Aqua-Exercise	Australian Fitness Association Council Aqua-Exercise Leaders Certification
Hydrotherapy	Registered Physiotherapist

### 7.13 TOWEL AND BATHING COSTUME HIRE

Loan or hire of bathing costumes shall comply with the requirements of the Health (Cloth Materials) Regulations 1985. These Regulations require the items to be subject to an approved process of cleaning, between each hire or loan to the public.

Under this Code, similar requirements apply to the hire and loan of towels. Towels which are hired or loaned to members of the public shall be subjected to an approved process of cleaning, before each hire or loan to the public.

### 7.14 MAXIMUM BATHER NUMBERS

The operator of an aquatic facility shall ensure that the number of patrons in an aquatic facility water body does not exceed the following levels as detailed in Table 10.

**Table 10 - Maximum Bather Numbers**

<b>Type of Facility</b>	<b>Maximum Bather Numbers at any time (persons/m<sup>2</sup> of water)</b>
Spa pool	1 person / 1.0m <sup>2</sup>
Toddler Pool, Waterslide Splash Down Pool, Leisure Pool, Hydrotherapy Pool	1 person / 2.0m <sup>2</sup>
Learn to Swim Pool, Wave Pool, Lazy River, School Pool, Health Club Pool, Strata Titled Pool, Caravan Park Pool, Motel and Hotel Pool	1 person / 2.5m <sup>2</sup>
50m Competition Pool, 25m Lap Pool, Diving Pool, Water Polo Pool	1 person / 3.5m <sup>2</sup>