



State of Louisiana
Department of Health and Hospitals
Office of the Secretary

November 16th, 2011

Glenn T. Cambre, Director
Center for Environmental Health Services
Office of Public Health
Department of Health and Hospitals
628 N. 4th Street
P.O. Box 4489
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-4489

Re: **Letter of Intent – Fixture Requirements for Individual
Class D Public Pools and Water Parks**

Dear Mr. Cambre:

It has recently been brought to my attention that Part XXIV (Swimming Pools and Natural or Semi-Artificial Swimming or Bathing Places) of the Louisiana State Sanitary Code (LAC 51) contains a method to determine the maximum user load and the required number of plumbing fixtures for Class B and C public pools but does not clearly specify these requirements for water parks or individual Class D public pools. It is my understanding, based on the experience and research of your staff, that applying the fixture requirements currently prescribed for Class B and C public pools to water parks and/or Class D public pools may result in an unreasonable and actually much higher number of plumbing fixtures than what is actually warranted to maintain sanitary conditions.

Section 101.A of Part XXIV specifies that the State Health Officer shall decide the maximum number of persons who may utilize an artificial or semi-artificial swimming pool and the number, design, and operating conditions of dressing rooms, showers, toilets, and/or any other appurtenances that shall be provided to maintain sanitary conditions at said pool or bathing place. So, in reference to this Section, it is my intent to prescribe the following maximum user load and plumbing fixture requirements to individual Class D public pools and water parks:

I. Definitions.

Class B: Public Pool – any pool intended for public recreational use.

Class C: Semi-Public Pool – any pool operated solely for and in conjunction with lodgings such as hotels, motels, apartments, condominiums, etc.

Current definition of “Class D: Other Pool” – any pool operated for medical treatment, therapy, exercise, lap swimming, recreational play, and other special purposes, including, but not limited to, wave or surf action pools, activity pools, splash pools, kiddie pools and play areas.

Proposed new definition of “Class D: Other Pool”— any individual pool operated for medical treatment, therapy, exercise, lap swimming, recreational play, and other special purposes, including, but not limited to, wave or surf action pools, activity pools, splash pools, kiddie pools and play areas.

Spray Park: a type of Class D pool with constructed features which spray water in various arrays for the purpose of wetting the persons playing in the spray streams but in which the water is not allowed to pond in the bottom of the pool or basin.

Current definition of “water park” – any indoor or outdoor area in any natural water course, body of water or manmade construction which shall include but not be limited to swimming pools, wave pools, water slides, flumes, plunge pools, flotation rides that include immersion or partial immersion with direct or indirect contact with the water (primary and secondary contact).

Proposed new definition of “water park” – an aquatic recreational facility that is designed for free-form aquatic play and recreation. These facilities may include, but are not limited to, a combination of conventional swimming pools, wave action pools, water slides, flumes, plunge pools, lazy rivers, activity pools, interactive water features and spray pads, etc. The user loads of these facilities are typically much higher than individual swimming pools.

II. **Maximum User Load.** The maximum user load for individual Class D public pools and water parks shall be calculated in accordance with the following sections (Note: for spray parks or other types of interactive water features where there is minimal standing water, the wetted deck area shall be utilized in place of the vessel water surface area in the determination of the maximum user load):

A. **Class D Public Pools.** The maximum user load of individual Class D public pools shall be in accordance with the table included in Section 319 of LAC:51 Part XXIV.

B. **Water Parks.** The maximum user load at water parks shall be in accordance with the following Table.

Maximum User Load¹

| | Shallow Areas (5 ft. or less) | Deep Areas² (exceeding 5 ft.) | Deck Area |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Vessel Water Surface Area | 8 sq. ft per user | 10 sq. ft. per user | ----- |
| Deck Area | ----- | ----- | 1 user per 50 sq. ft. |

1. The maximum user load of the water park shall be the combined total of the number of users based on the vessel(s) water surface area(s) and the deck(s) area(s) immediately surrounding or adjacent to the vessel(s).
2. 300 sq. ft may be deducted from the deep area total for each diving board.

III. **Plumbing Fixture Requirements.** The minimum required number of plumbing fixtures for individual Class D public pools and water parks shall be calculated in accordance with the following Table:

**Minimum Plumbing Fixtures^{1,2}
(Class D Public Pools and Water Parks)**

| Water Closets & Male Urinals | | | | Lavatories | | | Showers ^{3,4} | | | Drinking Fountains | |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------|--------------|-------------|------------------------------------------------|------|--------|--------------------------------------------|------|--------|---------------------------------------|----------|
| Persons (total) | Male W.C. | Male Urinals | Female W.C. | Persons (total) | Male | Female | Persons (total) | Male | Female | Persons (total) | Fixtures |
| 1-50 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1-50 | 1 | 1 | 1-25 | 1 | 1 | 1-75 | 1 |
| 51-100 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 51-200 | 2 | 2 | 26-100 | 2 | 2 | 76-150 | 2 |
| 101-200 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 201-500 | 3 | 3 | 101-300 | 3 | 3 | 151-300 | 3 |
| 201-300 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 501-850 | 4 | 4 | 301-600 | 4 | 4 | 301-500 | 4 |
| 301-500 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 851-1,200 | 5 | 5 | 601-1,000 | 5 | 5 | 501-750 | 5 |
| For each additional 350 persons over 500 add | 0.7 | 1 | 1.5 | For each additional 500 persons over 1,200 add | 1 | 1 | For each additional 600 persons over 1,000 | 1 | 1 | Over 750 add one fixture for each 500 | |

1. When the calculation results in any fraction (no matter how small), the actual number of fixtures required shall be the next highest whole number.
2. Each men’s and women’s restroom shall be equipped with a diaper changing table/station.
3. (a) At least half of the required showers shall be located in dressing facilities located near the pool/water park entrance. These dressing facility showers shall be supplied with hot and cold potable water under pressure and shall comply with the Louisiana State Plumbing Code, 2000 edition (Part XIV of LAC 51).
(b) Up to ½ of the required shower units may be located outdoors adjacent to the pool(s) deck(s) or near the pool/water park entrance such that patrons are encouraged to rinse off prior to entering the pool. The water supplying these outdoor deck showers must be from a potable source and shall drain to the sanitary sewer in accordance with the Louisiana State Plumbing Code, 2000 edition (Part XIV of LAC 51). In the event that the facility is used outside of the normal hot or warm weather months, hot and cold potable water under pressure shall be provided to encourage rinsing off prior to entering, for example, a heated pool or other water feature.
4. Signage shall be provided at the pool entrance which requires patrons to bathe/shower prior to entering the pool or any other water attraction.

IV. **Exceptions/Clarifications:**

- 1) In instances where the Class D pool is primarily utilized for therapy or medical treatment, minimum plumbing fixtures shall be provided for in accordance with Table 407 of the Louisiana State Plumbing Code, 2000 edition. Showers in these cases are optional if signage is provided at the pool entrance which requires the users to bathe/shower prior to arriving for their therapy/treatment.

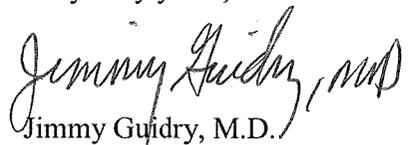
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- 2) Showers for outdoor spray parks are not required but signage shall be provided at the spray park entrance concerning the requirement for patrons to bathe/shower prior to arriving to the spray park.
- 3) Existing, publicly accessible restrooms located on the same premises may be used to meet the minimum fixture requirements of individual Class D public pools and water parks when the existing fixtures are within two-hundred feet of said pool or water attraction. If these restrooms are not visible from any portion of the pool deck, signs shall be posted showing the directions to the facilities. These directions shall be legible from any portion of the pool deck and letters shall be a minimum of one inch in height.
- 4) Dressing and sanitary facilities are not required when individual Class D pools or water parks are operated solely for and in conjunction with lodgings including but not limited to motels, hotels, apartments, condominiums, mobile home or RV parks, and similar facilities where access to the pool is controlled/limited and the following stipulations are met:
 - a. each living unit is equipped with private sanitary facilities (toilet, lavatory, and shower or bathtub) available for use by the expected pool users;
 - b. all living units are within a three-hundred foot horizontal radius of the nearest water's edge;
 - c. there is proper signage at the pool entrance concerning the need to shower before entering the pool/facility;

Please ensure that copies of this letter are circulated to your staff and others as appropriate. Should questions arise, they should be directed to Mr. Jake Causey, P.E., Chief Engineer, Engineering Services Section, Center for Environmental Health Services, Office of Public Health. Mr. Causey may be reached at (225) 342-7499.

Very truly yours,


Jimmy Guidry, M.D.
State Health Officer

JG//JKC/JKH/jkh

cc: Jake Causey, Chief Engineer, Engineering Services Section, CEHS, OPH
Jeremy Harris, Engineer, Engineering Services Section, CEHS, OPH
District/Regional Engineers, Engineering Services Section, CEHS, OPH
Tenney Sibley, Chief Sanitarian, Sanitarian Services Section, CEHS, OPH

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Sidney Becnel, Legislative Liaison & Rulemaking Manager, CEHS, OPH

State Plumbing Board of Louisiana c/o John Barker, Executive Director

State Licensing Board for Contractors c/o Michael McDuff, Executive Director

H. “Butch” Browning, Jr., State Fire Marshal, Office of the State Fire Marshal, Department
of Public Safety and Corrections

Joe DeLaune, Architect, Chief Building Official, Building Official Plan Review Division, Office of the
State Fire Marshal, Department of Public Safety and Corrections

Louisiana State Uniform Construction Code Council c/o Denise C. Jobe, Administrator, c/o Office of
Management and Finance, Department of Public Safety and Corrections

Louisiana Professional Engineering and Land Surveying Board c/o Donna D. Sentell, Executive Secretary

Louisiana Engineering Society c/o Brenda Gajan, Executive Director

Louisiana Board of Architectural Examiners c/o Mary “Teeny” Simmons, Executive Director

AIA Louisiana c/o Lynn B. Robertson, Executive Director

American Society of Plumbing Engineers, New Orleans Chapter, c/o Richard Molina

Local Plumbing Inspectors (from S. Becnel’s Excel list)