



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

August 6, 2009

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/Clarification – Zero Depth Entry Swimming Pools

Dear Mr. Cambre:

It has recently come 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) does not specifically allow zero depth entry for use in swimming pools but that Section 311.A of this Part does allow water depths less than 3 feet with the prior written permission of the state health officer. So, in reference to this section it is my intent to allow zero depth entry pools only when the following requirements are strictly met.

1. "Zero Depth Entry Pool" shall be defined as a swimming pool where the pool floor continues to slope upward to a point where it meets the surface of the water and the pool deck surface along the shallow end of the pool.
2. Zero depth entry shall be considered as an approved means of entry/exit in the shallow end of all pools as provided in LAC 51:XXIV.325.D and shall be of a slip-resisting material.
3. Zero depth entry pools shall have a continuous floor slope, not to exceed 1 vertical foot in 12 horizontal feet from the pool deck surface to 1 ½ feet of water depth. The slope from this 1 ½ feet water depth point toward the deep end shall be in compliance with the requirements of LAC 51:XXIV.307.
4. A gutter or trench with a grate cover shall be provided at the water's edge across the entire zero depth portion of the pool to allow effective skimming at the trench at all times.
5. In the area of the zero depth entry, the pool deck may slope a maximum of 1 in 12 toward the pool for no more than seven feet, as measured from the overflow system grate

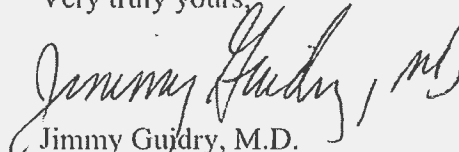
outward. Beyond this inward slope area, the deck shall slope away from the pool in accordance with LAC51:XXIV. 323.F, G, and H.

6. “No-Entry, Shallow Water” signs shall be provided along the pool wall edge where the water depth is less than 3 feet deep. “No-Entry, Shallow Water” signs shall be slip-resisting, easily cleanable, 4 inch minimum height letters, located within 18 inches of the water’s edge positioned to be read while standing on the deck facing the water, spaced no more than 15 feet apart and shall be recessed flush with the surrounding area. “No-Entry, Shallow Water” signs shall be installed at the maximum and minimum water depth at all points of slope change until at least a 3 foot depth of water is reached. (Note: Vertical sidewall depth and unit markers shall not be required on the edges of the pool in the zero-depth entry area of the pool.)
7. A system of bottom inlets must be provided in the shallow end, designed to provide the equivalent of a two-hour turnover for that area. Such inlets shall be spaced uniformly with at least 1 inlet per 200 square feet or portion thereof in the area of the pool that is 1 ½ feet deep or less.
8. The recirculation-filtration system shall be of a minimum of one turnover every two hours in the area of the pool that is three feet deep or less. In the remainder of the pool where the depth is greater than three feet, the system shall have a maximum eight hour turnover rate. The design plans submitted by the applicant shall provide the volume of water in the pool area of three feet depth and less, the volume of water in the pool area greater than three feet in depth, and the total volume in the pool for determination of minimum circulation flow. The volume calculations shall provide verification that the correct volume of water is used to determine the minimum flow at the two hour and the eight hour flow requirements.
9. In those portions of the zero depth entry pool, where the water depth will not allow for the proper installation of underwater lighting, six foot candles of lighting on the deck and the water shall be provided.
10. Stairs may be used in conjunction with zero depth entry pools as a means of transition towards the deep end of the pool. The stairs shall comply with the requirements of LAC 51:XXIV.327.A and must have a dark contrasting tile marking on the step tread’s leading edge extending two inches on the horizontal and a dark contrasting tile marking on the step riser’s edge extending 2” on the vertical surface. Tile shall be slip resistant. Bull-nose tile that is slip resistant may be used when the 3/4ths inch segment is placed on the step tread’s leading edge (or horizontal surface) and the 2 inch segment is placed on the step riser (or vertical surface). Vinyl liner and fiberglass pools may use other material for the step edge marking, provided the material is permanent, permanently secured, dark in color, non-fading, and slip resistant. Nothing herein shall be interpreted as exempting the need for at least one handrail per LAC 51:XXIV.327.A.3.

Please ensure that copies of this letter are circulated to your staff and others as appropriate. In addition, if not done so already, please request that our plans review staff insert a standard paragraph in their swimming pool plans review letters which reminds the pool owner and/or design engineer that this office reviews for the sanitary features of the design only and that he/she should consult with the State Fire Marshal's office relative to any required compliance with the federal ADA Accessibility Guidelines for Buildings and Facilities (ADAAG). It is my understanding that such guidelines for swimming pools have been developed in 2004 but are not yet enforceable. Such guidelines may become enforceable when and if adopted as a standard by the Department of Justice. (More information may be found relative to ADAAG at <http://www.access-board.gov/adaag/html/intro.htm>).

Should questions arise, they should be directed to Mr. Jake Causey, P.E., 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/SGB/JKC/jkc

cc: Karen Irion, Chief Engineer, Engineering Services Section, CEHS, OPH
Jake Causey, Engineer, Engineering Services Section, CEHS, OPH
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