

Dear Public Pool, Spa and Wading Pool Owner/Operator:

The Grey Bruce Health Unit would like to inform you of recent regulatory changes to O. Reg. 565: Public Pools. On July 1, 2018, this regulation will include all public pools, spas and the addition of Class C facilities. Class C facilities will collectively include public splash and spray pads, wading pools and water slide receiving basins. Ontario Regulation 428/05: Public Spas will also be revoked on July 1, 2018.

You are highly encouraged to read the new/updated regulation at the following website:

<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/900565>

We are providing this information to you now so that you can take the time to make any adjustments to your operation that will be required under the upcoming regulatory change. These requirements are intended to move Ontario toward increase transparency, consistency and bather safety based on outcomes that will protect the public.

Some key changes/updates will include, but are not limited to the following:

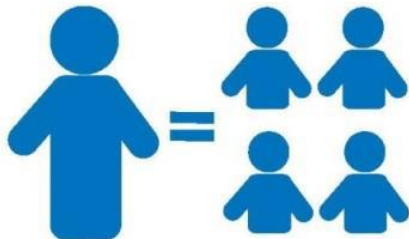
1. Posting of inspection results at your facility as requested by a Public Health Inspector
2. Operator training requirements in pool and spa operation and maintenance, filtration systems, water chemistry and all relevant safety and emergency procedures
3. Addition of Class C facilities will contain requirements for notification, general maintenance, supervision and disinfection
4. Updated certification requirements for lifeguards and assistant lifeguards.
5. Regulatory inclusion of Class A pool Admission Standards to have a process in place to ensure guardian supervision of children under 10 years of age to improve the ability of lifeguards to provide overall pool bather supervision.
6. Updated daily inspection and recording frequencies for record keeping regardless of the presence of an automatic sensing device
7. Addition of upper limits for various water chemistry parameters, reduction of make-up water per bather requirements and adjustment of the ground fault circuit interrupter inspection frequency
8. Requirement of a buoy line for unsupervised Class B pools having a slope of greater than 8%

As a reminder, this new regulation will take effect on July 1, 2018.

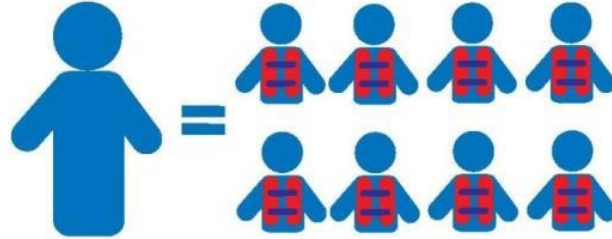
For any questions or concern please feel free to contact the local inspector or the Health Unit.

ADMISSION STANDARD PUBLIC POOL

CHILDREN UNDER 10 YEARS OF AGE



1 adult for every 4 children



1 adult for every 8 children with life jackets



Tested swimmers permitted to enter alone



Children under 6 admitted only with parent or guardian



* Class B Public Pools (no lifeguards)
Children under 12 admitted only with parent or guardian

Source: Sudbury and District Health Unit

HIGHLIGHT OF CHANGES ONTARIO'S POOLS AND SPAS REGULATION

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Effective July 1, 2018, the Public Pools Regulation R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 565 will include requirements for public spas, wading pools, spray/splash pads and waterslide receiving basins. As such, Ontario Regulation 428/05- Public Spas has been revoked. This summary document has been prepared for public health and industry stakeholders to raise awareness and assist with implementation of the new requirements.

Background

Reg. 565 Public Pools, had not received a comprehensive review since coming into effect in 1944. When Reg. 428/05 Public Spas was introduced in 2005, many requirements for opening, operating and maintaining a public spa were taken from Reg. 565. Updating and modernizing these regulatory requirements involved consultations with public health and industry stakeholders, consideration of the United States Centres for Disease Control's Model Aquatic Health Code, and coroner recommendations.

Key Changes

Posting requirements of inspection results

Many public health units have existing public disclosure programs, some of them require on-site posting to raise awareness of the availability of inspection results to the public. Under the amended regulation, operators will be required to post the results of public health inspections, in accordance with the inspector's request.

Lifeguard and assistant lifeguard certification

"Lifeguard certificate" and "assistant lifeguard certificate" now includes certificates issued by the Lifesaving Society, Canadian Red Cross or other organization that provides equivalent training in lifeguarding and that is approved by the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care for that purpose.

The addition of Class C facilities

Public splash and spray pads, wading pools, and water slide receiving basins, known collectively as Class C facilities, are now regulated under Reg. 565, which contains requirements for notification, general maintenance, supervision and disinfection.

Admission standards

- Class A pools (i.e., lifeguard supervised) are now required to have a process in place to ensure guardian supervision of children under 10 years of age, to improve the ability of lifeguards to provide overall pool bather supervision.
- Pool operators are encouraged to continue using existing admission policies that meet the regulatory requirements such as those recommended by the Chief Coroner of Ontario. Operators may also consult with industry experts on best practices (e.g., swim tests) to meet the requirements of the regulation at their facility.

Modernized Requirements

- Where appropriate, requirements for pool and spa operators have been aligned. For example, operator training required under the former public spas regulation, has been expanded to all operators under Reg. 565; the daily inspection and recording frequencies for pH and sanitizer residual are now the same for pool and spa operators, and are dependent on whether an automatic sensing device is present; and first aid kit supplies aligned and fixed quantities replaced with requirement for sufficient quantities to reflect the needs of each facility.
- Upper limits have been added for various water chemistry parameters, make-up water per bather has been reduced, and the ground fault circuit interrupter inspection frequency adjusted.
- Unsupervised class B pools with a slope of greater than 8% are required to have a buoy line.

While this is a brief review of highlights in Reg. 565 Public Pools, the requirements are intended to move Ontario toward increased transparency, consistency, and bather safety based on outcomes that will protect the public.

More Information

It is recommended to work with your public health inspector to learn more about the requirements and how to maintain compliance with the Public Pools Regulation. To contact your local public health unit, visit: <http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/common/system/services/phu/locations.aspx>

Contact

Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
Population and Public Health Division
Health Protection Policy and Programs Branch
Environmental Health Policy and Programs
EnvironmentalHealth@ontario.ca