

January 28, 2025

**Re: Amendments to Regulation 565: Public Pools**

Dear Recreational Water Facility Owners/Operators:

On January 1, 2025, [Ontario Regulation 565: Public Pools](#) under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.H.7* was updated to include new types of pools, clarify technical details, and align requirements with the latest evidence and industry best practices.

Some of the key updates include:

- **Black disc requirements:** Black discs must be permanently affixed to the bottom of the pool at its deepest point. The black disc must measure 150 millimetres in diameter and be on a white background.
- **Alkalinity range:** Total alkalinity must be maintained in the range of 60 ppm to 180 ppm (except for floatation tanks).
- **Bromine residual in pools:** The bromine residual must be maintained between 2 ppm to 8 ppm for public pools. The bromine range for spas, waterslide receiving basins and wading pools remains between 5 ppm to 10 ppm.
- **Wading pool supervision exemption:** Wading pools with a water depth of 15 cm or less may be exempt from supervision requirements if the local public health unit is notified that the wading pool will be unsupervised, a safety plan is created, and a caution sign is posted as per the regulation.
- **Shared safety equipment:** Safety equipment and the emergency telephone may be shared between two pools, or a pool and spa if the items are easily accessible for emergency use at the spa or second pool.
- **Health notice signs:** Health notice signs can be shared between two pools as long as two signs are posted at the facility and at least one sign is always visible to bathers of both pools.
- **Hot pool caution sign:** A caution sign must be posted at pools operating at a temperature of 35 degrees Celsius or higher. Wording for the caution sign is specified in [Section 19.2](#) of the regulation.
- **New definitions:** Definitions have been added for cold plunge pools, floatation pools and floatation tanks.
- **New requirements for specific facilities:** Cold plunge pools, floatation pools, and hot pools will be inspected as Class A or Class B pools. These new pool types must comply with the general requirements for Class A and B pools, as well as the specific requirements outlined in [Section 7](#), [19.2](#), [21.1](#) and [26.0.1](#) of the regulation.

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- **Floatation tank requirements:** Floatation tanks will be classified as a Class C recreational water facility. They must comply with the general requirements for Class C facilities outlined in [Section 26.1](#), along with the additional requirements specified in [Section 26.0.2](#) of the regulation.
- **Exemption for private residential pools/spas and rowing pools:** Private residential pools and spas are exempt from routine inspections, as long as caution notices are posted in accordance with the wording specified in the exemption section of the regulation. This exemption also applies to rowing club pools used exclusively for rowing.

The Ministry of Health has updated the [Recreational Water Reference Document](#) and released a [Q&A document](#) to assist with implementation of the new requirements. The reference document also clarifies various topics, such as pool liner colour, bather attire, buoy lines in Class B pools, manual test kits, oxidation reduction potential and multiple pools on one circulation system.

As an owner/operator of a recreational water facility, it is your responsibility to review these [amendments](#) and ensure compliance with the updated regulation.

Starting in April 2025, the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit will begin inspecting pools for the specific cold plunge, floatation and hot pool requirements. Routine inspection of floatation tanks will begin in January of 2026. Floatation tank owners/operators will receive additional information before routine inspections start. All other amendments to the regulation will be incorporated into our routine inspection processes beginning January 2025.

For more information about your responsibilities under Ontario Regulation 565: Public Pools, please visit our [website](#) or submit your questions using our [online form](#). You can also reach our inspection team at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520, ext. 8811 (Monday to Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.).

Sincerely,

**ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:**

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Environmental Health Department

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