

TO : Pitt County Swimming Pool, Hot Tub, Spa, and Interactive Play Attraction Operators

FROM : Kent Keeter REHS Environmental Health Supervisor I

DATE : February 18, 2021

RE : Construction Updates and Permit Renewal for 2021

Before an Operation Permit can be issued for a public swimming pool, we must receive a completed application. The application, and additional documents, is now available online.

Owners who wish to be open for the Memorial Day weekend need to submit their completed application early. North Carolina law allows for seasonal pools to open as early as April 1st.

This Department will not schedule inspections the Friday before Memorial Day.

North Carolina's Pool Drain Safety Compliance Data Form must be completed and submitted along with the application. An operation permit cannot be issued if the Compliance Data Form is incomplete or inaccurate. This document allows our department to correctly identify equipment installed at the facility. We ask that you physically examine and verify that the equipment information presented to us in this document matches exactly what is currently installed at your facility. This includes specific make and model numbers. During the inspection, our office will verify this information. If discrepancies are found, it could cause significant delay in the issuance of your operation permit. Use the state provided instructions while completing your Pool Drain Safety Compliance Data form. Pay extra attention to the installation date of all drain covers. Drain covers have expiration dates supplied by the manufacturers. A pool cannot operate with expired drain covers.

On February 20th, 2020 the State published the following electrical safety guidance document to Environmental Health Specialists. The document states:

“Before review of the pump / motor can begin, a visual inspection of the copper bonding wire should be done to ensure it is intact, attached, and undamaged. The electrical power supply wire for the motor should not be wrapped in electrical tape or connected with wire nuts. Every time the bonding wire is reconnected to the motor an electrical inspection is required by law. The reconnection must be done by a licensed electrician. If an EHS sees any problems with the bonding wire, they should immediately leave the equipment room and inform the pool operator they cannot finish the inspection because a potentially dangerous condition exists. A pool permit cannot be issued under these circumstances. If the pool has a valid permit, the conditions found should immediately be reported to building inspections for that jurisdiction. The inspection should

not be completed until the electrical inspection takes place. If a data safety sheet shows a new pump has been installed, verify through building inspections that an electrical inspection has been completed prior to scheduling the inspection.”

Please be prepared to provide any necessary electrical inspection documentation to our office.

On July 13th, 2020 a guidance document titled “Clarification of requirement for emergency phone pool location transmission to 911” was published by the State. The document states:

“The emergency phone should be tested during all pool inspections. When possible, the location and callback number should be confirmed with the emergency operator. If a callback number given by the operator is different from the posted number, both the number given by the operator and the posted number should be called to verify both numbers ring back to the pool location. If the operator does not have location information or a callback number, the EHS should note this on the inspection sheet and recommend the pool owner or operator work to have this corrected. Permit action should not be taken solely for the address and callback number information not being transmitted to the emergency operator. The posted callback number should be called to verify it rings to the correct location. Permit denial or permit suspension should be done if the posted callback number is not correct for the pool location.”

Please verify that the number posted at the emergency phone will call back to the pool location.

Rule 15A NCAC 18A .2536 Maintenance and Operations contains a list of items that must be in compliance before an operation permit can be issued. This includes Rule 32537 (b) (15) that states all chemicals shall be stored in a clean, dry, and well ventilated area. Our office will be checking for proper ventilation during our inspection. If fans are the only source of ventilation in a chemical storage room, they must be operational for an operation permit to be issued.

Pools constructed after May 1, 2010 must have a self-closing, self-latching vacuum port cover designed to be opened with a tool. Pool constructed before this date must have a protective cap over the vacuum port. This port cannot be opened by hand. It must require a tool to be opened.

If you have a pool with a shallow sun shelf please verify that the depth markings are correct. Recent clarification from the state determined that sun shelf depth markers be listed as either “0 FT, 6 IN”, or “½ FT”, or “0.5 FT”. The State recommends that “0 FT, 6 IN” be used because it is more clear for the swimmer. Pools that have a sun shelf with improper depth markers will not be issued an operation permit.

If you wish to have your outdoor swimming pool conditioned for night swimming, you must fill out the Pool Night Lighting Documentation Form and include it with your application. Before a pool operation permit can be conditioned for night swimming, a separate inspection of the night time lighting conditions

will be performed. During this visit, our department will verify that sufficient illumination is provided in accordance with Paragraphs (b) and (c) of Rule .2524. If the pool meets the conditions of this rule, the operation permit will state “Night Swimming Allowed”. All other outdoor pools will be conditioned “No Night Swimming”. Operators desiring to change a “No Night Swimming” designation must re-apply for a new operation permit. Additional fees and inspections will be required to determine if the pool qualifies for night swimming.

The Department may have a college intern performing safety item visits again this year. If we do offer an internship, the individual should introduce themselves and present a county identification badge before performing any safety inspections.

To print pool applications, the Pool Drain Safety Compliance Data form, and to view additional documents and state guidance letters, please visit: www.pittcountync.gov/238/Public-Swimming-Pools-Spas

If you have any questions on the information provided, please contact our office at (252) 902-3206. For the most recent copy of the North Carolina swimming pool Laws and Rules, Forms, and education material that is provided by the state, please visit: <http://ehs.ncpublichealth.com/faf/pti/pools.htm>

