

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

FROM : Kent Keeter, REHS, Environmental Health Supervisor

DATE : February 6, 2019

RE : Construction Updates and Permit Renewal for 2019

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 to document equipment installed at the facility.

To print the application, Pool Drain Safety Compliance Data form, and additional documents, please visit: www.pittcountync.gov/238/Public-Swimming-Pools-Spas

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. Several of the drain covers are now reaching the age where they need to be replaced based upon the expiration dates supplied by the manufacturers. Also be aware that an operation permit cannot be issued if the Pool Drain Safety Compliance Data form is incomplete or inaccurate.

If you have a pool that was constructed after May 1, 2010, a self-closing, self-latching vacuum port cover designed to be opened with a tool is required. This type of cover is recommended for all swimming pools with a submerged vacuum port.

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.

There has been a recent change to how public swimming pools are evaluated for night swimming with the passage of North Carolina Session Law 2017 – 209 Section 8. This law removes the foot candle requirement listed in the swimming pool rules and replaces it with the requirement that pool lighting be sufficient to illuminate the main drains and deck area of the pool. If you wish to have your swimming pool conditioned for night swimming, you must indicate this on your application. Before a pool operation permit can be conditioned for night swimming, an inspection of the night time lighting conditions of your pool must be performed. During this visit, our department will verify that sufficient illumination is provided in accordance with Paragraphs (b) and (c) of Rule .2524 which states: “Lighting fixtures shall be of such number and design as to illuminate all parts of the pool, the water, the depth markers, signs, entrances, restrooms, safety equipment and the required deck area and walkways.” And “The illumination shall be sufficient so that the floor of the pool can be seen at all times the pool is in use.” If it is determined that there is sufficient lighting for night swimming, your operation permit will be conditioned as “Night Swimming Allowed. All other swimming pool operation permits will be conditioned for “No Night Swimming”. Feel free to contact our office if you have any other questions about the lighting requirements 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.

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>