

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION TO POOL AND SPA SAFETY

Purpose

- Protect the public from possible safety and health hazards
- Establish minimum operating and construction standards for swimming pools and spas
- Provide basic knowledge of rules for maintaining a healthy pool or spa by building a good relationship between facility and the health department

These rules apply to recreational water facilities (RWFs) now in existence or hereafter constructed or developed, and provide for inspection and licensing of all such facilities.

Public Health Concerns

Recreational water facilities are popular venues for exercise and recreation for people of all ages. It is possible to spread disease from person to person via pool and spa water. Maintaining standards for disinfecting and keeping proper water balance reduces the risk of pathogens such as E. Coli, Giardia and Cryptosporidium.

SECTION 2: DEFINITIONS

Model Aquatic Health Code (MAHC): Science-based guidance document to improve health and safety by addressing the design, construction, operation, maintenance, policies and management of public aquatic facilities.

Non-Residential: Any swimming pool or spa that is not used at a single-family residence.

Residential: Any swimming pool or spa which is used at a single-family residence.

Recreational Water Facility (RWF): Any establishment with swimming pool or spa open to the public, multi-family community association member or guest, or lodging establishment patron or guest.

SECTION 3: OPERATING LICENSE

Non-residential pools and spas within the City of Lawrence are required to be licensed and inspected by the Health Department per City Code 5-1402. Those facilities located outside of Lawrence may receive courtesy inspections to reduce the public's risk associated with recreational water illnesses and ensure minimum safety standards are in place per authorities given to the Health Officer through K.S.A. 65-202 and public health departments through K.S.A. 65-159 to mitigate public health nuisances.

Regulated facilities must pay an annual fee and obtain a Recreational Water Facility license issued by the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department. The current license needs to be posted and

available for the public view. The Health Department has authority to revoke any Recreational Water Facility license for continued failure to comply with these rules.

New licenses

An applicant for a new public swimming pool/spa license, other than renewal, must provide at least a five-day notice to the Health Department that the public swimming pool/spa is ready for operation and inspection.

License renewal

Every establishment that intends to operate or maintain an existing public swimming pool/spa must, during the month of April of each year, apply to the Health Department for a license to operate the public swimming pool; a late fee will be charged to a facility that has not renewed by May 1. Pools operating after May 1 without a current license will be closed until fees are paid and license is issued. See Exhibit A for fee schedule.

At the time of application for a license, the applicant will provide the Health Department the name, address, telephone number and email address of a person or persons who can be contacted regarding inspection, maintenance, or emergency aspects of the public swimming pool or spa and to whom the Health Department may send notice of orders and other licensure actions. The applicant also is to provide the street address of the pool/spa; separate licenses are needed for pools/spas located at different addresses. After issuance of a license, the licensee must report any changes in this information to the Health Department promptly.

The licensee must grant the Health Department right of entry to the facility and the surrounding area, including the pump room during normal hours of operation to conduct inspections. Pool manager or designee should be on-site during the inspection.

SECTION 4: OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

The licensee of a Recreational Water Facility must maintain the pool/spa, its components and the surrounding area in a safe, clean and sanitary condition, in good repair and in accordance with this section. The Health Department uses the MAHC as the guidance document for development of these requirements.

Equipment

All items of equipment designed for recirculation, filtration, disinfection, and pool water treatment must be VGB compliant (Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act) and in good repair at all times and be properly maintained to perform the functions of the units and protect the swimming pool/spa water from contamination.

A mechanical system to dispense chlorine or bromine must be used.

Pools cannot be operated with broken, damaged, or missing drain covers.

Emergency shut-off systems must function properly.

Water Quality

Balancing pool water chemistry is important for reducing swimmers' risk of recreational water illnesses as well as skin and eye irritations. Licensed facilities must maintain the following water chemistry parameters:

Parameters	Required Level	
	Pools	Spas
Free chlorine residual	2 ppm – 4 ppm	3 ppm – 5 ppm
Bromine residual	N/A	4 ppm – 6 ppm
pH	7.2 – 7.8	7.2 – 7.8
Temperature	Not above 90°F	Not above 104°F
Clarity	Main drain is readily visible from the pool/spa deck	

Each licensed pool or spa must have a test kit on site and be able to measure these factors:

- Free available chlorine (or bromine)
- Total chlorine
- pH
- Total alkalinity
- Cyanuric acid
- Water temperature

Facility Safety

Every licensed pool/spa is required to have safety equipment that is accessible to swimmers. The lifesaving equipment must be mounted in a conspicuous place and distributed around the pool deck where it is readily accessible. Equipment function should be plainly marked. The equipment must be kept in good repair and ready for use. Swimmers must not be allowed to use or tamper with the equipment except for emergency use.

Required Safety Equipment

- Ring buoy – not more than 15 inches in interior diameter with attached rope 1½ times the length of the pool and 3/16 inch in diameter
- Life pole or shepherd's crook – non-extendable pole; minimum 12 feet
- Signage – where no lifeguard is on duty a sign must be placed in plain view and state, "WARNING, NO LIFEGUARD ON DUTY."
- Outdoor Fencing – six (6) foot high fence with lockable gates must be provided around the perimeter of pools or spas located outside an enclosed building and constructed after February 16, 1982.

- Locking Entrances – all gates, doors, or other entrances to any pool or spa must be locked when not open to the public.

Recommended Safety Equipment

- First aid kit accessible and ready for use
- Safety lines, or float lines, to indicate pool depth changes or depths of more than 5 feet
- Childproof locking on gates and other entrances to pool area
- Depth marking on pool deck
- Signage indicating diving areas, children must be supervised, and risks associated with spa usage

Record Keeping

Maintaining accurate records of the facility's operations is essential for assessment of any technical issues and problems that may arise. A log sheet or register should be used to record the results of every test performed at a pool or spa.

The Health Department provides best practices and guidance related to water quality testing and routine pool operations. Please refer to www.ldchealth.org. Each facility log must include details that will allow the Health Department inspector to assess daily, weekly and monthly practices related to:

- water quality testing
- chemical adjustments
- equipment maintenance
- routine operations
- corrective action for fecal/ blood/ vomit accident

The facility's operational records must be maintained by the pool operator and available for auditing by the Health Department.

Facility Closure

Any pool or spa pool found to be out of compliance with these rules will be immediately closed by the Health Department. The Health Department inspector will post a closure notice at the facility; the notice is to be removed only by a Health Department representative.

A pool or spa ordered closed must remain closed until re-inspected by the Health Department and found to be meeting health and safety standards.

The Health Department may revoke a facility license for failure to comply with these rules. Per City Code 5-1406 violation of these rules is a misdemeanor.

SECTION 6: PLAN APPROVAL

The City of Lawrence requires a building permit to construct, repair or alter a residential or non-residential pool or spa. As part of the permit review process, the plan and specifications for the pool/spa must be reviewed and approved by the Health Department.

The Health Department requires a design plan that conforms to established current standards for construction or reconstruction of pools and spas and all Operational Requirements as described in Section 4. Information such as location of the pool/spa, pool contractor, equipment specifications, pool volume and water turnover rate must be included in the plan.

Lawrence-Douglas County Health Board

Adopted: February 16, 1982
Amended: March 13, 2002
Amended: January 15, 2008
Amended: February 20, 2017

Exhibit A

Fees for Recreational Water Facilities	
Annual Licensing Fee	\$200
Late Fee	\$ 50