

NJ HOA Community Brief Newsletter

February 2018

Subject: NJ HOA Community Brief – New Pool Regulations

MAJOR CHANGES TO THE NEW JERSEY RECREATIONAL BATHER CODE N.J.A.C. 8:26

<http://www.nj.gov/health/ceohs/documents/phss/recbathing.pdf>

Dear All:

I was recently made aware that on Tuesday, January 16, the New Jersey Department of Health updated and put into effect the new Recreational Bather Code.

I was surprised that many HOA boards were NOT aware of these new regulations and how it will impact their communities.

I wanted to take the time to explain these changes to you so you can educate those communities that have pools.

Here are six of the most crucial areas which should be brought to your attention:

- 1. Lifeguard Coverage & Duties** - Beginning this season, any facility that has 2,000 square feet or more of bathing area will require a **second** lifeguard on duty during all operating hours. In addition, lifeguards are no longer permitted to perform any other duties that are outside of direct surveillance of bathers, such as checking pool passes, gate control or handing out towels.
- 2. Safety Equipment** - Any pool greater than 5 feet deep will require a **dedicated** lifeguard chair if one is not currently in place for each guard. There are also new items pertaining to your safety equipment and first aid kits.
- 3. Preseason Pool Opening Procedure** - New Jersey now requires that a written checklist be **completed and sent to your pool's local health department 21 days** prior to opening. The checklist is a self-certification that your facility is in compliance with current health regulations. In order to do this, you will need to begin the opening process a few weeks earlier than usual to open on the Saturday before Memorial Day. In certain instances, the local health department may be willing to waive the pre-opening inspection at their discretion with this new process. **DO NOT** take any chances and make sure this gets done
- 4. Automatic External Defibrillator (AED)** - All lifeguarded pools in New Jersey now require an AED to be on-site and accessible to the lifeguards because of its important role in CPR administration.
- 5. Maintenance Equipment** - There are new regulations that require additional filter system **components be installed before this year's pool operation, related mainly to water** circulation.
- 6. Laboratory Testing** - The rules and regulations pertaining to the independent weekly lab sampling process has been overhauled. As such, our laboratory vendor has already let us know that meeting the new regulations will require a surcharge for this season.

Every pool in New Jersey will be affected by these updated regulations.

Each facility is unique and therefore requires a specific plan to be compliant with the new code. Check with your pool vendor on a compliance package to address the new aspects of the code within the next few weeks.

I Hope This Helps.

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