

# MARICOPA COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH CODE

## CHAPTER VI

### BATHING PLACES - PUBLIC AND SEMIPUBLIC SWIMMING POOLS

#### SECTION 7

#### SEMIPUBLIC SWIMMING POOLS

In addition to complying with all the Regulations in Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and Section 6, Regulations 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 of this Chapter, Semipublic Swimming Pools shall comply with the following Regulations:

#### **REGULATION 1. Lifesaving and Safety Equipment**

Lifesaving and safety equipment consisting of at least one (1) Coast Guard approved ring buoy with 50 feet of one-fourth (1/4) inch rope attached, and one (1) shepherd's crook mounted on a rigid 16-foot pole shall be provided at each semi-public pool. Semi-public swimming pools shall have lifesaving and safety equipment that is conspicuously and conveniently located and maintained ready for immediate use at each pool at all times.

#### **REGULATION 2. Fencing**

- a. Semipublic swimming pools, spas and bathing places shall be protected by a fence, wall or other approved barrier at least five (5) feet high from all parts of the premises not directly related to the swimming pool, spa or bathing place. The height of the fence, wall, or barrier shall be measured on the side of the barrier that faces away from the swimming pool or spa. An area clear of any type of footholds, which could be used to assist in scaling the barrier, must be maintained for a minimum of three (3) feet outside the barrier so that the effective height of the barrier is maintained. Fences, walls or artificial barriers shall:
  1. Be constructed so as to afford no external handholds or footholds;
  2. Be of materials, which are impenetrable by small children, dogs, livestock, etc.;
  3. Have openings or spacings of such size that a spherical object four (4) inches in diameter cannot pass through;
  4. Be equipped with a gate that opens outward from the swimming pool or spa, with a self-closing and positive self-latching closure mechanism at least 54 inches above the floor;
  5. The distance between the horizontal components of a fence shall not be less than 45 inches apart. The horizontal members shall be located on the interior side of the fence;
  6. The maximum mesh size for a wire mesh or chain link fence shall be 1.25" X 1.25" (maximum opening area size = 1.56 square inches). The maximum opening formed by the composed diagonal members shall be no more than 1.75 inches.

7. Masonry or stone walls shall not contain indentations or protrusions except for normal construction tolerances and tooled masonry joints;
  8. If a wall of a building serves as part of the barrier around a semipublic swimming pool or spa, there shall be no direct access to the swimming pool or spa through the wall except as follows:
    - (a) Windows leading to the swimming pool or spa area shall be locked, preventing opening the window more than four (4) inches;
    - (b) A hinged door leading to the swimming pool or spa area shall open outward from the swimming pool or spa, be self-closing and shall have a positive self-latching mechanism device. The release mechanism of the self-latching device shall be located at least 54 inches above the floor;
    - (c) If an additional set of doors is required by the fire code allowing access to the swimming pool or spa area, they shall be self-closing and positive self-latching, equipped with panic bars no less than 54 inches from the floor to the bottom of the bar, or equipped with non-disarmable alarms if fire codes require panic bar heights lower than 54 inches, and designated "for emergency use only";
    - (d) Sliding doors leading to the swimming pool or spa area are prohibited except for sliding doors that are self-closing and self-latching with the release mechanism of the self-latching device located at least 54 inches above the floor.
  9. If a barrier is composed of a combination concrete masonry unit and wrought iron, the wrought iron portion shall be installed flush with the outside vertical surface of the concrete masonry unit. The space between the wrought iron and the concrete masonry unit shall be one-half (1/2) inch or less. The vertical members of the wrought iron shall be spaced four (4) inches on center.
- b. The pool enclosure shall not serve as or function as all or part of a residential fence.
  - c. In addition, the mechanical filtering, disinfection and recirculation equipment must be protected from tampering by an enclosure or fence as described in this Section, Regulation 2, a. A locked closure can be provided in lieu of a self-closing and positive self-latching closure.

### **REGULATION 3. Walkways**

- a. Walkways shall be provided immediately adjacent to semipublic pools. Walkways shall be continuous, unobstructed and at least four (4) feet wide. Where diving boards and platforms are installed, the walkway shall extend at least four (4) feet to each side and behind the board or platform.
- b. Walkways shall slope away from the pool with a pitch of at least one-fourth (1/4) inch per foot to properly located deck drains or other approved points of disposal.
- c. Walkways shall be constructed of concrete or other inorganic material, with a slip-resistant, easily cleanable finish, free of sharp or jagged edges or surfaces.
- d. Design of walkways shall conform to the dimensions shown in Appendix A, as applicable.
- e. Any valve that is installed in or under any deck shall provide a minimum ten (10) inch diameter access cover and a valve pit to facilitate the repair and maintenance of the valve.
- f. Joints in decks shall be provided to minimize the potential for cracks due to changes in elevations or movement of the slab. The maximum voids between adjoining concrete slabs or between concrete slabs and expansion joint material shall be three-sixteenths (3/16) inch

of horizontal clearance with a maximum difference in vertical elevation of one-fourth (1/4) inch. Areas where the deck joins concrete shall be protected by expansion joints to protect the swimming pool or spa from the pressures of relative movements. Construction joints where pool or spa coping meets the deck shall be watertight and shall not allow water to pass through to the underlying ground.

- g. Decks shall be sloped to effectively drain either to perimeter areas or to deck drains. Drainage shall remove splash water, deck cleaning water, and rainwater without leaving standing water. The minimum slope of the deck shall be (1/4) inch per one (1) foot. The maximum slope of the deck shall be one (1) inch per one (1) foot, except for ramps.
- h. Site drainage shall be provided to direct all perimeter deck drainage and general site and roof drainage away from a public or semipublic swimming pool or spa. Yard drains may be required to prevent the accumulation or puddling of water in the general area of the deck and related improvements.

#### **REGULATION 4. Floor Slope**

In water less than five (5) feet in depth, the slope shall not exceed one (1) foot in ten (10) feet.

#### **REGULATION 5. Bathhouses and Dressing Room Facilities**

A bathroom with a minimum of one (1) toilet shall be provided for each sex. Each bathroom shall have at least one (1) lavatory. Soap dispensers for providing either liquid or powdered soap shall be provided at each lavatory. Soap dispensers shall be made of metal or plastic with no glass permitted. Establishments operating semi-public pools, that provide clean and sanitary private rooms, including toilet, body washing and drinking water for all bathers shall be deemed to have complied with Section 5, Regulation 1.

#### **REGULATION 6. Depth**

Except for zero depth entries, the depth in the shallow portion of the pool shall not be less than two (2' 0") feet or greater than three (3' 0") feet.

#### **REGULATION 7. Freeboard**

Freeboard shall not exceed eight (8) inches, except, freeboard may be increased in those cases where it is desired to provide walls, terraces, etc., provided that the following are complied with:

- a. Guard rails or other similar devices must be provided to prevent the raised areas use as a diving platform;
- b. The vertical surface of these sections must be constructed of sound durable inorganic material, rigid, smooth, and easily cleanable;
- c. The horizontal surfaces must comply with the provisions for walkways;
- d. The vertical surface area of these sections will be included as surface area of the pool for determining the type, size, location and numbers of equipment and piping; and
- e. The length and height of the section where freeboard is increased shall be limited. The Department will review each case as unique, and consideration will be given to factors of safety, exit distance, alternative exits, location, and water depth.