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SEASONAL POOL/SPA OWNERS - ARE YOU READY FOR POOL SEASON 2010?

All public pools and spas are **INSPECTED** and **PERMITTED** by the NMED annually

Frequently asked questions about the Inspection and Permitting Process

Q: How do I receive an operating permit?

A: Steps that must be followed to receive an operating permit are listed below.

- 1) **Call your local NMED Office to schedule an inspection.** For a list of NMED offices, visit http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/fod/swim_pools/poolcontacts.html. **State offices are closed Friday, May 28, 2010, so please schedule your inspection before Memorial Day weekend.**
- 2) When you call, verify your permit fee amount and let your local NMED office know if you need an invoice mailed to you prior to the inspection.
- 3) **Have a check or money order for the permit fee ready on the date of the inspection. Do NOT mail payment to NMED.** Make the check to the “Water Recreation Facilities Fund.”
- 4) If you pass the inspection, the permit fee must be paid **before** you receive an operating permit. If a re-inspection is required, **an additional \$50 re-inspection** fee is due.

Q: Do I need a certified pool or spa operator? Where can I get my operator certified?

A: You must have a certified pool/spa operator on staff or contract to open your pool/spa. Go to http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/fod/swim_pools/certoperator.html for a list of instructors.

Q: Where can I find the pool rules? Is there a pre-opening checklist I can use?

A: Visit http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/fod/swim_pools/poolrules.html. A checklist is attached.

Q: What is cryptosporidium (“Crypto”)? How can I protect against crypto outbreaks?

A: Cryptosporidium is a germ that causes diarrhea. Since it is chlorine-resistant, even well-maintained pools can spread crypto. See Crypto Control Guidelines on Attachment A.

Q: What if my pool/spa has a single main drain or two drains that are not three feet apart? What is the Virginia Graeme Baker (VGB) Act?

*A: If your pool/spa has a single main drain or two drains that are not a minimum of 3 feet apart, you must install a safety device (e.g., an SVRS) and apply for a variance from 7.18.3.39.M NMAC. The VGB Act is a **federal** law requiring new, ASME/ANSI compliant drain covers. VGB is enforced by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). Visit <http://www.poolsafety.gov/vgb.html> or call (800) 638-2772 for details.*

Attachment A
2010 Pool/Spa Season Pre-Opening Check List

REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL POOLS/SPAS

- For all pools/spas, fences must be at least four-feet high; Pools/spas built after 7/30/2008 must have barriers that are at least five feet above grade
- Vacuum outlets must be self-closing
- Spas (hot tubs) and wading pools must install pH/ORP controllers.
- Certified operator on staff or by contract – 7.18.2.13 NMAC.
- Main drains covers must be ASME/ANSI A112.19.8-2007 (VGB 2008) compliant. The federal VGB Act requires that older covers be replaced.
- Dual main drains at least three feet apart – 7.18.3.39.M & N NMAC. Single main drains must be retrofitted with safety devices, such as a safety vacuum release system (SVRS), to prevent entrapment. In addition, facilities with a single main drain must apply to the NMED for a variance from 7.18.3.39.M & N NMAC.

SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

- Check Lifeguard requirement
- Check Ring Buoys – two or more with ropes of length at least 1.5 times max. pool width
- Check Pole (12 ft.) blunt end or "shepherd's hook"
- Check Lifeline – 2 ft. toward shallow end from break in grade separating shallow from deep end
- Ensure supervision of children by an adult (18 years or older) during operating hours;
- Telephone must be on the premises with emergency numbers posted
- Ladders in the deep end, non-slip hand rails for steps
- Check that gates open outwards away from pool, are self-closing with a self-latching device lockable from exterior, prevent unauthorized access
- Check and Restock First Aid Kit

SIGNAGE

- If no lifeguard present, post: "WARNING -NO LIFEGUARD SERVICE IS PROVIDED. ALL CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 14 MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN OBSERVER 18 YEARS OR OLDER. IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, CONTACT: ___"
- Post Bather load for pool, bather load for spa
- Post Spa/Bath precaution sign – language specified in 7.18.4.26.D NMAC
- Post Signs that explain proper way to use pool slide or water slide – 7.18.4.26.F NMAC
- Post an updated American Red Cross CPR chart. ***Note that the CPR chart was revised recently.***

WATER SUPPLY & RECIRCULATION

- Check that skimmers work; check skimmer baskets, hair/lint catcher and equalizer valves.
- Check that drains have anti-entrapment covers or grates
- Check that filters and the pressure gauge work; check the flow meter and its location;
- Check for min. turnover rates (6-hour for most pools, 1-hour for spas built before 3/30/05, and 30-minutes for newly built or remodeled spas);
- Check backwash water disposal; check that backflow is prevented at backwash/drain discharge by air gap
- Check cross connections–vacuum breakers on hose bibs, vacuum line connections, verify air gaps to sewer connection, verify protection of water supply.

WATER QUALITY

- Check if a functional test kit is onsite for chlorine (or bromine), pH, or cyanuric acid (outdoor pools/spas).
- Note the required frequency of water quality testing – 7.18.4.11.M(1) NMAC
- Allowable Regulatory Ranges for Chemicals (7.18.4.11.A NMAC)

Chemical/Parameter	Pools	Spas	Spray pads	Comments
Maximum temperature	104 °F	104 °F	104 °F	
Free available chlorine	1-5 ppm	2-5 ppm	2-5 ppm	<input type="checkbox"/>
Combined chlorine	0.5 ppm max	0.5 ppm max	0.5 ppm max	<input type="checkbox"/>
Total available bromine	2-6 ppm total	2-6 ppm total	4-6 ppm total	<input type="checkbox"/>

Cyanuric acid (stabilizer) <i>NMED prohibits cyanuric acid in indoor pool/spas.</i>	100 ppm max	100 ppm max	100 ppm max	Ideal 30 ppm
pH	7.2 – 7.8	7.2 – 7.8	7.2 – 7.8	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clarity	Check if drain visible in deepest part	Check if drain visible in deepest part	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- Check hookup of disinfectant system and that directions are available to the operator
- Restock chemicals for the chemical test kit, and avoid exposure to sun.
- Note that hand dosing of disinfectant is prohibited, except to super-chlorinate or hyper-chlorinate (“shock”).
- Note that Spas must be drained and refilled every 30 days per 7.18.4.11.H NMAC

PHYSICAL/STRUCTURAL ELEMENTS

- Check Ventilation – minimum 4 air changes/hour
- Check that handrails, steps, and ladders are securely fastened
- Check that spa jet timer is at least 6-feet from edge of the tub and does not exceed 15 minutes
- Verify that a 2” contrasting tile is on the leading edge of each step
- Verify that depth markings are in contrasting colors, at least 4” high on wall and runway, and spaced at every 15 feet maximum for pools (10ft. max. for spas) or every one foot depth change
- Check slope of deck to drains (use level), verify that runways are clear of deck furniture
- Eliminate hazards - toe stubbers, head bashers, foot cutters, sharp edges, protrusions, exposed electric wires and chemicals, etc;

CRYPTOSPORIDIUM CONTROL GUIDELINES FROM THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL (CDC)

- Go to http://www.cdc.gov/crypto/pdfs/core_guidelines.pdf for guidelines provided by the Center for Disease Control (CDC)
- Consider regular hyperchlorination (e.g., weekly) at levels known to kill Crypto. Hyperchlorination levels are found at http://www.cdc.gov/healthyswimming/pdf/Hyperchlorination_to_kill_Cryptosporidium.pdf
- Implement and enforce diarrhea-exclusion policies for bathers
- Consider adding supplemental disinfection (UV system or ozonation)