

Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department Regulations for Swimming Pools and Spas

For the City of Lawrence as authorized by City Ordinance 5-1402

Section 1 Purpose

The purpose of these regulations is to protect, promote, and preserve the public health, safety and general welfare by providing for the establishment and enforcement of minimum standards for safety, cleanliness, and general sanitation for all swimming pools, spa pools, and public bathing places located within the City of Lawrence now in existence or hereafter constructed or developed, and to provide for inspection and licensing of all such facilities.

Section 2 Definitions

CDC: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

KDHE: The Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

Multi-family community association: Any multi-family residential complex, neighborhood association or athletic/fitness club.

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 swimming pool or spa open to the public, multi-family community association member or guest, or lodging establishment patron or guest.

Section 3 Building Permit Approval

A. Non-Residential and Residential Swimming Pools

The following information is required to secure Health Department approval for building permits for new Non-Residential and Residential Swimming Pools constructed after the effective date of this ordinance that have capacities of 5,000 gallons or more:

1. Name, address, and phone number of owner.
2. Name, address, and phone number of pool contractor.
3. Address of proposed pool location.
4. Volume of pool (gallons).
5. Water turnover rate (at least once every eight (8) hours required).

6. Written specifications of all equipment to be used (chlorinators, pumps, filters, anti-vortex drain covers, etc.)
7. Method of filling pool (backflow prevention devices may be required).
8. Disposition of backwash water as required by City Code.
9. Disposition of pool drainage water (non-backwash water) as required by City Code.
10. A design plan that conforms to the construction and equipment requirements of these regulations.
11. For Non-Residential Swimming Pools only – A design plan that specifies two hydraulically balanced main drain openings which are a minimum measurement of 18” x 18” and are located a minimum of 3 feet apart.

B. Non-Residential Spas

The following information is required to secure Health Department approval for building permits for new Non-Residential Spas constructed after the effective date of this ordinance:

1. Name, address, and phone number of owner.
2. Name, address, and phone number of spa contractor.
3. Address of proposed spa location.
4. Volume of spa (gallons).
5. Water turnover rate (at least once every thirty (30) minutes required).
6. Written specifications of all equipment to be used (chlorinators, brominators, pumps, filters, anti-vortex drain covers, etc.).
7. Method of filling spa (backflow prevention devices may be required).
8. Disposition of backwash water as required by City Code.
9. Disposition of spa drainage water (non-backwash water) as required by City Code.
10. A design plan that conforms to the construction and equipment requirements of these regulations.
11. A design plan that specifies adequate anti-vortex drains or drain covers.

Section 4 Operational Requirements for Recreational Water Facilities

A. Operating License

1. Effective January 1, 2008, all operators of RWF’s shall be required to obtain an annual Recreational Water Facility License. An annual license fee shall be

charged by the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department. No recreational water facility shall be allowed to operate without a current valid Recreational Water Facility License.

2. The Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department shall have authority to revoke any Recreational Water Facility License for continued failure to comply with these regulations.
3. The fee for the Recreational Water Facility License shall be set by the Lawrence-Douglas County Board of Health.

B. Maintenance

All recreational water facilities are to be constructed, operated and maintained in such a manner as not to create a public health hazard, safety hazard, or health nuisance. All non-residential swimming pools and non-residential spas shall have a complete recirculating, filtering, and measurable mechanical disinfecting system.

C. Facility Inspection

The Health Department shall have right of entry to all recreational water facilities at any reasonable time to inspect operating equipment, safety equipment, and/or to conduct water quality testing during normal hours of operation.

D. Facility Closure

The Health Department shall have authority to close immediately any recreational water facility to public access when a health hazard, safety hazard, or health nuisance has been determined.

E. Disinfection:

1. Non-Residential Swimming Pools
 - i. Free chlorine residual shall be continuously maintained between a minimum of 1.0 parts per million (ppm) and a maximum of 5.0 ppm at any time a non-residential swimming pool is open to the public. A mechanical chlorination system shall be used to dispense the chlorine. If bromine is used as a disinfectant, then a minimum of 2.25 ppm and a maximum of 11.25 ppm shall be required any time the non-residential pool is open to the public. A mechanical disinfection system shall be required.
 - ii. Any non-residential swimming pool which has less than 1.0 ppm of free chlorine residual or 2.25 ppm of bromine shall be ordered closed immediately by the Health Department. The facility may be re-opened by the Health Department when the minimum free chlorine residual is at least 1.0 ppm, or a minimum of 2.25 ppm of bromine is achieved.

2. Non-Residential Spas

- i. Chlorine or bromine shall be acceptable for use as disinfecting agents for non-residential spas. A free chlorine residual shall be continuously maintained between a minimum of 2.0 ppm and a maximum of 5.0 ppm at any time a non-residential spa is open to the public. If Bromine is used as a disinfectant, then a minimum of 4.5 ppm and a maximum of 11.25 ppm shall be required any time the non-residential spa is open to the public.
- ii. Any non-residential spa open to the public, which has less than 2.0 ppm of free chlorine, or 4.5 ppm of bromine residual, shall be ordered closed to the public immediately by the Health Department. The non-residential spa may be re-opened by the Health Department when the free chlorine is at least 2.0 ppm, or the bromine level reaches a minimum of 4.5 ppm.

F. pH Level

The pH level of all non-residential swimming pools and non-residential spas should be maintained between 7.0 and 8.0 at any time the pool or spa is open to the public.

G. Testing and Recording

A test kit shall be available on the premises to test free chlorine (or bromine) residuals and pH levels. It is required that free chlorine (or bromine) residuals and pH levels be tested and recorded a minimum of at least two (2) times per day that the non-residential swimming pool or non-residential spa is open to the public. It is required that spa temperature be measured and recorded a minimum of at least two (2) times per day. A log sheet shall be available on the premises to record the date, time, and levels of the free chlorine (or bromine) residuals and pH testing, and spa temperature. The log sheet shall be available for inspection by the Health Department.

H. Filtration

1. Non-Residential Swimming Pools

The swimming pool pump recirculation system shall operate at a capacity to completely replace one pool volume at least once every eight (8) hours.

2. Non-Residential Spas

The non-residential spa pump recirculation system shall operate at a capacity to completely replace one non-residential spa volume at least once every thirty (30) minutes.

I. Water Clarity

The recreational water facility water shall be clear enough to allow clear visualization from the pool (or spa) deck to the deepest part of the pool (or spa) at any time the facility is open to the public.

Section 5. Safety Requirements for Recreational Water Facilities

A. Backflow Prevention

Appropriate backflow prevention devices shall be installed and maintained as required by the Development Services Division, Planning and Development Department, City of Lawrence. to prevent backflow of swimming pool water, or spa water, into any drinking water supply line.

B. Outdoor Fencing

A six (6) foot high fence with lockable gates shall be provided around the perimeter of all swimming pools or spas which are located outside of an enclosed building, and have been constructed after February 16, 1982. The fencing material shall be approved by the Development Services Division, Planning and Development Department, City of Lawrence..

C. Locking Gates

All gates, doors, or other entrances to any non-residential swimming pools or spas shall be locked when not open for public use, (unless located within an enclosed building).

D. Signs

If no lifeguard is on duty, a sign shall be posted adjacent to the pool or spa in a conspicuous place that reads "NO LIFEGUARD ON DUTY."

E. Swimming Pool anti-vortex drain covers or anti-vortex drain grates

1. All swimming pools shall have anti-vortex drain covers or anti-vortex drain grates installed which are designed to help prevent body entrapment, evisceration, or hair entrapment due to pump suction. The anti-vortex drain covers shall meet AMSE/ANSI drain cover standard A112.19.8M (or as amended). The owner or operator of the swimming pool or spa shall ensure that the gallons per minute (GPM) pump rating shall not exceed the maximum gallons per minute (GPM) design rating of the Anti-Vortex drain cover. Dual drain grates are acceptable. If a single drain grate is used, the grate shall have a minimum diagonal measurement of twenty-four (24") inches to be acceptable. In lieu of requiring anti-vortex drain covers or anti-vortex drain grates, the Health Department will require written

documentation from a professional engineer to confirm that the existing system is adequate to prevent entrapment or evisceration.

2. Any non-residential spas which are constructed on-site, shall also provide anti-vortex drain covers or anti-vortex drain grates to help prevent entrapment or evisceration. Any portable spa shall be operated in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications.
3. Swimming pools or spas constructed after enactment of this regulation shall be required to comply with this regulation immediately.

F. Spa Temperature

Spa temperature shall not exceed 104 degrees (F) at any time the spa is open to the public.

G. Rescue Equipment

The following rescue equipment shall be readily available and located adjacent to the pool or spa in a conspicuous place at all times when the swimming pool or spa is open to the public:

1. A minimum of one (1) life pole or shepherd's crook which is at least twelve (12) feet in length and has a rounded blunt end.
2. A minimum of one (1) ring buoy to which shall be attached a rope that is at least 1.5 times the maximum pool width. The rope shall be a minimum of three-sixteenths (3/16) inch in diameter.

H. Responses to Public Health Hazards

In the event that a fecal accident, vomiting accident, or other body fluids accident occurs, the owners and operators of any non-residential swimming pool or spa shall follow the most current State/Federal response procedures as required by the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department.

Section 6. Right of Appeal

Any person aggrieved by any notice or decision by the Health Officer, or his/her representative, under the provisions of these regulations shall be granted a hearing on the matter before the Board of Health provided that if such request is to review a notice or decision by the Health Officer such person shall file the request within 10 calendar days after the date of issuance of the notice or decision. Any request for hearing shall be in writing and set forth the grounds upon which the request is made. Upon receipt of such request the Board of Health shall set a time and place for such hearing and shall provide written notice thereof to the requestor. At such hearing the requestor shall be given an opportunity to be heard and to show why such notice or decision should be modified or withdrawn. After such hearing the Board of Health

may sustain, modify or withdraw the notice or decision. The Board of Health shall notify the requestor of its decision in writing. The decision of a majority of the Board of Health shall be considered final.

Adopted: February 16, 1982

Amended: March 13, 2002

December 18, 2007