



LAGOS STATE SAFETY COMMISSION (SWIMMING POOLS)

REGULATIONS, 2021



LAGOS STATE GOVERNMENT
Ministry of Special Duties and Inter-governmental Relations
LAGOS STATE SAFETY COMMISSION



VISION

To proactively make safety a lifestyle in Lagos State, a world-class city and maintain the leading change.

MISSION

To develop policies and strategies that will build a sustainable safety culture through regulated and coordinated safety system.

INTRODUCTION

Swimming is one of the recreational activities that can be enjoyed by people of all ages. However, a number of people drown due to lack of ability to swim or due to unsafe practices during swimming. Drowning is a major public safety and health problem; and one of the leading causes of unintentional injury or death globally in children and young people. These are usually associated not only with swimming pools but also routine activities such as collecting water from natural waters for domestic use, bathing, boating, fishing and flooding.

However, drowning is one of the most preventable, neglected and pressing incidents which requires safety policies, standards and regulations to reduce the intolerable death toll and forestall the growing tragedy from further occurrence. The introduction of safe practices in swimming pools can also prevent drain entrapments and other injuries such as slips, trips and falls as well as incurring avoidable cost of fines and penalties from safety infractions.

The Lagos State Safety Commission has developed this safety regulation for swimming pools to serve as a guide for the design of public swimming pools; to encourage submission of construction plans for proposed public swimming pools or improvements on existing ones; the operation of public swimming pools to supplement the recommended standards of design; and to establish, as far as practicable, uniformity of safe practice among the several operators and users within the State.

LAGOS STATE SAFETY COMMISSION (SWIMMING POOLS) REGULATIONS, 2021

SECTIONS

1. Interpretation
2. General Application
3. Protective Guidelines
4. Swimming Pool Rules
5. Signage and Posting of
Swimming Pool Rules
6. Trained Operator as Supervisor
7. Cleanliness of Swimming Pools
8. Permit for Swimming Pools, Hot
tubs, etc
9. Safety of Swimming Pools
10. Restriction of Alcohol Around
Pool
11. Use of Fire Around Pools
12. Lifeguards
13. Incident/Accident Reporting
and Investigation
14. Sleeping at Public Swimming
Pool
15. Offences and Penalties
16. Fees

**LAGOS STATE
SAFETY COMMISSION
(SWIMMING POOLS)
REGULATIONS, 2021**

In exercise of the powers conferred on me by Section 19 of the Lagos State Safety Commission Law Ch. L60 Laws of Lagos State 2015 and all other powers enabling me on that behalf, I, Engr. Tayo Bamgbose-Martins, Commissioner for Special Duties and Intergovernmental Relations do make the following Regulations: -

**1.
INTERPRETATION**

In this Regulation, unless the context otherwise requires-

“Appropriate Authority” means any person or agency authorized by the Ministry of Physical Planning and Urban Development and the Safety Commission to exercise power(s) under Regulations;

“Certificate” means a certificate issued in accordance with the provisions of this Regulations;

“Commission” means the Lagos State Safety Commission;

“Director-General” means the Director-General of the Lagos State Safety Commission;

“Public Swimming Pool” includes any swimming pool which can be accessed by the general public or by members of a club whether or not such access is controlled by the pool operator or owner;

“State” means Lagos State of Nigeria; and

“Swimming Pool” means any natural or artificial body or basin of water which is modified, improved, constructed or installed for the purpose of public swimming or bathing.

2. **GENERAL** **APPLICATION**

This Regulations shall apply to every swimming pool in the State which may be accessed by members of the public with or without restriction or subject to club membership or payment of a prescribed fee, including private swimming pools.

3. **PROTECTIVE** **GUIDELINES**

(1) Every swimming pool shall be equipped with-

(a) a barrier which completely surrounds it and hinders direct access to swimming pool; or

(b) an approved audible pool alarm on the surface of the pool capable of detecting a person entering the water.

(2) In the case of an above ground pool, the pool structure shall serve as part of the required barrier, if the pool structure is sufficiently rigid to obstruct access to the pool.

(3) Where an aboveground pool structure is used as a barrier or where the barrier is mounted on top of the pool structure and the means of access is a ladder or steps.

(4) The prescribed standards in accordance with which means of access to an indoor swimming pool is to be restricted are that each doorway or opening portion of a window, giving access to the swimming pool must be designed, constructed, installed and maintained in accordance with the specifications of the Appropriate Authority.

(5) Every device linked to the operation of a swimming pool must be installed more than two (2) meters from the pool wall or area in

order to prevent children from gaining access to the device.

(6) Every installation intended to allow or prevent access to the swimming pool must be kept in good condition.

4. SWIMMING POOL RULES

Every public swimming pool must have rules and regulations relating to swimming in the pool and activities in and around the pool area in accordance with the provisions of this Regulations.

5. SIGNAGE AND POSTING OF SWIMMING POOL RULES

(1) Every public swimming pool facility operator shall have a visible sign stating the rules, regulations and swimming safety policy statement in conspicuous position(s) within the pool premises.

(2) The rules referred to in sub regulation (1) shall prohibit-

a) entry to the pool enclosure without having taken a cleansing shower;

b) unsupervised underage users;

c) running, fighting or engaging in other conduct likely to cause harm or injury while in the pool enclosure;

d) polluting, contaminating or fouling the pool;

e) unauthorized access to the pool;

f) swimming without a life guard on duty;

g) learner without supervision/lone swimmer.

h) swimming with open wound;

i) fighting or engaging in violence in the pool area;

j) possession and handing of dangerous weapon(s) in the pool area.

(3) The signage shall also contain information indicating-

(a) The location of telephone for emergency use;

(b) emergency numbers;

(c) “no lifeguard on duty” in the circumstance where lifeguards are not required;

(d) other approved safety information and directions like the operating hours and depth of the pool

(e) that young children should be supervised when using the swimming pool; and

(f) that articles, objects and structures are to be kept clear of the pool fence at all times.

(4) Every facility operator shall put a sign in a conspicuous place informing users that it is unsafe to use the facility after excessive consumption of alcohol and food.

6. TRAINED OPERATOR AS SUPERVISOR

(1) Every facility shall be under the supervision of a trained and competent operator.

(2) Such operator referred to in sub-regulation (1) shall be-

(a) familiar with the equipment of the pool and tests necessary for the operation of pools;

(b) responsible for all sanitary measures prescribed in this Regulation; and

(c) competent in administering first aid and Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR).

7. **CLEANLINESS OF SWIMMING POOLS**

(1) Every swimming pool shall be cleaned and maintained regularly.

(2) There shall be a written program for the cleaning and maintenance of public swimming pool which will indicate the-

a) Cleaning schedule;

b) Nature and frequency of cleaning.

(3) The operator of a public swimming pool shall-

(i) keep it clean and clear of obstructions in accordance with sub-regulation (1);

(ii) provide adequately equipped hand basins; and

(iii) launder bathing suits and bathing towels after each use and ensure that they are handled and stored in a sanitary manner, where they are provided.

(4) All public and private swimming pool water, walls and bottom of pools shall be kept free of dirt, litter, body oils and algae growth.

(5) Walkways, pool aprons, dressing rooms, shower rooms and toilets shall be cleaned and sanitized daily and kept free of all equipment and materials not needed for the proper operation of the swimming pool.

(6) Hand washing facilities shall be adequately equipped and maintained with single-use towels or dryers and single-use soap in dispensers.

(7) All health measures, protocols and Regulations given by the State Government must be abided with and observed.

8. **PERMIT FOR** **SWIMMING POOLS,** **HOT TUBS, ETC**

(1) A person shall not construct or substantially alter any public swimming pool, wading pool, whirlpool, spa, hot tub, or appurtenances pertaining to health and safety unless a copy of the plans and specifications for the new or altered structure has been submitted to and approved by the

Appropriate Authority who shall issue a certificate of approval.

(2) The plans and specifications shall include sufficient information to enable the Approving Authority make a detailed review and shall include: -

- (a) location;
- (b) site plan;
- (c) pool layout plan;
- (d) piping layout plan;
- (e) hydraulic analyses;
- (f) bathhouse plan with finished schedule;
- (g) equipment specifications; and
- (h) an additional information, including material samples, necessary to determine whether or not the plans and specifications comply with the requirements of this regulation.

(3) The Appropriate Authority shall review the plans and specifications with regards to public health and safety and may require modification in the design of the facilities within scope of this Regulation with regards to the protection of health and safety.

(4) The Approving Authority shall approve the permit when satisfied that the applicant has met all the requirements and conditions in line with existing Laws and Regulations.

9. **SAFETY OF SWIMMING POOLS**

(5) Pursuant to sub regulation (1) of this Regulation, the Director-General shall inspect and issue a safety compliance Certificate in accordance with section 9C of the Lagos State Safety Commission Law.

(1) No person, object, device, structure or activity shall block access to visibility to the swimming pool.

(2) Any person who fails to obey the directions and instructions of any Appropriate Authority as to swimming pools safety, access or use commits an offence.

(3) Umbrellas, shading devices, or their items shall not impede the lifeguard's line of sight, access or egress for purpose of public safety.

(4) It shall be unlawful for a person to place any shading device or umbrella as to impede lifeguard line of sight, access or egress from the lifeguard stand.

(5) All activities on the swimming pool which may be deemed hazardous to patrons who are walking, sunbathing or swimming shall be controlled.

10. **RESTRICTION OF ALCOHOL AROUND POOL**

(1) Possession or consumption of alcoholic drinks, beers or wines in and around public swimming pools shall be adequately monitored and regulated to prevent abuse or danger to life or property.

(2) It shall be unlawful for any person to swim after excessive consumption of alcohol.

11. **USE OF FIRE AROUND POOLS**

(1) It shall be unlawful for any person to build, start, ignite, or maintain any fire, flame or heating device on any Swimming pool, swimming pool access or street adjacent to the swimming pool, or any land immediately adjacent to the swimming pool, except as may be lawfully permitted.

(2) It shall be unlawful for any person to use fire, pyrotechnics, shoot, discharge, or ignite any fireworks on any swimming pool. Swimming pool access or street adjacent to the swimming pool, except as may be lawfully permitted.

12. **LIFEGUARDS**

(1) Every public swimming pool facility shall have the following on their premises during all hours of operation-

(a) at least one certified pool operator must be on site; and

(b) a minimum of one (1) lifeguard on duty observing the pool while any individual is in the pool.

(2) An additional lifeguard shall be provided for each additional 40 bathers or swimmers, or fraction above the first 40 bathers or swimmers.

(3) The lifeguard shall be responsible for watching over bathers or swimmers.

(4) The Appropriate Authority may require additional lifeguards to be on duty at any pool if the Approving Authority finds that the pool is inadequately guarded by reason of-

- (a) the number of persons using the pool or within the pool premises;
- (b) the size, dimension, layout, use, activities, or features of the pool creating potential safety hazards;
- (c) the vision of the required lifeguard(s) being obstructed; or
- (d) other condition existing that compromises the ability of a lifeguard to monitor the pool.

(5) At least one individual must be on duty with Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Certification.

(6) A lifeguard, must have a valid certification in Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation.

13.

INCIDENT/ACCIDENT REPORTING AND INVESTIGATION

(1) Any incident/accident reported against the operation or use of a swimming pool by any person must be recorded and reported to the Commission within 48hrs

(2) Subject to the provisions of these Regulations, the Commission shall carry out investigation of same to verify root cause and prevent recurrence or apply appropriate sanction where necessary

(3) Any person(s) found guilty under this Regulation shall pay a minimum fine of N100,000.00 or more depending on the gravity of violation

14. **SLEEPING AT PUBLIC SWIMMING POOL.**

(1) It shall be unlawful for any person to turn a swimming pool to a sleeping or residing abode.

(2) The Penalty for turning a swimming Pool to a sleeping or residing abode shall be a fine of Twenty Thousand Naira (N20,000:00) or two (2) weeks non-custodial sentence.

15. **OFFENCES AND PENALTIES**

(1) Any person who contravenes or fails to comply with the provisions of these Regulations for which no penalty is provided, commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine of One Hundred Thousand Naira (N100,000) only.

(2) A swimming pool operator/management who contravenes any provision of these Regulations commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine of Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira (N250,000.00) only.

16. **FEES**

The prescribed fees for registration for the purpose of this Regulation shall be as prescribed by the Commission.

17. **CITATION**

This Regulation may be cited as the Lagos State Safety Commission (Swimming Pools) Regulations, 2021.

Made this day of 2021



Engr. Tayo Bamgboye-Martins
Commissioner for Special Duties and
Intergovernmental Relations

