

California Conference of Directors of Environmental Health Recreational Health Technical Advisory Committee

Guidelines for the Installation and Operation of Waterslides at Public Swimming Pools

PURPOSE:

Recent trends within the aquatic industry have resulted in an increased demand for interactive aquatic features, including waterslides, at public swimming pools. The purpose of these guidelines is to provide uniform requirements for the installation and operation of waterslides. The implementation of these guidelines will reduce potential safety hazards.

This guideline reflects current standards for the health and safety of pool waterslide users and includes operation and maintenance procedures from Title 8, California Code of Regulations (CCR), section 3195.11 for Aquatic Devices. Additional standards or requirements for waterslides may be required to address any unique features of the waterslide or the conditions under which it may be operated.

REQUIREMENTS:

1. Plans and specifications shall be submitted to the Local Enforcement Agency for the installation of a waterslide on a new or existing public pool. The plans shall incorporate the waterslide into the swimming pool plans and specifications
2. Plan sheets and specifications addressing the structural aspects of the slide, slide tower and the slide support structure shall be prepared by a registered civil or structural engineer licensed to practice in the state of California.
3. The installation, construction and operation of the slide must conform to manufacturer's written specifications and instructions.
4. The slide shall be designed to comply with ASTM F1159 - 03a *Standard Practice for Design and Manufacture of Patron Directed, Artificial Climbing Walls, Dry Slide, Coin Operated and Purposeful Water Immersion Amusement Rides and Devices and Air-Supported Structures*
5. The splashdown area in the swimming pool must be clearly separated from the general recreational pool with buoy lines if the pool is not a dedicated slide landing pool. Additional methods of egress may be required if the pool is separated with a buoy line.
6. A slide landing pool to conform to the following minimum dimensions:
 - a. There shall be at least six (6) feet clearance from the side of the flume to the landing pool sidewall.
 - b. There shall be at least six (6) feet clearance between the sides of two (2) adjacent slides.
 - c. The slide shall terminate at or below the water line and the slide terminus shall be in at least three and one-half (3 1/2) feet of water unless otherwise specified by the manufacturer.

- d. The slide shall not project over the edge or coping more than six (6) inches.
 - e. In no case shall pool wall opposing the flume entrance be less than 20 feet.
7. Four (4) feet of walkway shall be provided at the exit side(s) of the landing pool and around the sides and rear of the slide. A minimum headroom of 84 inches shall be provided.
 8. The exit from the landing pool area must consist of a set of stairs located at the opposite end of the landing pool from the slide entrance. Entrances to and exits from slides shall be clearly marked. Additional methods of egress may be required.
 9. The circulation system of the slide must not be interconnected with the recirculation system of the pool. Intake suction outlets for the slide circulation system must be designed and plumbed so as not to create a suction hazard.
 10. There must be at least five feet clearance between the invert of an open flume and any object above the flume.
 11. The surfaces and edges of the waterslide that patrons may contact shall be free from cutting or pinching hazards or any other hazards that may cause injury.
 12. Areas of ingress to and egress from slides, as well as walking surfaces, shall be designed and maintained to provide drainage and to be slip resistant.
 13. The area on the deck below the water slide and the stair tower may be required to be fenced and made unavailable to pedestrian traffic.
 14. When the slide is not in use, a suitable barrier shall be placed at the bottom of the stairs of the slide to prevent bathers from entering the slide. Flume covers may be required at the top of the slide
 15. An emergency shut-off switch that controls the water supplied to the waterslide shall be provided. At least one attendant shall have immediate access to an emergency shut off switch at the top of the flume.
 16. A lifeguard shall be on duty at the slide whenever it is in use. Where possible one (1) attendant shall be stationed at the top of the tower, and one lifeguard at the splashdown area. The lifeguard and attendant shall be in visual or voice contact at all times.
 17. Written emergency procedures shall be available to the lifeguard on duty. The attending lifeguard(s) must be trained in these written procedures These procedures shall include the following:
 - a. Procedures for cessation of operations to be followed where this is necessary to ensure patron safety in situations such as, but not necessarily limited to, a shutoff of the water supply, a fecal accident, an injury or a power outage.
 - b. Procedures for evacuating patrons from each waterslide including the estimated evacuation time.
 - c. Methods to direct the movement of patrons to safe areas and to keep them out of unsafe areas during emergency situations.
 - d. Procedures for shutting off power, water, and pumps, and shutting off and turning on power-operated drains.

18. An operation and maintenance procedures manual for the waterslide shall be maintained available to the lifeguard on duty. The manual shall address the following:
- a. The staffing levels to be maintained during all times while the waterslide is in operation. In determining the staffing level for a waterslide, each of the following shall be considered:
 - i. The design and type of waterslide.
 - ii. The number of entrances to the loading platform.
 - iii. The number of flumes and their proximity to each other.
 - iv. The length of, and the duration of the patron's travel along, each flume.
 - v. The maximum patron capacity of the waterslide by weight.
 - vi. The maximum patron capacity of the waterslide by number of patrons.
 - vii. The manufacturer's recommended staffing requirement, if there is one, which shall constitute the minimum staffing level.
 - b. Procedures for the control of patron movement along the entire pathway of travel from point of waterslide entry to point of waterslide exit.
 - c. Procedures for controlling the intervals of time separating each patron's or patron group's slide down the flume.
 - d. A requirement to supervise all visible portions of the flumes of the water slide when in use.
 - e. Procedures for maintaining order among patrons in the splash pool and the splash pool area and for mitigating any patron behavior having the potential to constitute a safety hazard.