



WATER DIVISION POLICY AND PROCEDURES

NUMBER: WD-03-023

SUBJECT: VARIANCE FOR INCREASING SWIMMING POOL WATER DEPTHS FOR
STARTING PLATFORMS

EFFECTIVE DATE: MARCH 8, 2004

PAGE: 1 OF 2

ISSUE:

Administrative Rule 325.2135 defines minimum water depths for the use of starting platforms in public swimming pools. This policy addresses those public swimming pools that can obtain the required minimum water depth 60 inches below the starting platforms by raising the water level above the gutters on a temporary basis.

AUTHORITY:

Authority to promulgate administrative rules is defined in Section 333.12522(2) of Part 125, Campgrounds, Swimming Areas, and Swimmers' Itch, of the Public Health Code, 1978 PA 368, as amended. Additionally, R 325.2114 allows the department to grant a variance if it will not affect the safe and healthful operation of the public swimming pool.

POLICY:

A written request must be submitted to the department by the pool owner or the owner's authorized agent.

The proposal must include scaled drawings showing the water depths at all starting platforms beginning 2 feet from the end wall where the starting platform is located and extending out a distance of 19 feet, and these measurements must be taken when the pool is operating at the design water level. The most critical distances for these water depth measurements are from 4 feet to 10 feet out from the end wall because this is the area where injuries are most likely to occur. Water depth measurements should be taken throughout the pool when there is a diving board(s) present. The water depth information must be obtained under the supervision of an engineer, architect, or surveyor licensed to practice in Michigan.

The owner must prepare a complete proposal that outlines the procedures to be followed for increasing the water depths, when the water depths would be increased, pool equipment operation at increased water depths, and procedures with time schedule for returning the water depths to the design water level. We would be receptive to only those proposals where water depths are increased for practices or competitive meets. Further, we would consider only those proposals where the pool equipment is run continuously. The owner needs to provide a properly trained pool operator for the duration as evidenced by experience or by certification as a Certified Pool Operator or Aquatics Facility Operator. We also encourage the owner to have the proposal prepared by a licensed engineer or architect, but we would consider all proposals.

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The owner must commit to removing any permanent starting platforms and replacing them with removable starting platforms.

The owner must make a commitment to bring the pool into compliance with paragraphs (1) and (2) of Rule 35 within three years of approval being granted for flooding the gutters.

Before granting approval, we would visit the pool to observe and confirm the pool can be operated satisfactorily during periods when the water depths have been increased to the required level for the starting platforms.

Because the pool does not meet applicable standards and the department cannot insure that the special conditions will be fully implemented, the State of Michigan, Department of Environmental Quality, must be named as "additional insured" on the pool owner's insurance policy. Proof that the State of Michigan, Department of Environmental Quality, is a named insured under the policy is a condition precedent to this authorization.

Final approval of the variance, if granted, will be made in writing to the pool owner.

PROCEDURE:

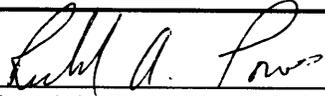
Responsibility

Action

Recreational Resources Unit within the
Environmental Health Section

If the above provisions are met, grant the
variance.

APPROVED: _____


Richard A. Powers, Chief
Water Division

DATE: 3/9/04