

Notification for Renovations, Alterations or Change in Operating Procedures of a Public Swimming Pool

The Public Swimming Pools Regulation (A.R. 204/2014) requires aquatic facilities to obtain approval from Alberta Health Services, Environmental Public Health (EPH) before:

- (a) changing pool operating procedures, or
- (b) renovating or altering the pool that would affect the hydraulic system, disinfection or filtration system, or the integrity of the pool basin.

EPH approval ensures renovations, alterations, or procedure changes will not affect the safe operations of the pool basin or associated facilities. The document describes the differences between routine maintenance and renovations or alterations.

ROUTINE MAINTENANCE - EPH approval is NOT required

Routine maintenance involves minimum servicing conducted for all pool equipment and facilities and includes:

- maintaining equipment, structural components, or finishes to keep them in good repair and functioning to the original design and installation standards.
- replacing equipment or sections of infrastructure with similar components where no increase or decrease in performance is obtained.

RENOVATIONS OR ALTERATIONS – EPH approval IS required

Renovations or alterations involve changes to the design and/or performance of the original system and include:

- changes that impact water quality, system performance, safety, or other facility aspects.
- changes that require an engineer's report.

For instance, situations where major mechanical upgrades occur or modification of the basin. Please discuss these situations with your Public Health Inspector.

The owner, owner's agent, or contractor must ensure that any renovated, altered or replaced equipment addresses any outstanding Public Health violations and noted issues, and meets all performance standards that apply under the *Public Swimming Pools Regulation (AR204/2014)* and *Pool Standards, July 2014 (amended January 2018)*. Refer to the table on Page 2 for specific AHS approval and notification requirements.

Please Note: It is the responsibility of the owner/owner’s agent or contractor to obtain appropriate permits from the municipality or Safety Codes Officer. Building, plumbing, electrical, gas, or other permits may be required. Alberta Health Services may request written documentation confirming the appropriate permits have been obtained or a letter issued by a Safety Codes Officer confirming that no permit is required.

Common Examples of Routine Maintenance, Renovations and/or Alterations

| Notification NOT Required | | |
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| Scenarios/ Proposed Changes | Examples | Comments |
| Changing filter for same filter or replacing parts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace a 36” filter with another 36” filter of similar brand and performance • Replace laterals of filter | No change in performance of system |
| Changing metering or control equipment for water balance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replacing control equipment with a similar unit | |
| Changing pump with same pump size or conducting maintenance on pump | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Hp pump replaced with another 1 Hp pump • Replacing the pump seal | No change in performance of system |
| Disabling skimmer equalizer lines | | Skimmer lines need to be completely disabled to prevent stagnant water build up in them. |
| Installing flow indicators or other gauges | | Adding gauges/indicators would be considered maintenance so long as existing system design/performance is unaltered |
| Media replacement | Replace filter sand with new sand per manufacturer’s specifications | |
| On-going chemical and cleaning treatments | Shocking pool or other treatments such as clarifiers etc. | Routine operations of system |
| Repainting or re-surfacing basin and/or deck | Repairing small sections, repainting and/or refinishing (grout or marcite) with existing colour or materials | |
| Replacing an approved submerged suction outlet cover or device | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace expired or damaged drain cover with same cover | Ensure audit and onsite information is updated and noted on file. If extensive changes are needed (new frame or different cover) notification may be required. |

| Notification NOT Required (continued) | | |
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| Scenarios/ Proposed Changes | Examples | Comments |
| Replacing valves | | Replacing valves does not change performance of system |
| Re-plumbing existing system with same design | Repairing and/or replacing fatigued components of the piping system including valves, pipes and fittings with equivalent type, size and length | No change in performance of system |
| Replacing pool fittings with the equivalent part | Replacing skimmers, inlets, or outlets | |
| Replacing water heating system | | Contact the municipality for applicable permits |
| Notification IS REQUIRED | | |
| Changing disinfection process | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changing from salt to liquid chlorine • Changing from calcium hypochlorite to sodium hypochlorite • Adding a system for secondary disinfection such as UV, ozone etc. | Includes change from different types of chlorine (i.e. calcium hypochlorite to sodium hypochlorite); |
| Changing filter size, type, or style | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sand filter upgraded to larger sand filter • Installation of additional filters | Filtration rate increases or decreases. |
| Changing the pool volume of the basin | Pool basin increase or reduction of size | Engineer's Report Required |
| Changing pump with a larger pump or different style of pump | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Hp pump replaced with a 2 Hp pump Existing pump is replaced with a variable speed pump | Flow rate or turnover increases or decreases. |
| Disabling submerged suction outlets | | A performance assessment is needed to ensure turnovers can be maintained. |

| Notification IS REQUIRED (continued) | | |
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| Scenarios/ Proposed Changes | Examples | Comments |
| Installing new submerged suction outlets | Adding a second main drain in a pool basin floor or on a wall | Engineer's Report Required |
| Installing a new submerged suction outlet on an existing outlet previously not in compliance | Upgrading non-compliant suction outlets | Requires AHS review and includes appropriate documentation for compliance |
| Installing a secondary anti-entrapment device | Installing a safety vacuum release system or automatic pump shutoff | Requires AHS review |
| Replacing or resurfacing the basin with different material or finish | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tiling pool basin or deck when pool is marcite finish. • Installing a non-slip material on deck | Surfaces must be impervious to moisture, easily cleaned and easily maintained. Considerations for color of basin are required under Alberta Building Code. |
| Replacing pool basin | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New fiberglass whirlpool basin | Engineer's Report Required Existing equipment may or may not be used depending on performance of equipment. |
| Re-plumbing existing system with larger pipe size, increasing/decreasing pipe length or adding additional pipe sections | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase pipe diameter • Connecting return inlets and jet line to increase flow | Flow rate or turnover increases or decreases. If significant amount of plumbing replaced engineer's report may be required. |

To notify EPH of alterations or renovations that require notification, please complete the [Pool Permit / Renovations Application](http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/fm-19381.pdf), available at www.albertahealthservices.ca/fm-19381.pdf.

Contact us at 1-833-476-4743 or [submit a request online](http://ahs.ca/eph) at ahs.ca/eph.

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