

Guidance for Local Pool Inspection Programs – Changes to Pool Lighting Requirements

On October 4, 2017, Session Law 2017-209 (House Bill 56) became law. Section 8 of this law requires the Commission for Public Health to amend the Pool Lighting and Ventilation Rule to “require pool illumination sufficient to illuminate the main drains of a pool” and “require pool illumination sufficient to illuminate the deck area of a pool so that it is visible at all times the pool is in use but shall not require specific foot candles of illumination for the deck area.” The provisions set forth in this law are to be implemented by local inspectors until the effective date of the revised permanent rule that the Commission for Public Health is required to adopt.

What this means.

Public swimming pools that are open for swimming at night are required to provide sufficient illumination so that the main drains and the required deck area is illuminated. The foot candle measurements of illumination can no longer be used to determine illumination levels.

What will local inspectors need to do.

For pools that indicate they will be open for swimming at night, local inspectors will need to visit the pool at night to determine if the main drains and required deck area are both illuminated.

What else needs to be illuminated?

During the night visit of pools that indicated they will be open for swimming at night, the local inspectors will also need to verify that sufficient illumination is provided in accordance with Paragraphs (b) and (c) of Rule .2524 which states: “Lighting fixtures shall be of such number and design as to illuminate all parts of the pool, the water, the depth markers, signs, entrances, restrooms, safety equipment and the required deck area and walkways.” And “The illumination shall be sufficient so that the floor of the pool can be seen at all times the pool is in use.”

Pools providing sufficient illumination to illuminate the main drains and the required deck area AND providing sufficient illumination in accordance with .2524 (b) and (c) shall have their operation permits conditioned to indicate that night swimming is ALLOWED. Pools that will not be open at night or that do not provide sufficient illumination to illuminate the main drains and required pool deck area OR that do not provide sufficient illumination in accordance with Rule .2524 (b) and (c) shall have their operation permits conditioned to indicate that night swimming is NOT ALLOWED.

All public swimming pool operation permits should be conditioned to indicate whether night swimming is allowed or not allowed.