



Fact Sheet – NEW Public Pools Regulations

What is the purpose of implementing new Public Pool Regulations?

- The new Public Pools Regulations (Regulations) provide a modernized approach to the regulation of public and semi-public pools in the Northwest Territories (NWT).
- Public and semi-public swimming pools including seasonal pools, wading pools, whirlpools (hot tubs), and water spray parks are all regulated under the new Regulations.
- Saunas will continue to be regulated under the Personal Service Establishment Regulations.
- The new Regulations and the adopted Standards together will govern the operation and maintenance of public and semi-public pools in the NWT.
- The new requirements for lifeguards, lifeguard assistants and pool operators will increase public safety by ensuring that the individuals in these positions have the most up to date training.
- The new requirements respecting pool systems (filtration, circulation, and disinfection) and rules for pool use will provide the public with a safe, sanitary, and nuisance free swimming environment.

What are the main changes from the existing Public Pool regulations?

- The new Regulations include requirements for:
 - Applications for the construction of new pool facilities; renovations or alternations (including the installation of aquatic features), or changes in operating procedures; and the opening or reopening of pools, including seasonal pools;
 - Pool Facility permits;
 - Water quality, clarity, and temperature;
 - General pool maintenance;
 - Record Keeping;
 - Pool supervision; and

- Rules for pool and pool facility use.
- The new Regulations adopt Standards, established by the Chief Public Health Officer, that set out more specific requirements regarding:
 - Pool maintenance;
 - Filtration, circulation and disinfection systems;
 - Testing and monitoring;
 - Pool supervision; and
 - Written policies and plans.
- The previous pool classification (i.e. Class A and Class B) has been updated and renamed as 'public' and 'semi-public' pools to align with other provinces to ensure that there is no confusion, for operators coming from other jurisdictions and the public, as to what type of pools these are and how they are regulated.

Will there be impacts on services?

- Negative impacts, such as operational closures, on pool and pool facility services are not anticipated with the implementation of the new Regulations.
- There are transitional provisions in the new Regulations that give pool owners additional time, specifically until May 31, 2023, to meet the requirements respecting automated mechanical chemical delivery systems for disinfectant and other chemicals that are used in a pool.
- Pool owners and operators must carefully review the new Regulations and Standards to ensure that their facilities are being operated in compliance with the new regulations.
- Pool owners and operators must also ensure that pool staff have been adequately informed of the new rules and trained as per the updated training requirements.

When will the new Regulations be implemented?

- The new Regulations are being planned for implementation in October 2021, following the closure of operations of the last seasonal pool in the NWT.
- There are transitional provisions in the new Regulations that give pool owners additional time, specifically until May 31, 2023, to meet the requirements respecting automated mechanical chemical delivery systems for disinfectant and other chemicals that are used in a pool.