



Environmental Health Pool Newsletter 2025



CHANGE
AHEAD

Oregon Aquatic Venue Rule Updates

On April 1, 2025, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) adopted new rules for all licensable pools and spas (now referred to as aquatic venues).

- **OAR 333-060: Design Standards and Construction** (intended for plan reviews and builders)
- **OAR 333-062: Operation and Maintenance** (intended for operators and inspectors)

Although most of these updates will apply to newly constructed and remodeled aquatic venues, this newsletter will review several changes that will affect your day-to-day operations.

Water Quality Parameters & Testing Frequency:

Below are the new ranges for aquatic venues (AV) and expected monitoring frequencies.

	Min	Max	Ideal Range	Testing Freq
Chlorine – <i>no Cyanuric Acid</i> **	1 ppm	10 ppm	1 – 3 ppm	Every 4 hours or every hour **
Chlorine – <i>with Cyanuric Acid</i>	2 ppm	10 ppm	2 – 4 ppm	Every 4 hours
Chlorine – <i>Spa</i>	3 ppm	10 ppm	3 – 5 ppm	Every 4 hours
Combined Chlorine	0 ppm	0.4 ppm	0 ppm	Once per day
Bromine	3 ppm	8 ppm	3 – 5 ppm	Every 4 hours
Bromine - <i>Spa</i>	4 ppm	8 ppm	4 – 6 ppm	Every 4 hours
pH	7.0	7.8	7.2 – 7.6	Every 4 hours**
Cyanuric Acid	0 ppm	90 ppm	30 – 50 ppm	Weekly (<i>tri-chlor</i>) or monthly
Temperature – <i>Spa</i>	-	104°F	-	Every 4 hours
Total Alkalinity	60 ppm	180 ppm	60 – 180 ppm	Weekly
Calcium Hardness	0 ppm	2500 ppm	200 ppm	Monthly
ORP	600 mV	900 mV	650 – 750 mV	Every 4 hours**

**Outdoor pools with no cyanuric acid in the water must monitor free chlorine, pH and ORP hourly.

2025 Aquatic Venue Updates

Oversight:

- A “**Qualified Operator**”(such as a CPO) is only required for aquatic venues:
 - With >2,000 ft² of pool surface area, and
 - Serving or installed for the state or any political subdivision of the state (examples: pools serving a school district, municipality, or recreation district)
- All other aquatic venues must have a “**Responsible Supervisor**” that is capable of testing and recording water quality parameters, making chemistry adjustments, knowing general maintenance procedures, and understanding when/how to close the aquatic venue if needed [OAR 333-062 6.3.1.2.5].
- A **Lifeguard** will now be required for aquatic venues that:
 - Host recreation of youth groups (schools, childcare, etc)
 - Host competitive swimming or sports
 - Have a point on the water’s surface that is more than 30 feet from the deck
 - Induce current or wave action (wave pool, lazy river, etc)
 - Serve alcohol within the pool enclosure



Surveillance Requirements:

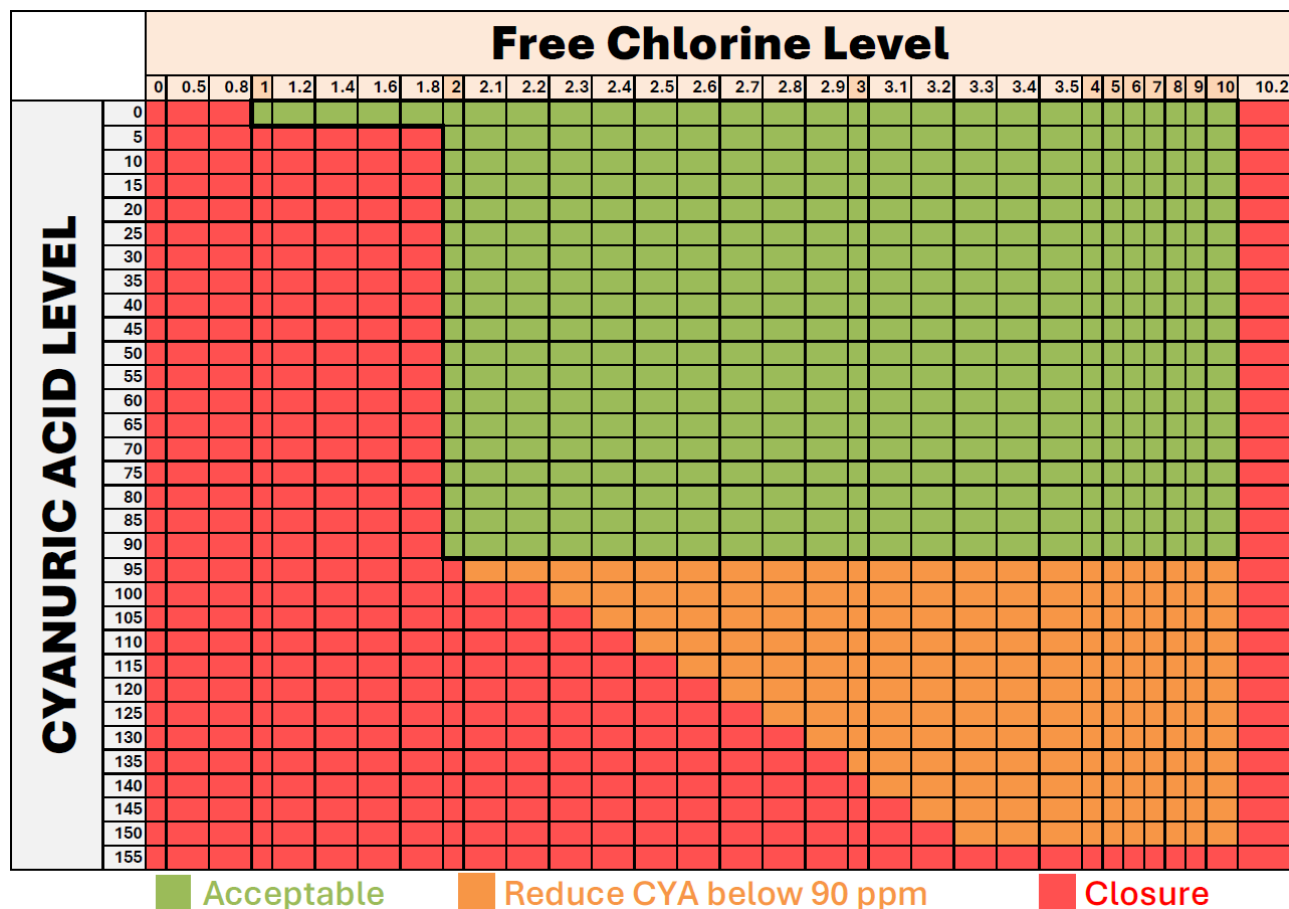
- A responsible person must perform a **Daily Inspection Checklist** before opening the aquatic venue.
- A responsible person must observe all aquatic venues in-person at least every 4 hours.
 - Note – Video surveillance may not replace in-person monitoring
- As mentioned on the previous page, most aquatic venues are also required to test free chlorine, ORP levels, and/or pH readings at least every 4 hours. Daily Record Logs have been updated to account for the new water chemistry ranges and testing frequencies:
 - **Pool Daily Record Log**
 - **Spa Daily Record Log**
 - **Outdoor Pool Without Cyanuric Acid (No Stabilizer) - Daily Record Log**



Aquatic Venues Using Cyanuric Acid and Stabilized Chlorine:

Pools, spas, and splash pads that use cyanuric acid (either added manually or automatically through a tri-chlor feeder) will have two major rule changes:

1. The cyanuric acid to free chlorine ratio (CYA : FC) cannot exceed 45:1. This is a fancy way of saying “If you take your CYA level and divide it by your Free Chlorine level, it must be below 45.” This allows pools to remain open with a CYA level above 90 ppm, as long as the free chlorine level is appropriate. The good news is that the maximum allowable CYA level is still 150 ppm, but the free chlorine would need to be at least 3.4 ppm. See the [CYA:FC Guidance Chart](#) below:



2. By April 1, 2029 (4 years away), **INDOOR** pools and **ALL** spas will no longer be allowed to use stabilized chlorinators. However, any spa or indoor pool that replaces their stabilized chlorinator within the next four years must comply with the updated rules.



INDOOR POOLS

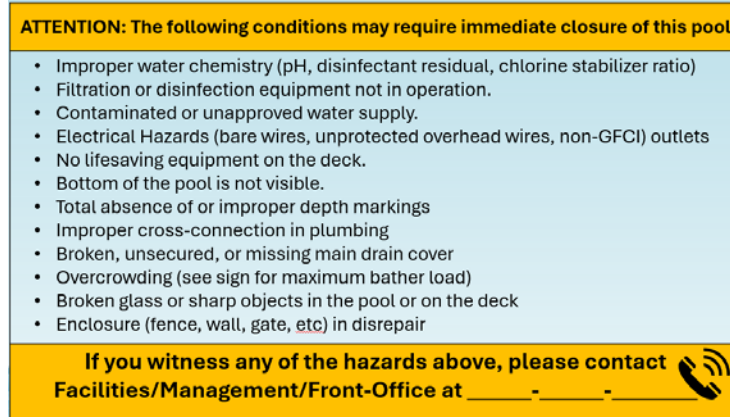
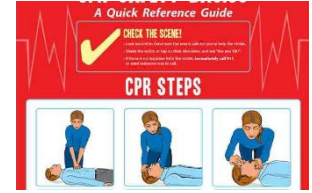


SPAS

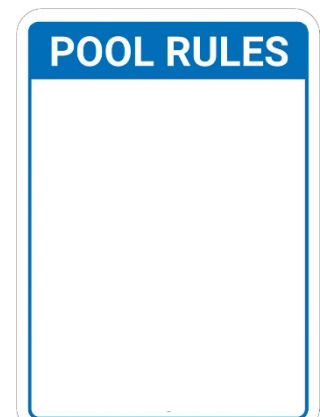
2025 Aquatic Venue Updates

New Signage

- Facilities without lifeguards must post the following signs **before January 1, 2026**:
 - A **CPR Posters** (Links to free posters: [SaveALife](#) | [Adult CPR](#))
 - An added rules stating “*Youth and childcare groups are not allowed without a QUALIFIED LIFEGUARD providing PATRON surveillance*” [OAR 333-062-5.8.5.4.5]
 - An “**Imminent Health Hazard Sign**” that details the reasons to close a pool, as well as a telephone number to report problems to the owner/operator. [OAR 333-062-5.8.5.4.4]



- The following additional rules must be added whenever your current signs are replaced, repaired or moved:
 - ALL**
 - In case of an emergency, dial 911 or other emergency instructions
 - Hours of operation
 - MAXIMUM BATHER LOAD
 - Do not swim if you have open wounds
 - Do not swallow or spit water
 - Diaper changing on the DECK is prohibited
 - Intentional hyperventilation or extended breath holding activities are dangerous and prohibited
 - SPAS**
 - Maximum water temperature is 104° F (40°C)
 - Children under the age of 5 shall not use the spa
 - People using alcohol or drugs that cause drowsiness shall not use spas
 - SPLASH PADS**
 - Do not poop or pee in the water
 - Do not swallow or spit water
- The updated rules do not have minimum sign dimensions. However, they do state that the lettering shall be legible and at least 1 inch (25.4 mm or 3- point type) high, unless otherwise noted, with a contrasting background [OAR 333-062-6.4.2.2.2]



Closure Criteria (now called “Imminent Health Hazards”)

Most of the previous closure criteria are still valid with the new rules. This includes chemical issues with the pH and chlorine, damaged main drain(s), cloudy water, lack of supervision, disinfection and filtration equipment not working, and a compromised enclosure.

Below are additional hazards that can lead to a closure:

CYANURIC ACID (CYA)

As previous discussed, the CYA level cannot exceed 150 ppm AND the CYA : Free Chlorine ratio cannot exceed 45 : 1.



IMPROPER OR NO DEPTH MARKINGS

The total absence of or improper depth markings long the basin and/or on the deck.

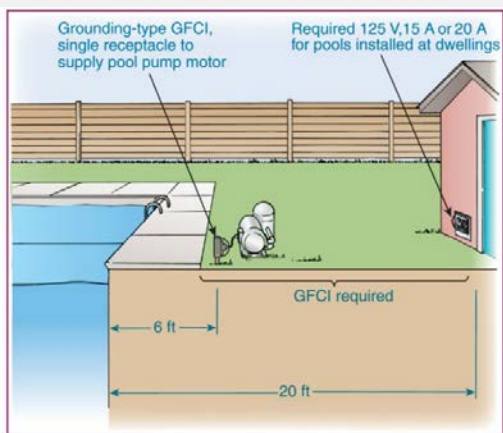


ELECTRICAL HAZARDS

- Unprotected overhead electrical wires within 20 feet horizontally of the aquatic venue.



- Non GFCI protected electrical outlet within 20 feet of the AV



MAX BATHER LOAD EXCEEDED

The bather load calculation is mostly the same from the previous rules:

- **POOLS** with a surface area (SA) under 2,000 ft²: $SA \div 24$
- **POOLS** with SA above 2,000 ft²: *contact your inspector*
- **SPAS & SPLASH PADS**: $SA \div 10$



LIFESAVING EQUIPMENT

The absence of all required lifesaving equipment on the deck.



BROKEN GLASS or SHARP OBJECTS in the pool or on the deck.

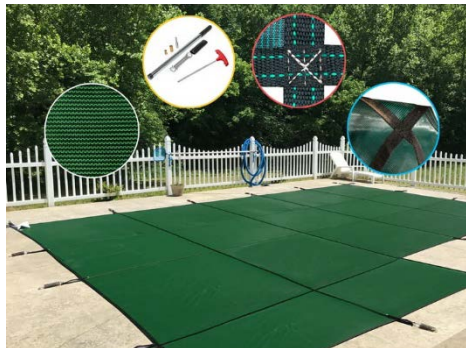




Closure with Multiple Venues within an Enclosure

There are new requirements to follow when closing one aquatic venue that is within the same enclosure as another aquatic venue that will remain open to the public. Examples include hotels that have a pool and spa in the same room or facilities that have an outdoor seasonal pool and year-round spa enclosed within the same gate. If one venue is closed while the other is open, then you must do one of the following:

1. Keep the water recirculated, chemistry within range, and the area staffed to keep bathers out of the closed aquatic venue.
2. Drain the water from the closed aquatic venue (IF APPROPRIATE) and staff the area to keep bathers out
3. Install an approved safety cover that is certified, listed and labeled to ASTM F1346-91 by an ANSI-accredited certification organization, and routinely check its integrity.



4. Set up a temporary enclosure to keep bathers out of the closed aquatic venue and routinely check its integrity. The temporary enclosure must follow the requirements of OAR 333-060-4.8.9 including:

- Be at least 6 feet tall (*4 feet allowed for enclosing a seasonally operated venue*)
- Have a gate that swings outward, is self-closing, and self-latching
- Be at least 3.5 feet away from climbable object

