

## SWIMMING POOL AND SPA MANAGEMENT IN RESIDENTIAL BLOCKS AND HOTELS

**Managers responsible for swimming pools and spas need to be careful when it comes to arrangements for water treatment, safety and COSHH**

### THE PART-TIME POOL MANAGER

Much of the guidance available for the management of swimming pools is focused on the responsibilities of the “Swimming Pool Manager”. But for many operators of swimming pools in private developments and hotels, no such person exists: there is a contractor who visits as frequently as the board of residents or hotel management can afford, and may be called out on an ad hoc basis as problems arise; and a site based member of staff trained by the contractor to carry out daily checks and tests. In the absence of clear agreements and defined responsibilities, accountability falls back to the property or hotel manager – who may in fact have little or no knowledge of pool treatment and visits the pool infrequently. He or she is leaving a great deal to chance.



### RISK ASSESSMENT AND OPERATION PLANS – SAFETY, TREATMENT AND COSHH

The areas that need to be addressed in pools and spas can be broken down into three areas. **Safety** of the pool in its design and arrangements for supervision, life saving and emergencies, **Water Treatment** of the pool water making it hygienic for users and **COSHH** – the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health, the way in

which chemicals are handled. A risk assessment should be carried for each of these and a Normal Operation Plan, Emergency Plan and COSHH written procedures drawn up specific to the pool and/or spa. Ideally these will be

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backed up by an Operation and Maintenance Manual (O&M manual) for detailed reference. This should be specific to the site and equipment installed.

### RESPONSIBILITIES

Until recently it has been up to property and hotel managers to devise a scheme of responsibilities for contractors and staff, perhaps based on the role of a full-time pool manager of a public pool. Without clear guidance arrangements are likely to have been poor. But the Pool Water Treatment Advisory Group (PWTAG) had been very helpful in developing job a description for the “Onsite Designated Supervisor” (ODS) and the dovetailing roles of the outside contractor or “Swimming Pool Technical Operator” (SPTO). Using PWTAG’s checklists for required training, allocated tasks and levels of authority, it is now possible to nail down the contractor’s duties and clarify those of site personnel (and their deputies – it is important to have standby staff to cover absence and holidays).

*Aqualogic has Swimming Pool Technical Operators trained under the PWTAG scheme and can assist with putting together your pool management programme.*

### FURTHER INFORMATION

Swimming Pool Water, treatment and quality standards for Pools and Spas, PWTAG, 2009

Code of Practice: THE MANAGEMENT AND TREATMENT OF SWIMMING POOL WATER Pool Water Treatment Advisory Group, April 2014

Management of Spa Pools: Managing the risks of Infection, Health Protection Agency (now Public Health England), 2006

Managing Health and Safety in Swimming Pools, HSG 179, HSE, 2009



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