

333-060-0080, 333-062-0075
September 10, 2012
Review Date - July 1, 2015

State of Oregon
Oregon Health Authority
OREGON PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION

Food, Pool, Lodging Health & Safety
800 NE Oregon Street, Suite 640
Portland, Oregon 97232-2162
Phone (971) 673-0448 FAX (971) 673-0457

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES INFORMATION BULLETIN



INTERPRETATION MANUAL

ADA / LIFT INSTALLATION / BUILDING PERMITS

QUESTION:

What does a pool operator need to install a handicapped pool lift?

BACKGROUND:

All swimming pools and spas, that meet the Americans with Disabilities Act, as a Title II & III facility, must comply with the 2010 ADA Accessibility Guidelines published by the US Department of Justice. These include, among others; all general use pools, and hotel, fitness club, YMCA, and recreation park pools. It does not cover facilities regulated under the Fair Housing Act. These include; apartments, condo complexes, housing associations with some exceptions. These exceptions can include facilities that include vacation rental units, day cares, or any other use covered under the ADA.

The Federal Government regulates mandates ADA compliance and is outside the scope of OHA regulation. Some ADA guidelines have been adopted in the building codes for many years. The addition of new regulations for ADA compliance in recreational facilities has complicated the jurisdictional authority given to OHA and the Building Codes Division for swimming pools.

After discussions with the Building Codes Division, and consultation with their legal staff, it was decided that they had no authority over the deck equipment provided at a public pool. However, BCD has always had authority over the electrical standards (Oregon Electrical Specialty Code) used in public swimming pools.

Electrical inspection and permits are required for electrical wiring and equipment installation and pool bonding (somewhat similar to a second ground.). ADA-compliant lifts must be bonded to the pool bonding system. (Any lift that uses electrical power other than batteries, must meet the electrical grounding and GFCI requirements. Most are powered by a rechargeable battery.) Installing a lift in a commercial pool would fall under our authority for structural components and deck equipment, and essentially, there are no specific requirements identified for lifts at this time.

At the time of this writing, there is presently an ADA compliance date of January 31, 2013, for public swimming pools. There are discussions in the Congress concerning USDOJ authority to enforce the swimming pools standards. We'll see what develops.

INTERPRETATION

Pool operators and service companies, installing pool lifts, will continue to be responsible for obtaining the proper electrical installation permits from the local building official and complying with the Oregon Electrical Specialty Code. The building official should not issue, structural permits for a pool lift installation.

This document is available in alternate formats for those requiring alternate formats. Please contact phone (971) 673-0448.