

# Aquatic Facility Rules Fact Sheet #13

*What you should know about the Code*

WWW.HEALTHOREGON.ORG  
/PL

OAR 333-062-1000,  
CHAPTER 4 & 5

## **4.7.3.2.8A Automated Controllers**

**4.7.3.2.8.1** Required automated controllers shall be installed for monitoring and turning on or off chemical feeders used for pH and disinfectants at all new aquatic venues

**4.7.3.2.8.1.1** Existing Aquatic Venues For existing aquatic venues, automated controllers shall be required at the time of a substantial alteration of the disinfection system.

## **5.7.5.2 Manual Disinfectant Feed System**

For all aquatic venues using a manual disinfectant feed system that delivers disinfectant via a flow through erosion feeder or metering pump without an automated controller, DPD-FC or bromine and pH shall be tested prior to opening to the public and every 4 hours while open to the public or every hour if the pool is outdoors and cyanuric acid is not used.

## **PUBLIC HEALTH REASONS:**

Maintaining good water quality in aquatic venues is crucial to prevent health risks and protect equipment. It's essential to keep disinfectant levels balanced to effectively eliminate pathogens while minimizing irritation for swimmers. Contaminants in aquatic environments can cause health issues, ranging from mild skin irritations to more serious illnesses. Regular testing of the water helps prevent water-borne diseases and ensures that the chemical balance is appropriate, which also keeps your equipment functioning properly.

## Disinfectant Feed Systems

Disinfectants can be added to an aquatic venue manually (erosion feeder) or through an automated controller. Hand dosing is not a reliable or safe method for maintaining continuous disinfection. Use of an automated controller to keep the water balanced will make your venue much safer as well as reduce staff time and error.

It is essential to use an automated controller that can monitor and adjust the levels of disinfectant, such as free chlorine or bromine, to ensure that the minimum required levels are consistently maintained in the spa. The automated controller should be the primary tool for managing chemical levels. Additionally, it must measure the pH level and be capable of regulating pH by adding the appropriate chemicals when necessary.

### **Manual:**

Facilities using manual disinfection systems must continue to test their water every four hours of operation. Existing manual feed systems are allowed to continue this method until there is a significant alteration to the venue, at which time they would need to install an automated controller for their disinfectant feed system.

### **Automated:**

After 4/1/25, any new or altered aquatic venues will need to be equipped with a chemical feeding device that is directly interlocked to the circulation system.

**All automated controllers must manually test the water at the start of each day to verify equipment is accurate.**

There are 2 different types of sensors used to control and disinfect pools, Oxidation Reduction Potential (ORP) and parts per million (ppm). ORP measures the effectiveness of the chlorine while ppm measures the available free chlorine.

- ORP (Oxidation-Reduction Potential) measures the effectiveness of the disinfection in your pool at any given moment, but it does not indicate the amount of disinfectant present. It shows how well the chlorine is working in your pool. A low ORP level means that the chlorine is not effective. By regularly monitoring ORP levels, you can easily see how well your sanitizer is working and adjust your water treatment plan as needed.
- Parts per million gives you an exact reading of how much disinfectant (such as chlorine, bromine etc.) is present in the water.



***If controller doesn't read in ppm, facility will need to manually test their water every 4 hours of operation for recording purposes.***