

Aquatic Facility Rules Fact Sheet #8

What you should know about the Code

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OAR 333-062-1000,
CHAPTER 2

2.0 Glossary of Terms

“Qualified Lifeguard” means an individual who has successfully completed a Council for Model Aquatic Health Code-certified lifeguard training program or equivalent approved by the Authority, holds a current certificate for such training, has met the pre-service requirements, and is participating in continuing in-service training requirements of the aquatic facility.

6.2.1A Lifeguard Qualifications

A qualified lifeguard shall:

- 1) Have successfully completed an AHJ-recognized lifeguard training course offered by an AHJ-recognized training agency,
- 2) Possess a current certificate for such training,
- 3) Have met all pre-service requirements, and
- 4) Participate in continuing in-service training requirements of the AQUATIC FACILITY.

PUBLIC HEALTH REASONS:

Lifeguards are a crucial part of public safety in and around aquatic facilities, they help prevent drowning and keep swimmers safe. They provide surveillance and monitor swimmers, looking for signs of distress or unsafe behavior. They enforce safety and make sure parents are supervising children. They provide education about water safety and how to enjoy the water responsibly.

Qualified Lifeguard Training

Every day, about ten people die from unintentional drowning. Of these, one is a child less than four years old. Drowning is the fifth leading cause of unintentional injury death for people of all ages, and the second leading cause of unintentional injury death for children ages 1–14 years. From 2010-2019, there were on average 3,619 fatal unintentional drownings (non-boating related) in the United States per year and more than one in six people who die from drowning are children ages 0–14 years. Even if someone survives a drowning event, they can have brain damage and long-term disabilities including memory problems, learning disabilities, and permanent loss of basic functioning. Appropriately trained lifeguards are one way to reduce this risk.

Aquatic Facilities requiring qualified lifeguards:

- Any aquatic venue while it is being used for the recreation of youth groups, including but not limited to childcare usage or school groups;
- Any aquatic venue while it is being used for activities, including but not limited to, competitive swimming, or sports.
- Any aquatic venue with a configuration in which any point on the aquatic venue surface exceeds 30 feet (9.1 m) from the nearest deck;
- Any aquatic venue with an induced current or wave action including but not limited to wave pools and lazy rivers;
- Waterslide landing pools;
- Any aquatic venue in which bathers enter the water from any height above the deck including but not limited to diving boards, drop slides, starting platforms, and climbing walls. This includes pool slides that discharge into water depths deeper than five feet (1.5 m). Limited-use facilities with pool slide flumes that are 6 feet or less in height or drop slides that discharge from a height of 6 inches or less above the water, are exempted from this requirement; and
- Any aquatic venue that sells or serves alcohol within the enclosure, during the periods when alcohol is sold or served.
- All general-use aquatic venues.

Safety equipment required at facilities **with** lifeguards:

1. UV protection for chairs and stands
2. Backboard
3. Rescue tube
4. In immediate vicinity for use in water 3' or less
5. On person in water 3' or greater
6. Identifying uniforms
7. Signal device
8. Sun blocking methods



Qualified lifeguards are critical to swimmer safety

Safety equipment and signage required at facilities **without** a lifeguard:

1. Throwing device – when aquatic venue exceeds 2' located in immediate vicinity
2. Reaching pole – located in immediate vicinity
3. CPR poster
4. Imminent Health Hazard sign (6.6.3.1)
5. Additional signage: sign shall be posted signifying a qualified lifeguard is not on duty and that the following rules apply:
 - a) Persons under the age of 14 years cannot be in the aquatic venue without direct supervision by a person aged 18 years or older; and
 - b) Youth and childcare groups are not allowed without a qualified lifeguard providing patron surveillance.

There are many approved lifeguard training programs options available through the [Council for the Model Aquatic Health Code](#).