

**Southern Nevada Health District  
FAQ – Aquatic Facility Draft Regulations**

**Does the Southern Nevada Health District have plans to require existing pool and spa facilities to install automatic feeders for pH and chlorine chemicals?**

The Health District has no intention of requiring existing facilities to install chemical feeders now or in the future. Health District has addressed this issue and answered questions regarding automatic feeders at public workshops.

**Can Homeowners' Associations be required to install automatic chemical feeders if the Health District determines an association is not properly maintaining the pH balance of its facility?**

The current regulations already require this. Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 444.182 states that if a facility is not properly maintaining its water quality "equipment for the feeding of chemicals to maintain the required pH must be provided." The Health District would ensure a facility is in compliance with the regulations if necessary.

**Will associations need to consider the number of days they service their facilities to meet the proposed requirements of the Health District regulations? Will it cost less to have a facility serviced more often rather than install automatic feeders?**

There is no provision for Homeowners' Associations to install automatic chemical feeders in the regulations proposed by the Health District. Existing facilities are not required to undergo any new construction; however, the proposed regulations require a minimum of three times per week for the body of water to be monitored by a qualified operator. Current regulations have no minimum service frequency.

**Will pools and spas need to shut down if they do not have the funds to meet the timelines for the new requirements?**

Earlier versions of the draft regulations had timelines for compliance attached. Once those proposed requirements were removed, the timelines were removed. Existing facilities are not required to install automatic feeders under the regulations proposed by the Health District.

**If a facility appeals to prevent the installation of automatic feeders, can it be shut down by the Health District during the appeals process?**

Existing facilities that are in compliance and maintaining their facilities are not required to install automatic feeders.

**The Health District did not change its regulations regarding daily recording of chemical readings or daily/morning checks of pool gates to ensure they are properly opening and closing. As a result, should an association consider seven-day service or the installation of automatic chemical feeders for its facilities?**

It is not the Health District's goal to have an existing facility install automatic chemical feeders. All facilities must maintain appropriate pH and disinfectant levels at their facilities and can determine the level of service needed to do so. It is imperative gates be checked daily to ensure they are functioning properly. Inappropriate barriers are a leading cause of childhood drowning.

**The Health District is proposing reducing the accepted level of cyanuric acid. To meet this requirement associations say they may be required to drain pools and spas more often, including during the summer months.**

During the February meeting of the Southern Nevada District Board of Health a pool service operator went on record as stating that rather than eliminating stabilized chlorine, the Health District should hold facilities accountable for properly maintaining cyanuric acid levels. It was indicated this would be a reasonable solution. Current scientific data demonstrates that cyanuric acid levels above 40 ppm begin to greatly inhibit the disinfection ability of chlorine. Swimming in a pool with levels above accepted levels is equivalent to swimming in a pool with no chlorine.

**Will a Health District inspector close a pool if he or she finds that the cyanuric acid level is above 80 ppm?**

It has been demonstrated that a pool with 80 ppm cyanuric acid is the equivalent of swimming in a pool with no chlorine – there is no disease fighting capability. Under the proposed regulations this would lead to a closure. It is the same response that would be taken if no disinfectant residual was detected.

**When do existing facilities need to implement new construction requirements?**

The provisions of the Facility Design and Construction Section only apply to construction of a new aquatic venue or the substantial alteration to an existing aquatic venue, unless specifically stated in the regulatory text.

### **Will any upgrades made on a pool require it to meet the new construction standards?**

Only aquatic venues undergoing a Substantial Alteration will be required to meet the new construction standards. **"SUBSTANTIAL ALTERATION"** means the alteration, modification, or renovation of an AQUATIC VENUE OR INDOOR AQUATIC FACILITY that involves the alteration or replacement of the shell, replacement of the complete plumbing system or a complete rebuild.

### **When will permit holders be responsible for meeting the requirements of the new regulations?**

There will be a one year transition period following the implementation of the new regulations. During this time period, inspectors will notify operators of the specific portions of the new regulations that apply to their facilities during the facility's routine inspection. Enforcement action will not be taken or violations assessed for any new requirement that is not linked with an immediate life/safety threat.