

Appendix 5 Further information

- Legislation and standards
- References
- Related organisations

(To be read in conjunction with the main document)



Swimming Pools

Updated Guidance for 2013



Legislation and standards

Legislation

Operational issues / Health & Safety

The Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007 places duties on designers to identify and eliminate hazards and risk during design, and to advise on those risks that remain. The term 'designer' is used broadly and may include a client, contractor and anyone involved in the preparation and modification of a design or the instruction of others¹.

The HSE document *HSG179 – Managing Health and Safety in Swimming Pools* sets out the health and safety legislation with which all pool operators must comply. Operators have a general duty to ensure, as far as practicable, that the public and employees are not exposed to health and safety risks, and make suitable and sufficient risk assessments. It contains practical advice and guidance to help pool operators meet their responsibilities based on best practice agreed across the industry.



Standards

Standards for equipment used in swimming pools

BS EN 13451 covers the safety requirements for items of equipment used in a swimming pool. Published originally in 2001, the standard includes the following (some of which have been subsequently updated as indicated):

- Part 1** General safety requirements and test methods (updated 2011)
- Part 2** Additional specific requirements and test methods for ladders, step ladders and handle bends
- Part 3** Additional specific requirements and test methods for equipment for water treatment purposes (updated 2011)
- Part 4** Additional specific safety requirements for test methods for starting platforms
- Part 5** Additional safety requirements and test methods for lane lines
- Part 6** Additional safety requirements and test methods for turning boards
- Part 7** Additional specific safety requirements and test methods for water polo goals
- Part 8** Additional specific safety requirements and test methods for leisure water features (withdrawn and incorporated into updated 2011 Part 3)
- Part 9** Safety signs (withdrawn)
- Part 10** Additional specific safety requirements and test methods for diving platforms, diving spring boards and associated equipment (updated 2004)
- Part 11** Additional specific safety requirements and test methods for movable pool floors and movable bulkheads (updated 2004)

¹ http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2007/ukxi_20070320_en_1
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/1144.htm>

Swimming pools

The *BS EN 15288: 2008 Swimming Pools* standard was published by the British Standards Institution (BSI) in January 2009 as part of the long process to unify operational and health and safety standards across Europe in the interest of free trade. The standard is in two parts:

- Part 1** Safety requirements for design
- Part 2** Safety requirements for operation

The standard applies to all new pools and refurbishments within three types:

- Type 1** Public pools where the water-related activities are the main business (e.g. communal pools)
- Type 2** Public pools which are an additional service to the main business (e.g. hotel pools)
- Type 3** All other public pools that are not Type 1 or 2

The standard will not apply to:

- Pools used for medical or therapeutic purposes
- Private pools used solely by owners, family and friends.

It has limited application to segregated areas of rivers, lakes and the sea.

It is important to note that Part 1 of the document is not in line with some established minimum safety standards in the UK. The National Foreword to the document advises users to 'consider closely' the contents of a number of existing UK documents with the 'intention of maintaining current levels of swimming pool safety':

- *The Handbook of Sport and Recreational Building Design* (Sports Council)
- The Swimming Pool Water Guide (Pool Water Treatment Advisory Group – PWTAG)
- *HSG 179 Managing Health and Safety in Swimming Pools* (Health and Safety Executive)
- *PAS 39 Management of public swimming pools – water treatment systems, water treatment plant and heating and ventilation systems – Code of Practice*
- *PAS 65 Management of public swimming pools – General management – Code of Practice.*



BS EN 15288: 2008 - Part 1 identifies design features for public swimming pools that are required to create a safe environment and the introduction stresses the following general principles:

- Safety of swimming pools starts with design
- Everyone in the design process should be familiar with 'specific sources of information' and 'recommendations'
- Everyone in the design process should be aware of operational implications. Safety design can reduce risks of accidents and operational costs
- An experienced facility manager should be part of the project team.

Other areas the standard represents are increases over existing UK standards.

These are noted in the text of this guidance note and can be summarised as:

- Slip resistant tiles required on pool floors in water up to 1.35 m in depth (i.e. non-swimming areas)
- Increased width of surround where there are exit points from the pool
- Poolside drainage to waste drainage
- Conspicuous line on the pool floor at 1.35 m depth
- Where required, a separation barrier 0.5 m before the 1.35 m point
- Minimum dimensions of separation barriers between pools
- Dimensions of rest ledges and steps in pools
- Equipotential net
- Lightning protection
- Requirement for pool covers
- Dimensions of first aid rooms
- Requirements of poolside control points
- Requirements for water treatment chemicals
- Size and location of signage for pool depth.

Waterslides

Waterslide design, installation and operation should take into account the following standards:

- *'Waterslides – A code of practice for their safe Operation'* - Institute of Sport and Recreation Management (ISRM), now known as The Chartered Institute for the Management of Sport and Physical Activity (CIMSPA)
- *BS EN 1069: Part 1: 2010 Water slides of 2m height and more - Part 1: Safety requirements and test methods*
- *BS EN 1069: Part 2: 2010 Water slides of 2m height and more - Part 1: Instructions*
- *BS EN ISO 13857:2008 Safety of Machinery - Safety distances to prevent danger zones being reached by upper and lower limbs*
- *BS EN 1176: Part 1: 2008 Playground Equipment - General Safety Requirements and Test Methods*
- *BS EN 22768: Part 1: 1993 General Tolerances - Tolerances for linear and angular dimensions without individual tolerance indications.*
- *BS EN 13451 Swimming Pool Equipment*



References

Key UK reference documents include:

- *Managing Health & Safety in Swimming Pools HSG 179*. Produced jointly by the Health and Safety Commission and Sport England - published by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) 2003
- *PAS 39:2003 Management of Public Swimming Pools - Water treatment systems, water treatment plant and heating and ventilation systems - code of practice* prepared at the request of the Pool Water Treatment Advisory Group (PWTAG)
- *Swimming pool water - Treatment and quality standards for pools and spas 2009* produced by the Pool Water Treatment Advisory Group (PWTAG)
- The Building Regulations
- *Ice Rinks and Swimming Pools - Handbook of Sport and Recreational Building Design - Vol 3 - Second Edition* produced by the Sports Council
- Assessing the slip resistance of flooring. Technical information sheet
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/web/slips01.pdf>
- The Chartered Institute for the Management of Sport and Physical Activity (CIMSPA)
<http://www.cimspa.co.uk>
- World Waterpark Association
<http://www.waterparks.org>



Related organisations

Amateur Swimming Association (ASA)

<http://www.swimming.org/asa/>

The ASA is the national governing body in England for swimming, diving, water polo, open water and synchronised swimming and provides extensive training programmes for all those involved in teaching swimming.



Association for Physical Education (AFPE)

<http://www.afpe.org.uk>

In 2006 Physical Education Association of the United Kingdom (PEAUK) joined with The British Association of Advisers and Lecturers in Physical Education (BAALPE) to become the Association for Physical Education becoming the UK's Physical Education subject association.

British Swimming Coaches Association (BSCA)

<http://www.gbswimcoaches.co.uk/>

The BSCA is the representative organisation for swimming coaches which gives employment, legal and educational support.

Chartered Institute for the Management of Sport and Physical Activity (CIMSPA)

<http://www.cimspa.co.uk>

CIMSPA (formerly known as IMSPA and ISRM) aims to lead, develop and promote professionalism in the management of sport and physical activities and provide opportunities to encourage participation in sport and physical activities.

Health and Safety Executive (HSE)

<http://www.hse.gov.uk>

The HSE and the Health and Safety Commission (HSC) are responsible for regulating almost all the risks to health and safety arising from work activity in the UK.

National curriculum swimming and water safety

<http://www.education.gov.uk>

This site provides guidance and ideas for teachers in planning and teaching swimming activities and water safety as part of the PE national curriculum.

Royal Life Saving Society (RLS)

<http://www.lifesavers.org.uk>

The Royal Life Saving Society is the leading drowning prevention organisation in the UK and is the national governing body for life saving and life guarding in the UK.

Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA)

<http://www.rospace.com>

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents is a registered charity to promote safety and the prevention of accidents including on (or near) water.

Sport England

<http://www.sportengland.org>

Sport England is responsible for providing the strategic lead for sport in England. It develops the framework for the country's sporting infrastructure and distributes lottery funding to where it will deliver most value.



Sports Coach UK

<http://www.sportscoachuk.org>

Sports Coach UK is dedicated to guiding the development and implementation of a coaching system, for all coaches at every level in the UK.

Sport + Recreation Alliance

<http://www.sportandrecreation.org.uk/>

The Sport + Recreation Alliance is the umbrella body for 270 sport and recreation organisations. They have published a charter for PE and School Sport and a guide leaflet *Safety at the Water Margins* – both available on their web site.