



State of Louisiana
Department of Health and Hospitals
Office of the Secretary

August 27, 2010

Glenn T. Cambre, Director
Center for Environmental Health Services
Office of Public Health
Department of Health and Hospitals
628 N. 4th Street
P.O. Box 4489
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-4489

Re: Letter of Intent/Clarification – Deck Jets, Waterfalls, Fountains or Other Similar Water Features
used in Public Swimming Pools.

Dear Mr. Cambre:

It has recently come to my attention that Part XXIV (Swimming Pools and Natural or Semi-Artificial Swimming or Bathing Places) of the Louisiana State Sanitary Code (LAC 51) does not include requirements specific to the design and construction of common swimming pool water features including waterfalls, fountains, deck jets, *etc.* However, Section 103.A of this Part does prescribe that the State Health Officer has jurisdiction over the design, construction, and operation of all swimming pools, water parks, and water slides, public or private, including, but not limited to those owned by clubs, private schools, apartment houses, and condominiums. So, in reference to this section it is my intent to allow deck jets, waterfalls, fountains, and other similar water features in public swimming pools only when the following requirements are strictly met.

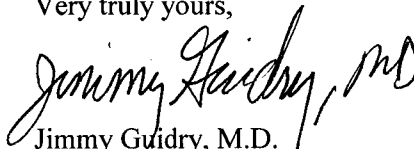
1. Any apparatus, device or equipment that discharges water into the pool or that uses the pool as a source of water for the operation of the device shall either use only water that has been filtered and disinfected prior to being discharged into a pool, or shall have a separate disinfection system for the device approved by the department. If water for the device is not taken directly from the pool, then the water for the device shall be circulated through a separate system consisting of pump(s), filter(s), disinfection equipment, and other appurtenances, as required by LAC 51: XXIV.
2. Any water being discharged into pool water or that makes contact with users or bathers shall have the same minimum level of disinfection that is required for the type of pool that the device is installed within, as required by Chapter 9 (Disinfection and Bacteriological Quality) of LAC 51: XXIV.
3. Water features such as waterfalls, fountains, deck jets, *etc.* in pools may use up to 20% of the return water from the filter system, however none of the water used in the feature shall be counted toward attaining the designed turnover rate. Return piping system shall be designed and capable of handling the additional feature flow when the feature is turned off. Features that require more than 20% of the flow rate shall be supplied by an additional pump that drafts from a suitable collector tank.

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4. Suction outlet systems used in swimming pool water features such as waterfalls, pool fountains, deck-jets, *etc.*, shall be designed and installed in accordance with the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act (VGB).
5. All water features that utilize water directly from the pool shall be designed to allow the water in the piping to drain back into the pool when the feature is cut off.
6. Water features mounted on/within the pool deck shall not obstruct with the minimum decking requirements set forth in LAC 51: XXIV.323.
7. Spray features mounted in the pool deck shall be flush with the pool deck as not to pose a tripping hazard. Flows may not create a turbulence that might create a safety hazard or reduce visibility in the pool.

Please ensure that copies of this letter are circulated to your staff and others as appropriate. Should questions arise, they should be directed to Mr. Jake Causey, P.E., Engineering Services Section, Center for Environmental Health Services, Office of Public Health. Mr. Causey may be reached at (225) 342-7499.

Very truly yours,


Jimmy Guidry, M.D.
State Health Officer

JG/SGB/JKC/jkc

cc: Jake Causey, P.E., Acting Chief Engineer, Engineering Services Section, CEHS, OPH
District/Regional Engineers, Engineering Services Section, CEHS, OPH
Tenney Sibley, R.S., Chief Sanitarian, Sanitarian Services Section, CEHS, OPH
Sidney Becnel, R.S., Legislative Liaison & Rulemaking Manager, CEHS, OPH