



State of Louisiana
Louisiana Department of Health
Office of the Secretary

October 31, 2016

Amanda Laughlin, P.E., Chief Engineer
Engineering Services
Office of Public Health
Louisiana Department of Health
628 N. 4th Street
P.O. Box 4489
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-4489

Re: Letter of Intent – Updated Water Quality Parameters in Public Swimming Pools and Spas

Dear Ms. Laughlin:

It has recently come to my attention that there are currently no prescribed restrictions on the use of cyanuric acid (CYA) in Part XXIV (Swimming Pools) of LAC Title 51 (Public Health Sanitary Code) [LAC 51:XXIV]. I have been made aware that many swimming pool and spa operators utilize cyanuric acid (CYA) to stabilize and protect free available chlorine from UV degradation but that some of these operators may be unaware that there is a potential for cyanuric levels to build up to a point where the effectiveness of chlorine diminishes. It is my understanding, based upon your staff's research and recommendation, that the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) sponsored Model Aquatic Health Code (MAHC) has addressed this concern by requiring the CYA levels at all aquatic venues to remain at or below 90 ppm (mg/L).

It is also my understanding that the MAHC contains the latest recommended levels for free available chlorine (FAC) concentrations and total alkalinity as determined by the CDC and its partners of public health authorities, design professionals, academia, and other individuals in the swimming pool and spa industry. Based on your staff's research and in accordance with the MAHC, it is my intent to require all public swimming pools and spas to maintain CYA, total alkalinity, and free available chlorine concentrations in accordance with the following:

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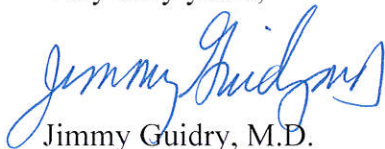
Re: Letter of Intent – Updated Water Quality Parameters in Public Swimming Pools and Spas

1. The cyanuric acid (CYA) level at all aquatic venues shall remain at or below 90 ppm (mg/L). Cyanuric acid should be tested monthly at all aquatic venues utilizing CYA, and if the testing indicates that its concentration is above the 90 ppm (mg/L) level, the aquatic venue shall be partially drained and replenished with fresh water until such concentration be reduced to that level or below it.
2. Free available chlorine concentrations (FAC) shall be maintained at all times as follows:
 - a. Aquatic venues not using CYA shall maintain a minimum FAC concentration of 1.0 ppm (mg/L).
 - b. Aquatic venues using CYA shall maintain a minimum FAC concentration of 2.0 ppm (mg/L).
 - c. Spas shall maintain a minimum FAC concentration of 3.0 ppm (mg/L).
 - d. Maximum FAC concentrations shall not exceed 10.0 ppm (mg/L) at any time an aquatic venue is open to bathers.

Note: Swimming pool owner or operator shall take action to reduce the level of combined chlorine (chloramines) in the water when the level exceeds 0.4 ppm (mg/L). Such actions may include but are not limited to super-chlorination or water exchange.
3. Total Alkalinity at all aquatic venues shall be maintained in the range of 60 to 180 ppm (mg/L) at all times.

Please ensure that copies of this letter are circulated to your staff and others as appropriate.

Very truly yours,



Jimmy Guidry, M.D.
State Health Officer

JG/AL/CB/JK/jkh

cc: District/Regional/Central Office Engineers, Engineering Services Section, CEHS, OPH