

## **Health Protection Unit Program: Water Recreational Facilities**

**Legislation:** MR 132/97 Swimming Pools and Other Water Recreational Facilities Regulation under *The Public Health Act*.

**Subject:** Sampling guideline for bacteriological testing (parameters, frequency and permit wording).

### Sampling Parameters (per sections 16(1)(f), 30(1)(a) and 37 of MR 132/97):

- Swimming Pools and wading pools: Total coliform bacteria
- Whirlpools: Total coliform bacteria and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*
- Modified pools and public non-conforming pools: fecal coliform bacteria

In some cases due to site specific concerns, additional parameters may be required by the PHI such as total coliform in modified and non-conforming pools, or heterotrophic plate counts (HPC). The addition of a requirement to test for *Pseudomonas* may be beneficial in facilities with higher temperature water (>30C), and in non-traditional facilities such as water parks.

### Sampling Frequency:

- Year-Round Operation: samples to be submitted every 3 months
- Seasonal Pool: samples to be submitted monthly with initial sample upon permitting and monthly thereafter.

Depending on site specific factors, such as a history of water quality concerns, the PHI may choose to adjust the required frequency as deemed necessary to ensure adequate monitoring.

### Sample Submission:

- It is recommended that all samples and re-samples be submitted by the operator, unless otherwise arranged by the PHI.
- Forms completed by the operator when submitting samples should include contact information for the PHI, and indicate to the testing facility that a copy of the results are to be sent directly to the PHI in addition to the operator.
- Samples taken during an inspection can be considered as either part of the routine sampling schedule or as additional sampling, depending on the timing and reasons for the inspection.

Permit Issuance:

Section 5(7) of the regulation allows for the PHI to include operational conditions in the annual operating permit. It is recommended that the sampling frequency and parameters for bacteriological testing as required by the PHI be included on the permit in section "(d) Other conditions".

The following wording is to be used when the recommended minimum sampling frequencies and test parameters are required. In those cases where site specific factors warrant a change to the sampling frequency and/or test parameters, this wording should be modified.

For year-round pools:

*Water samples must be submitted for total coliform bacterial analysis every three months. The chain of custody/analytical request form must include the responsible public health inspector for that facility in the cc column.*

For seasonal pools (except fill and drain wading pools):

*Water samples must be submitted for total coliform bacterial analysis every month. The chain of custody/analytical request form must include the responsible public health inspector for that facility in the cc column.*

For whirlpools:

*Water samples must be submitted for total coliform and Pseudomonas aeruginosa bacterial analysis every three months. The chain of custody/analytical request form must include the responsible public health inspector for that facility in the cc column.*

For modified and public non-conforming pools:

*Water samples must be submitted for fecal coliform bacterial analysis every three months. The chain of custody/analytical request form must include the responsible public health inspector for that facility in the cc column.*