



# Model Aquatic Health Code (MAHC)

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## State and Local Perspective: Pool Program Challenges



- ✓ Pool design and construction advances rapidly
- ✓ Many codes are years out of date (up to 30 years old)
- ✓ Disparate regulations at state and/or local level
  - Disparate across jurisdictional lines
    - Between states
    - Between localities
      - Some states don't have a pool code so codes are at the county or city level





## State and Local Perspective: Pool Program Challenges



- ✓ **Huge resource investment by health departments to update**
  - Localities must “re-invent the wheel”
  
- **Metro Atlanta, GA**
  - Multi-county pool code update effort
  - 3 years, >2000 hours committee time, uncounted hours of individual county staff time
  - Best product achieved with limited resources
  - Code does not have MAHC depth of detail nor science basis due to lack of national expertise in process





## State and Local Perspective: Pool Program Challenges



- ✓ **Health departments unable to rapidly respond to new and emerging issues**
  - *Health:* chemicals, new pathogens, injuries and drowning, indoor air quality
  - *Design:* new features, designs, and technology developed by industry that are no longer covered in older codes
  
- ✓ **Shrinking resources for pool programs**
  - Staff and funding cuts
  - Elimination of pool programs





## State and Local Perspective: The MAHC Can Benefit Pool Programs

- ✓ **Improved consistency across country**
  - Learning lessons in one state can be used to update model code for entire country
    - Indoor ventilation, *Cryptosporidium* control (chlorine-tolerant), operator/lifeguard training
- ✓ **A progressive health department can more easily adopt language if it is a national science - and best practices – based model code**
  - Won't be accused of “being the only health department doing so”





## State and Local Perspective: The MAHC Can Benefit Pool Programs

- ✓ **Reduced resource requirements**
  - Jurisdictions no longer need to “re-invent the wheel”
  - Public-private partnership at national level can:
    - Ensures public health and aquatics industry works together on the mutual goal to reduce disease and injury to share latest national-level expertise
    - Ensures regular updates and improvements that keep up with latest public health and technological advancements





## State and Local Perspective: The MAHC Can Benefit Pool Programs

### ✓ Improved partnerships

- Improved public relations if health department uses code language developed with industry input
- Improved product if MAHC involves top industry and public health experts that are not available for every state or local revision
- Improved public health-industry partnerships likely to improve regulatory approvals and inspections





## State and Local Perspective: The MAHC Will Offer “Value Added”

- ✓ **Improved guidance and understanding**
  - The MAHC includes an extensive Annex and Reference List that gives the science and supporting rationale behind the model code language
  
- ✓ **Improved tools**
  - The MAHC offers templates for sample inspection forms, incident reports, standard operating procedures, checklists, etc. that reduce the work burden at the state and local level







## State and Local Perspective: The MAHC Will Offer “Value Added”

- ✓ **Consistency in inspections and data collection**
  - Data can be used for evaluating pool programs, informing decision making, and driving resource allocation
  - Data can show program impact and importance
  
- ✓ **Positive Impacts at local and regional health**
  - Improved pool operation
  - Environmental health officials can focus on job rather “reinventing” pool codes
  - Improved health: decreased injuries and disease





# State and Local Perspective: The MAHC Will Offer “Value Added”



## ✓ Create a research agenda

- Revision of the MAHC is pointing out critical areas needing research to improve industry operation
- Funding can be done as a consortia of public and private funding at national level rather than by individual localities who cannot afford it
- National needs can be prioritized and addressed for more efficient resource use

