The Model Aquatic Health Code & Industry Perspective

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People don’t learn how to swim, reducing demand for pools.
THE STATS
WHY ALL KIDS MUST LEARN TO SWIM

- Approximately 10 people drown every day in the U.S. (Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)).
- More than one in five fatal drowning victims are children younger than 14 (Source: CDC).
- Drowning is also a silent killer—most young children who drowned in pools were last seen in the home, had been out of sight less than five minutes, and were in the care of one or both parents at the time (Source: Present P. Child Drowning study).
- Participation in formal swimming lessons can reduce the risk of drowning by 88 percent among children aged one to four years. (Source: Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine 2009)
- Seventy percent of African-American and sixty percent of Hispanic/Latino children cannot swim. (Source: National research study by the USA Swimming Foundation and the University of Memphis)
- African-American children drown at a rate nearly three times higher than their Caucasian peers. (Source: CDC)
- If a parent does not know how to swim, there is only a 13 percent chance that a child in that household will learn how to swim. (Source: National research study by the USA Swimming Foundation and the University of Memphis)
More swimmers will result in a healthier society, fewer drownings and reduced healthcare costs

Thomas M. Lachocki, Ph.D.

A white paper commissioned by National Swimming Pool Foundation®

May 2012

The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) reported that overall, 37% of Americans are unable to swim. Unfortunately, African-Americans (62%) and Hispanic-Americans (47%) are less likely to know how to swim.6

Fear also plays an important role. A study performed by the Gallup organization evaluating 815 subjects indicated that even more people are not confident swimmers since about two-thirds of Americans are afraid of deep, open bodies of water like lakes, rivers, or the ocean and 46% are afraid of the deep end of a pool.7
Biggest Threats to the Aquatic Industry

- People don’t learn how to swim, reducing demand for pools.
- People don’t have access to pools, reducing interest in aquatic facilities.
- Perceived regulation burden makes it less attractive to build aquatic facilities.
- Operating expense reduces return on investment and demand for pools drop.
Neighborhood cost of maintenance

Posted April 2, 2015

After an authorization from Fort Worth will be removing set operational for several years. The most recently built of them were built during the decline. The maintenance are not financially viable for empty pools will be reseed community.

Public Pools Closing Across Country As Cities Struggle With Budget Cuts

AP  |  By JEFFREY COLLINS

Posted: 05/30/2011 12:46 pm EDT    |    Updated: 07/30/2011 5:12 am EDT
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Perception that public pools are unsafe or unsanitary reduces demand.
7 Disgusting Facts About Dirty Public Swimming Pools

Jun 20, 2013 01:11 PM  By Amy Boulanger

Find out what may be lurking beneath the surface of dirty public pools. Creative Commons, CC BY 2.0
Des Moines Cryptosporidium Outbreak Case Count At 68, Linked To Swimming Pools

The Hawkeye State is battling its third gastrointestinal disease outbreak of the summer and it's another parasite. **The Des Moines Register reports** today that The Polk County Department of Public Health said this morning that it had seen 68 confirmed cases of cryptosporidium infections this month.
Keeping Pools Safe and Keeping Pools Open are important motivators for the health of the aquatics industry.
MAHC Intent is to Make Pools Safer

Risk Management Approach

- Understanding & identifying risk
  - Drowning
  - Disease
  - Injury

- Developing methods to manage the risk
  - Physical methods (DESIGN)
  - Operational methods (TRAINING)
  - Management methods (PLANNING & AUDITING)

- Assessing compliance
MAHC Affects Many

- Designers
- Builders
- Users
- Aquatic Facility Owners & Operators
- Training Companies
- Manufacturers & Suppliers
- Regulators
50 States have 50 different codes

- Manufacturers and Suppliers need to adjust for each State
- Aquatic professionals have to adjust operations
- Corporate owners across States have to operate differently in each jurisdiction
- Training agencies have to specialize education based on individual codes
- Inconsistencies between States leads to misinformation
Why Industry Wants the MAHC

Existing codes are aged and often obsolete

- Not up to date with industry trends and technologies
- Not science-based, reflective of 30 year old information
- Financial and time burden for States to develop updated codes
Why Industry Wants the MAHC

Uniform standards reduce the interpretations that can adversely affect enforcement

- **Design**
  - Based on load, not on arbitrary means
  - Design elements address risks, not prescriptive requirements

- **Operation**
  - Lifeguard requirements based on risk
  - Training elements are standardized
  - Flexibility for low-risk environments

- **Management**
  - Planning is the major element
  - Accountability for the operation

- **Annex**
  - Provides rationale for code requirements
MAHC Positives

- Model code
  - Free for ANYONE to use
  - Not a LAW until adopted by a State
- Process is open
  - ANYONE can participate in it’s development
- Industry input
  - Public comment periods
  - Over 75% of comments were incorporated
- Living Document – will be updated on a regular basis to reflect new research and new technologies
- As a source of evidence–based code, this national forum minimizes the need for issue–specific laws like we experienced with VGB.
Industry Concerns

- Avoid scope creep – MAHC should address risk, not general protocols.
- MAHC should not be too prescriptive to allow for innovation.
- Piecemeal adoption by States can still lead to conflicts or misinterpretation
- Publishing a model code by the CDC immediately creates THE industry standard to be referred to by the media and by lawyers, but best to have an evidence-based standard to refer to.
- Although not retroactive, some operational and management elements are. Education will be needed for facilities across the country.
- Implementation can be affected by potential conflicts with other standards and codes.
- Harmonization with related standards and codes will need to be closely followed. (MOUs in place with ICC and IAPMO)
Industry Motivations for Supporting the MAHC

- MAHC levels the regulatory playing field so varying codes don’t make it harder to do business.
- MAHC does not impose superfluous things that are not risk-based. They are sound requirements based on science to make pools safer.
- MAHC helps to reduce barriers to development because there is ONE code everyone understands and designs to.
- MAHC improves water quality and the perception of safe environments.
  Less outbreaks = better perception of public pools = more swimmers = more business.
- MAHC makes it easier for States to adopt language and not have to secure funds to update their own codes. Embracing new language that allows for new technology and new methods improves the business environment.
Questions?

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