



# SWIMMING POOL SERVICE TECHNICIAN NEWSLETTER

Los Angeles County - Department of Public Health - Environmental Health - Recreational Waters Program

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## **FEE INCREASES**

Most technicians are aware that the certified tech fee increased to \$75.00 per year. Last Fiscal Year, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved the fee increase after the initial bills were mailed in May. A second bill was mailed to all pool techs for the sum of \$10.00. If you didn't receive the second bill or if you didn't pay it, your account is likely delinquent. Contact the Recreational Waters Program to pay any outstanding fees. The Swimming Pool Technician List displays delinquent accounts and can be accessed at: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/business/certified-swimming-pool-service-technician.htm>

The Pool Service Technician Certification Exam fee was increased to \$212.00. The exam fee is required each time an applicant makes a reservation for the exam.

This is a reminder that the Swimming Pool Service Technician Program is billed through the same automatic billing system as all other permitted facilities. As a result, the Tech Database is frozen in May and June to prepare for the new billings. During that time period, the Technician List cannot be updated with address or telephone number changes and new or replacement wallet cards cannot be printed. If you have moved or changed your contact information, notify Recreational Waters program as soon as possible. Techs paying their fees after the delinquent date will be assessed a late payment penalty of no less than \$50.00. Also be aware that there may be additional penalties. Please see the applicable excerpt of Los Angeles County Code Title 8 below.

8.04.840

Public health license and permit—Penalty for late fee payment. *If any fee required by Division 1 of this title is not paid prior to the delinquency date, in addition to such fee, the licensee or permittee shall pay a penalty equal to 25 percent of the fee or \$50.00, whichever is greater, for each month the license or permit remains delinquent, commencing the first day of the first calendar month that begins at least 60 days after the delinquency date.*

*license or permit fee owed for each month the fee plus penalties remain delinquent, commencing the first day of the first calendar month that begins at least 60 days after the delinquency date.*

*(Ord. 96-0069 § 47, 1996: Ord. 88-0106 § 19, 1988: Ord. 12301 § 1 (part), 1981: Ord. 9803 § 1 (part), 1969: Ord. 8875 § 1, 1965: Ord. 8609 Art. 1 § 19, 1964.)*

Anyone requesting a waiver of the late penalty must provide documentation to support their request. Requests for waivers will be denied if payment was delayed because the technician failed to notify Recreational Waters Program of address changes or other necessary changes.

Online payments may be made with an appropriate credit card, debit card or by echeck at: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/>

## **FOCUS ON THE LAW**

Los Angeles County Code Title 11 establishes the Certified Swimming Pool Service Technician program. Anyone who services pools as a business or occupation in Los Angeles County must be certified by the Department of Public Health. Even private pools at single family residences must be serviced by a certified technician. An exception in the law does allow the homeowner to maintain his/her own pool. The applicable law follows:

11.34.040

*Swimming pool service technician—Activities authorized following certification. A person certified pursuant to this chapter as a swimming pool service technician may engage in the occupation or business of treating or disinfecting swimming pool waters or cleaning, servicing, or maintaining swimming pools or facilities and appurtenances thereof.*

*(Ord. 91-0099 § 10, 1991: Ord. 8588 § 1 (part), 1964: Ord. 7583 Part 3 Ch. 13 § 1008, 1959.)*

*This chapter does not apply to an individual who maintains his or her own swimming pool or a manager or owner of a residential structure of three units or less who maintains or services the pool or pools exclusively at said structure.*

(Ord. 2006-0040 § 100, 2006: Ord. 91-0099 § 2, 1991: Ord. 8588 § 1 (part), 1964: Ord. 7583 Part 3 Ch. 14 §§ 1001 and 1002, 1959.)

Public pool owners are periodically required to identify the pool tech servicing their pool to the Health Department. Failure to employ a Certified Swimming Pool Technician is a violation of LA County Code and subject to prosecution.

### **UPDATE ON APPRENTICE LEGISLATION**

Awaiting presentation of the legislative change to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.

### **POOL CONSTRUCTION FAQs**

California requires that any construction job that is worth \$500 or more, must be performed by a contractor licensed by the California State Licensing Board. This also applies to swimming pool construction, repair and/ or remodeling. Qualified licenses include (A) General Engineering Contractor, C-53 Swimming Pool Contractor and D-35 Pool and Spa Maintenance. Contractors must perform only those tasks that are approved within their license classification. The contractor must hold a current, valid license in the classification.

### **SERVICE DOGS AND SWIMMING POOLS**

The California Code of Regulations Title 22, Section 65534, prohibits animals in a public pool or ancillary facilities. However, Recreational Waters often receives complaints regarding service dogs swimming in public pools. Pool managers are unclear about the law and won't confront the dog owner for fear of being sued. The U.S. Department of Justice has issued a document to clarify the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). FAQs about Service Animals and the ADA can be accessed at:

[https://www.ada.gov/regs2010/service\\_animal\\_ga.html](https://www.ada.gov/regs2010/service_animal_ga.html)

Pool techs should review and direct their clients to FAQ 33.

### **Are gyms, fitness centers, hotels, or municipalities that have swimming pools required to allow a service animal in the pool with its handler?**

**A.** No. The ADA does not override public health rules that prohibit dogs in swimming pools. However, service animals must be allowed on the pool deck and in other areas where the public is allowed to go.

### **LEGIONNAIRES DISEASE AND SPAS**

Recreational Waters has participated in the investigation of several suspected outbreaks of Legionnaires Disease at public pools. In medical literature, spas have been implicated in the transmission of the Legionella bacteria. There are several reasons why this can happen.

1. Legionella grows well in a warm environment.
2. Disinfectants are less effective in warm water.
3. People crowding into a small pool of water carry all kinds of bacteria on their bodies.
4. Booster jets aerosolize the spa water, so it can be inhaled by occupants.

Legionella bacteria causes lung infections which can result in pneumonia and sometimes, death.

So, what can you do?

1. Maintain disinfectant residuals at legal levels.
2. Keep the spa water clean and clear by maintaining the filtration system.
3. Prevent foaming in the spa
4. Educate your clients about this disease.

Swimmers should shower BEFORE entering the pool. People with open cuts or illnesses should be prohibited from entering the spa/pool.

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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