



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Texas Department of State
Health Services

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES

DIVISION FOR REGULATORY SERVICES

ENVIRONMENTAL AND CONSUMER SAFETY SECTION

POLICY, STANDARDS, AND QUALITY ASSURANCE UNIT

PUBLIC SANITATION AND RETAIL FOOD SAFETY GROUP

EHPSQA NO. 005

Subject: Recommended Minimum Practices for Ensuring Adequate Water Quality of Water Supplies for Public Pools, Spas, and Public Interactive Water Features

Some public pools, spas, and public interactive water features and fountains (PIWFs) use water from water wells that do not meet the definition of a public water system or that are not regulated by the TCEQ. The guidelines below are minimum standards accepted by the Department of State Health Services for initial fill and make-up water supplies from water wells that are not regulated by a local authority or by TCEQ, for public pools, spas, and PIWFs.

- 1) Minimum water distribution pressure should not be less than 20 psi.
- 2) Water system operators should submit a minimum of one water sample to test for total coliform, fecal coliform, *E. coli*, or other fecal indicator organisms 30 days prior to opening the pool, spa, or PIWF for the season; or, if the pool, spa or PIWF is open longer than 6 months a water sample should be submitted once every 6 months.
- 3) Testing for microbial contaminants should be performed at a laboratory certified by the TCEQ.
- 4) If a routine distribution coliform sample is coliform-positive the initial fill water or the make-up water should be treated with sufficient sanitizer to meet minimum sanitizer levels as required in 25 TAC Section 265.204(a), referring to Water quality in post-10/01/99 and pre-10/01/99 pools and spas, or in 25 TAC Section 265.306(c), referring to Disinfectant and cyanuric acid levels in PIWFs, as applicable.

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5) A water sample from the entry point to the distribution system should be submitted to a laboratory for chemical analysis at least once every 3 years and should be tested for secondary constituent levels as follows:

CONSTITUENT	MAXIMUM LEVEL (mg/l except where otherwise stated)
Aluminum	0.05 to 0.2
Chloride	300
Color	15 color units
Copper	1.0
Corrosivity	Non-corrosive
Fluoride	2.0
Foaming agents	0.5
Hydrogen sulfide	0.05
Iron	0.3
Manganese	0.05
Odor	3 Threshold Odor Number
pH	>7.0
Silver	0.1
Sulfate	300
Total Dissolved Solids	1,000
Zinc	5.0

6) Records of all testing should be kept on site for a minimum of 3 years.

7) No sanitary sewers or septic tanks should be allowed within a distance of 50 feet of any well used to provide water for a public pool, spa, or PIWF. No cesspool or septic tank open jointed drainfield should be allowed within a distance of 150 feet of any well used to provide water to a public pool, spa, or PIWF.

8) There should be no storm water incursion into the water distribution system for a public pool, spa, or PIWF.

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