Model Aquatic Health Code
Draft Lifeguarding and Bather Supervision Module CODE Section
Modified after the First 60-day Review that
Closed on 10/14/2012

Informational Copy: NOT Currently Open for Public Comment

NOTE: Due to the large number and extent of comments related to the Lifeguarding and Bather Supervision Module, the entire module (Code and Annex) has been revised, re-written, and re-organized to best address these comments.

This version of the MAHC Lifeguarding and Bather Supervision Module has been modified based on the first round of public comments received. It is being re-posted so users can view how it was modified but is not currently open to public comment. The complete draft MAHC, with all of the individual module review comments addressed will be posted again for a final review and comment before MAHC publication. This will enable reviewers to review modules in the context of other modules and sections that may not have been possible during the initial individual module review. The public comments and MAHC responses can be viewed on the web at http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/swimming/pools/mahc/structurecontent/index.html

The MAHC committees appreciate your patience with the review process and commitment to this endeavor as we all seek to produce the best aquatic health code possible.

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MAHC Lifeguarding and Bather Supervision Module Abstract

Health and safety issues related to bather supervision and lifeguarding for both the patron and the potential rescuer at an aquatic facility are increasingly being documented. The Lifeguarding and Bather Supervision Module is a first step towards improving the consistency in training, lifeguard management and supervision, lifeguard competency for guarded facilities and effective bather supervision at unguarded facilities. The Lifeguarding and Bather Supervision Module contains requirements for unguarded and guarded aquatics along with the training necessary to be a qualified lifeguard. The module includes:

1) Standards determining which aquatic facilities need to be guarded and which may not need qualified lifeguards including supervision requirements for those aquatic facilities not required to have lifeguards.
2) A Safety Plan guide including pre-service, in-service, staffing, single lifeguard, lifeguard management and Emergency Action Plan requirements.
3) Requirements for aquatic facilities to define, diagram, and document required zones of patron surveillance.
4) Determination of what constitutes effective staffing by the ability of the lifeguard to reach all areas of their zone of patron surveillance within a certain time frame.
5) Required lifesaving equipment, communications standards, and general requirements for lifeguards and lifeguard supervision/management training.


MAHC Strawman

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4.0 Design Standards and Construction

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Glossary Terms in this Module

“Aquatic Facility” means a physical place that contains one or more aquatic venues and support infrastructure under a single management structure.

“Aquatic Feature” means an individual component within an aquatic venue. Examples include mushrooms, slides, buckets, spray guns/nozzles, and other play features.

“Aquatic Venue” means an artificially constructed or modified natural structure where the general public is exposed to water intended for recreational or therapeutic purpose. Such structures do not necessarily contain standing water, so water exposure may occur via contact, ingestion, or aerosolization. Examples include swimming pools, wave pool, river, spas (including spa pools and hot tubs), therapeutic pools, spray pads/interactive water venues.

“Authority Having Jurisdiction” (AHJ) means an agency, organization, office, or individual responsible for enforcing the requirements of a code or standard, and/or for approving equipment, materials, an installation, or a procedure.

“Bather” means a person at an aquatic venue who has contact with water either through spray or partial or total immersion. The term Bather as defined, also includes staff members, and refers to those users who can be exposed to contaminated water as well as potentially contaminate the water.

“Code” means a systematic statement of a body of law, especially one given statutory force.

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“Emergency Action Plan” means a plan that identifies the objectives that need to be met for a specific type of emergency, who will respond, and what each person’s role will be during the response, and what equipment is required as part of the response.

“Lifeguard Supervisor” means an individual that is responsible for the oversight of lifeguard performance and emergency response at an aquatic facility. A “Qualified Lifeguard Supervisor” means an individual who has successfully completed a lifeguard supervisor training course and holds an unexpired certificate for such training; and who has met the pre-service and continuing in-service requirements of the aquatic facility according to this code.

“Qualified Lifeguard” means an individual who has successfully completed an AHJ-recognized lifeguard training course offered by an AHJ-recognized training agency, holds a current certificate for such training, has met the pre-service requirements, and is participating in continuing in-service training requirements of the aquatic facility.

“Qualified Operator” means an individual who has successfully completed an AHJ-recognized operator training course offered by an AHJ-recognized training agency and holds a current certificate for such training.

“Safety Plan” means a written document that has procedures, requirements and/or standards for pre-service employees, communications, safety team members, in-service training, staffing, rescue skill competency, lifeguard rotation procedures, lifeguard management, emergency action plan, incident follow up, bloodborne pathogen exposure control, emergency closure, and single lifeguard situations (if applicable).

“Safety Team” means any employee of the aquatic facility that has job responsibilities related to the aquatic facility’s emergency action plan.

Preface: This document does not address all health and safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this document to establish appropriate health and safety practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to each use.
4.0 Design Standards and Construction

4.1 Plan Submittal

4.2 Materials

4.3 Equipment Standards

4.4 Pool Operation and Facility Maintenance

4.5 Aquatic Venue Design

4.5.1 Design for Risk Management   LG
Design of AQUATIC FACILITIES and/or AQUATIC VENUE(s) shall include the owner/operator and/or aquatic risk management consultant to incorporate operational considerations such as the layout of zones of patron surveillance.

4.6.5 First Aid Station

4.6.5.1 Station Design   LG
Design and construction of new AQUATIC FACILITIES shall include an area designated for first aid equipment and/or treatment.

4.8.1 Decks

4.8.1.1 Qualified Lifeguard Placement   LG
Decks shall be designed to allow for QUALIFIED LIFEGUARD placement per the zone of patron surveillance in MAHC Section 6.3.2.1.1.

4.8.1.2 Deck Clearance   LG
Decks shall have a minimum of 4 feet of clearance from AQUATIC VENUE edge to fencing or other obstruction to allow for QUALIFIED LIFEGUARD transit, roaming, or change of positioning to maximize viewing of the zone of patron surveillance as well as execution of water extrication.

4.8.1.3 Access Points   LG
Access points shall be provided to QUALIFIED LIFEGUARDS to transit to lifeguard positions.

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4.8.1.4 Patron Zone Surveillance

The designer shall consider impact on patron zone surveillance when determining placement of structural, operational, and theming elements. These elements shall include but are not limited to chairs, fencing, and AQUATIC FEATURES.

4.8.5 Safety-Related Equipment

4.8.5.1 Safety Equipment Required at all Aquatic Facilities

4.8.5.1.1 Communication Equipment

4.8.5.1.1.1 Communication Device

The design shall include a publicly accessible telephone or other communication device that is hard wired and capable of directly dialing 911 or other emergency notification system.

4.8.5.1.1.2 Internal Communication

The AQUATIC FACILITY design shall include a method for staff to communicate in cases of emergency.

4.8.5.1.2 First Aid Equipment

4.8.5.1.3 Signage

4.8.5.2 Safety Equipment Required at Aquatic Facilities with Lifeguards

4.8.5.2.1 Lifeguard Chair and Stand Placement

The designer shall consider impact on patron zone surveillance for placement of chairs and stands designed to be permanently installed so as to provide an unobstructed view of the patron surveillance zones.

4.8.5.2.2 Lifeguard Chair and Stand Design

The chairs/stands must be designed:

1) With no sharp edges or protrusions;
2) To be made of sturdy, durable, and UV resistant materials;
3) Provide enough height to elevate the lifeguard to an eye level above the heads of the BATHERS; and
4) Provide safe access and egress for the lifeguard.

4.8.5.2.3 UV Protection for Chairs and Stands

When provided, permanently installed chairs/stands, where QUALIFIED LIFEGUARDS can be exposed to ultraviolet radiation, shall include protection from such ultraviolet radiation exposure.

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5.8.5 Safety Related Equipment

5.8.5.1 Equipment Inspection and Maintenance

AQUATIC FACILITIES shall not be open to users unless the equipment listed under MAHC Section 5.8.5 is present and in a safe and working condition.

5.8.5.2 Safety Equipment Required at All Aquatic Facilities

5.8.5.2.1 Communication Equipment

5.8.5.2.1.1 Functioning Communication Equipment

The AQUATIC FACILITY shall have equipment for staff to communicate in cases of emergency.

5.8.5.2.1.2 Hard-Wired Telephone for 911 Calls

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The AQUATIC FACILITY or each AQUATIC VENUE, as necessary, shall have a telephone or other communication device that is hard wired and capable of directly dialing 911 or function as the emergency notification system. The telephone or communication system or device shall be conspicuously provided and accessible to AQUATIC VENUE users such that it can be reached immediately.

5.8.5.2.1.3 Alternate Communication Systems or Devices  
Alternate systems or devices are allowed with approval of the regulatory authority in situations when a telephone is not logistically sound, and an alternate means of communication is available, which meet the requirements of MAHC Section 5.8.5.2.1.2.

5.8.5.2.2 First Aid Equipment

5.8.5.2.2.1 Location for First Aid  
The AQUATIC FACILITY shall have designated locations for emergency and first aid equipment.

5.8.5.2.2.2 First Aid Supplies  
An adequate supply of first aid supplies shall be continuously stocked and include, at a minimum, as follows:

1) A First Aid Guide,
2) Absorbent compress,
3) Adhesive bandages,
4) Adhesive tape,
5) Sterile pads,
6) Disposable gloves,
7) Scissors,
8) Elastic wrap,
9) Emergency blanket,
10) CPR mask, and
11) Blood borne pathogen spill kit.

5.8.5.2.3 Signage

5.8.5.2.3.1 Sign Indicating First Aid and Emergency Telephone Location  
Signage shall be provided at the AQUATIC FACILITY or each AQUATIC VENUE, as necessary, which clearly identifies the following:

1) first aid location(s)
2) emergency telephone(s) or approved communication system or device

5.8.5.2.3.2 Emergency Dialing Instructions  
A permanent sign providing emergency dialing directions and the AQUATIC FACILITY address shall be posted and maintained at the emergency telephone, system or device.

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5.8.5.2.3.3 Management Contact Info LG
A permanent sign shall be conspicuously posted and maintained displaying contact information for emergency personnel and AQUATIC FACILITY management.

5.8.5.2.3.4 Hours of Operation LG
A sign shall be posted stating the operating hours of the AQUATIC FACILITY and stating that unauthorized use of the AQUATIC FACILITY outside of these hours is prohibited.

5.8.5.3 Safety Equipment Required at Aquatic Facilities with Lifeguards

5.8.5.3.1 UV Protection for Chairs and Stands LG
When a chair or stand is provided and QUALIFIED LIFEGUARDS can be exposed to ultraviolet radiation, the chair or stand shall be equipped with or in a location with protection from such ultraviolet radiation exposure.

5.8.5.3.2 Spinal Injury Board LG
At least one spinal injury board constructed of material easily sanitized/disinfected shall be provided. The board shall be equipped with a head immobilizer and sufficient straps to immobilize a person to the spinal injury board.

5.8.5.3.3 Rescue Tube Immediately Available LG
Each QUALIFIED LIFEGUARD conducting patron surveillance with the responsibility of in-water rescue in less than 3 feet (0.9 m) of water shall have a rescue tube immediately available for use.

5.8.5.3.4 Rescue Tube on Person LG
Each qualified lifeguard conducting patron surveillance in a water depth of 3 feet (0.9 m) or greater shall have a rescue tube on his/her person in a rescue ready position.

5.8.5.3.5 Identifying Uniform LG
QUALIFIED LIFEGUARDS shall wear attire that readily identifies them as members of the AQUATIC FACILITY’s lifeguard staff.

5.8.5.3.6 Signal Device LG
A whistle or other signaling device shall be immediately available for each QUALIFIED LIFEGUARD conducting patron surveillance for communicating to users and/or staff.

5.8.5.3.7 Sun Blocking Methods LG
All AQUATIC FACILITIES where QUALIFIED LIFEGUARDS can be exposed to ultraviolet (UV) radiation shall train lifeguards about the use of protective clothing, hats, sun-blocking umbrellas, and sunscreen application and re-application using or exceeding SPF Level 15 to protect exposed skin areas. QUALIFIED LIFEGUARDS are responsible for protecting themselves from UV radiation exposure.

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5.8.5.3.8 **Polarized Sunglasses**  LG
When glare impacts the ability to see below the water’s surface, QUALIFIED LIFEGUARDS shall wear polarized sunglasses while conducting patron surveillance.

5.8.5.3.9 **Personal Protective Equipment**  LG
Personal protective devices including a one way valve resuscitation mask and non-latex one-use disposable gloves shall be immediately available to all QUALIFIED LIFEGUARDS.

5.8.5.3.10 **Rescue Throwing Device**  LG
AQUATIC FACILITIES with one QUALIFIED LIFEGUARD shall provide and maintain a Coast Guard approved aquatic rescue throwing device as per the specifications of MAHC Section 5.8.5.4.1.

5.8.5.3.11 **Reaching Pole**  LG
AQUATIC FACILITIES with one QUALIFIED LIFEGUARD shall provide and maintain a reaching pole as per the specifications of MAHC Section 5.8.5.4.2.

5.8.5.4 **Safety Equipment Required at Aquatic Facilities without Lifeguards**

5.8.5.4.1 **Throwing Device**  LG
AQUATIC VENUES whose depth exceeds 2 feet of standing water shall provide and maintain a Coast Guard approved aquatic rescue throwing device, with at least a quarter-inch thick rope whose length is 50 feet (15.2 m) or 1.5 times the width of the pool, whichever is less.

5.8.5.4.1.1 **Throwing Device Location**  LG
The rescue throwing device shall be located in the immediate vicinity to the AQUATIC VENUE and be accessible to BATHERS.

5.8.5.4.2 **Reaching Pole**  LG
AQUATIC VENUES whose depth exceeds 2 feet of standing water shall provide and maintain a reaching pole of 12 foot (3.7 m) to 16 foot (4.9 m) in length, non-telescopic, non-conductive, light in weight, and with a securely attached Shepherd’s Crook with an aperture of at least 18 inches (45.7 cm).

5.8.5.4.2.1 **Reaching Pole Location**  LG
The reaching pole shall be located in the immediate vicinity to the AQUATIC VENUE and be accessible to BATHERS.

5.8.5.4.3 **CPR & RWI Prevention Posters**  LG
Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Prevention of Recreational Water Illness posters shall be posted conspicuously at all times.

5.8.5.4.4 **Imminent Hazard Sign**  LG

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A sign shall be posted outlining the required imminent health hazard closure items of an AQUATIC FACILITY as defined in this CODE per MAHC 6.6.4 and a telephone number to report the problem to the owner/operator.

5.8.5.4.5 Sign for Conditions when Lifeguard is Required LG
For any AQUATIC VENUE with standing water, a sign shall be posted signifying a QUALIFIED LIFEGUARD is not on duty and that the following rules apply:

1) Persons under the age of 14 cannot be in the facility without direct adult supervision meaning the child shall be in adult view at all times, and
2) Youth and childcare groups, training, lifeguard courses, and swim lessons are not allowed without a QUALIFIED LIFEGUARD.
6.0 Policies and Management

6.1 Qualified Operator Training

6.2 Lifeguard & Lifeguard Instructor Training

6.2.1 Lifeguard Qualifications
A QUALIFIED LIFEGUARD shall:
1) Have successfully completed an AHJ-recognized lifeguard training course offered by an AHJ-recognized training agency,
2) Possess a current certificate for such training,
3) Have met all pre-service requirements, and
4) Participate in continuing in-service training requirements of the AQUATIC FACILITY.

6.2.1 Lifeguard Training

6.2.1.1 Course Content
Lifeguard Training Courses shall include but not be limited to:
1) Hazard Identification and Injury Prevention,
2) Emergencies,
3) Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR/AED),
4) First Aid, and
5) Legal Issues.

6.2.1.1.1 Hazard Identification and Injury Prevention
Hazard Identification and Injury Prevention shall include:
1) Identification of common hazards or causes of injuries and their prevention,
2) Responsibilities of a lifeguard in prevention strategies,
3) Victim recognition
4) Victim recognition scanning strategies,
5) Factors which impede victim recognition,
6) Health and safety issues related to lifeguarding, and
7) Prevention of voluntary hyperventilation and extended breath holding activities.

6.2.1.2 Emergency Response Skill Set
Emergency Response content shall include:
1) Responsibilities of a lifeguard in reacting to an emergency,
2) Recognition and identification of a person in distress and/or drowning,
3) Methods to communicate in response to an emergency,
4) Rescue skills for a person who is responsive or unresponsive, in distress, or drowning,
5) Skills required to rescue a person to a position of safety,
6) Skills required to extricate a person from the water with or without assistance, and
7) Components of an **Emergency Action Plan (EAP)** for aquatic venues.

**6.2.1.1.3 CPR Skills**

Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR/AED) and other resuscitation skills shall be professional level skills that follow treatment protocols consistent with the current Emergency Cardiovascular Care Update (ECCU) and/or, the International Liaison Committee on Resuscitation (ILCOR) guidelines for cardiac compressions, foreign body restriction removal, and rescue breathing for infants, children, and adults.

**6.2.1.1.4 First Aid**

First Aid training shall include:

1) Basic treatment of bleeding, shock, sudden illness, and muscular/skeletal injuries as per the guidelines of the National First Aid Science Advisory Board,
2) Knowing when and how to activate the EMS
3) Rescue and emergency care skills to minimize movement of the head, neck and spine until EMS arrives for a person who has suffered a suspected spinal injury on land or in the water, and
4) Use and the importance of universal precautions and personal protective equipment in dealing with body fluids, blood, and preventing contamination according to current Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) guidelines.

**6.2.1.1.5 Legal Issues**

Course content related to legal issues shall include but not be limited to:

1) Duty to act,
2) Standard of care,
3) Negligence,
4) Consent,
5) Refusal of care,
6) Abandonment,
7) Confidentiality, and
8) Documentation

**6.2.1.2 Lifeguard Training Delivery**

**6.2.1.2.1 Standardized and Comprehensive**

The educational delivery system shall include standardized and student and instructor materials to convey all topics including but not limited to those listed per MAHC Section 6.2.1.1.

**6.2.1.2.2 Skills Practice**

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Physical training of lifeguarding skills shall include in-water and out-of-water skill practices led by an individual currently certified as an instructor by the training agency which developed the lifeguard course materials.

6.2.1.2.3  **Shallow Water Training**  **LG**
If a training agency offers a certification with a distinction between “shallow water” and “deep water” lifeguards, candidates for shallow water certification shall have training and evaluation in the deepest depth allowed for the certification.

6.2.1.2.4  **Deep Water Training**  **LG**
If a training agency offers a certification with a distinction between “shallow water” and “deep water” lifeguards, candidates for deep water certification shall have training and evaluation in at least the minimum depth allowed for the certification.

6.2.1.2.5  **Sufficient Time**  **LG**
Course length shall provide sufficient time to cover content, practice, skills, and evaluate competency for the topics listed in MAHC Section 6.2.1.1.

6.2.1.2.6  **Certified Instructors**  **LG**
Lifeguard Instructors: Courses shall be taught only by individuals currently certified as instructors by the training agency which developed the lifeguard course materials.

6.2.1.2.6.1  **Minimum Prerequisites**  **LG**
Lifeguard training agencies shall develop minimum instructor prerequisites that include, but are not limited to those outlined in MAHC Section 6.2.1.2.6.2.

6.2.1.2.6.2  **Completed Training**  **LG**
Prior to instructing lifeguard training, instructors are required to have successfully completed a lifeguard training course which complies with MAHC Section 6.2.1.1 and a lifeguard instructor training course which includes, at a minimum, the following:

1) Mastery and knowledge of lifeguard training course content;
2) Demonstration of the ability to effectively deliver lifeguard training course content;
3) An evaluation and feedback process to improve instructor candidate presentation skills/techniques;
4) Course management and administration procedures; and
5) Testing and evaluation procedures

6.2.1.2.6.3  **Instructor Renewal/Recertification Process**  **LG**
Lifeguard training agencies shall have a lifeguard instructor renewal/recertification process.

6.2.1.2.6.4  **Quality Control**  **LG**
Training agencies shall have a quality control system in place for evaluating a lifeguard instructor’s ability to conduct courses.

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6.2.1.2.7  Training Equipment  

All lifeguard training courses shall have, at a minimum, the following pieces of equipment available in appropriate student to equipment ratios during the course:
1) Rescue Tubes,
2) Backboard with head immobilizer and sufficient straps to immobilize the victim to the backboard,
3) CPR manikins (Adult and Child),
4) CPR mask,
5) Bag Valve Mask (Adult and Pediatric),
6) Disposable gloves,
7) AED Trainer with adult and pediatric training pads, and
8) First Aid Supplies for first aid training
9) Manikin cleaning supplies

6.2.1.3  Competency and Certification

6.2.1.3.1  Proficiency
Lifeguarding skills per MAHC Section 6.2.1.1 shall be tested, by a certified instructor, to a level of proficiency accepted by the training agency.

6.2.1.3.2  Requirements
Lifeguard training course providers shall have a final exam including but not limited to:
1) Written and practical exams covering topics outlined in MAHC Section 6.2.1.1,
2) Final exam passing score criteria including the level of proficiency needed to pass practical and written exams, and
3) Security procedures for proctoring the final exam to include:
   a) Checking student’s government-issued photo identification, to ensure that the individual taking the exam is the same person who is given a certificate documenting course completion and passing of exam, and
   b) Final exam is passed, prior to issuance of a certificate

6.2.1.3.3  Instructor Physically Present
The instructor of record shall be physically present during the practical testing.

6.2.1.3.4  Certifications
Lifeguard and lifeguard instructor certifications shall be issued to recognize successful completion of the course as per the requirements of MAHC Section 6.2.1.1 through 6.2.1.4.3.3.

6.2.1.3.5  Number of Years
Length of Valid Certification shall be a maximum of two years for lifeguarding and first aid, and a maximum of one year for Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR/AED).

6.2.1.3.6  Documentation
Course documentation of training and certificates shall identify the following:

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1. level of training,
2. expiration date,
3. restrictions on depth of water for which the lifeguard is qualified,
4. identifier of the instructor of record,
5. any other restrictions that maybe applied by the training agency,
6. identifier of the agency providing the certification

6.2.1.3.7 Expired Certificate LG
When a certificate is expired, the lifeguard shall retake the course or complete a challenge program.

6.2.1.3.7.1 Challenge Program LG
A lifeguard challenge program, when utilized, shall be completed in accordance with the training of the original certifying agency, by an instructor certified by the original certifying agency, and include but not be limited to:
1) Pre-requisite screening,
2) A final practical exam demonstrating all skills, in and out of the water required in the original lifeguard course for certification, which complies with MAHC Section 6.2.1.1, and uses the equipment specified in MAHC Section 6.2.1.2.7, and
3) Final written, proctored exam.

6.2.1.3.7.2 Certificate Renewal LG
Certificate renewal, when utilized, shall include the following:
1) Completion prior to certificate expiration,
2) Conducted in accordance with the training of the original certifying agency,
3) Taught by an instructor certified by the original certifying agency,
4) Conducted with a demonstration of skills, in and out of the water, required in the original course, which complies with MAHC Section 6.2.1.1, and uses the equipment specified in MAHC Section 6.2.1.2.7,
5) A final written, proctored exam, and
6) A final practical exam with a certified instructor present.

6.2.2 Lifeguard Supervisor Training

6.2.2.1 Lifeguard Supervisor Candidate Prerequisites LG
LIFEGUARD SUPERVISOR candidate prerequisites shall include but not be limited to:
1) Successful completion of a lifeguard training course in the past,
2) Previous experience as a lifeguard of at least 3 months, and
3) Ability to effectively communicate in English.

6.2.2.2 Lifeguard Supervisor Training Elements LG
LIFEGUARD SUPERVISOR training shall include, at a minimum, the following:
1) Activation and execution of EMERGENCY ACTION PLANS (EAPs),
2) CPR/AED and first aid training that complies with MAHC Sections 6.2.1.1.3 and 6.2.1.1.4 or present an unexpired certificate issued by an AHJ-approved agency.
documenting the required training has been completed,
3) Scanning and vigilance requirements and how to ensure that systems which
accomplish these goals are in place and operational,
4) Development and evaluation of zones of patron surveillance responsibility
diagrams for an AQUATIC VENUE,
5) Monitoring lifeguard performance as it relates to lifeguard and facility-specific
training, including pre-service assessments,
6) Strategies to reduce risk and mitigate the health and safety hazards to both the
patrons and the staff,
7) Knowledge of the legal issues and responsibilities relating to lifeguarding as
listed in MAHC Section 6.2.1.1.5, and
8) Knowledge of the proper use and maintenance of the equipment required per
MAHC Section 5.8.5.

6.2.2.3 Lifeguard Supervisor Training Delivery

6.2.2.3.1 Standardized and Comprehensive

The educational delivery system shall include standardized student and instructor
content and delivery to convey all topics including but not limited to those listed per
MAHC Section 6.2.2.2.

6.2.2.3.2 Sufficient Time

Course length shall provide sufficient time to cover content, demonstration, skill
practice, and evaluate competency for the topics listed in MAHC Section 6.2.2.2.

6.2.2.3.3 Certified Instructors

LIFEGUARD SUPERVISOR training courses shall be taught by trained LIFEGUARD
SUPERVISOR instructors through a training agency or by the facility whose training
programs meets the requirements specified in MAHC Section 6.2.2.

6.2.2.3.3.1 Minimum Prerequisites

Course providers shall develop minimum instructor prerequisites that include, but are
not limited to:
1) Successful completion of a lifeguard training course in the past,
2) Successful completion of a LIFEGUARD SUPERVISOR training course that complies
with MAHC Section 6.2.2.2,
3) Ability to effectively communicate in English,
4) Has completed a LIFEGUARD SUPERVISOR instructor training course which
includes, at a minimum, the following:
   a. Mastery and knowledge of LIFEGUARD SUPERVISOR training course content;
   b. Demonstration of the ability to effectively deliver LIFEGUARD SUPERVISOR
      training course content;
   c. An evaluation and feedback process to improve instructor candidate
      presentation skills/techniques;
   d. Course management and administration procedures; and
   e. Testing and evaluation procedures.

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quality guidelines. It has not been formally disseminated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It does
not represent and should not be construed to represent any agency determination or policy.”
6.2.2.3.3.2 Quality Control

Course provider shall have a quality control system in place for evaluating a LIFEGUARD SUPERVISOR instructor’s ability to conduct courses.

6.2.2.3.3 Lifeguard Supervisor Renewal & Recertification

LIFEGUARD SUPERVISOR training agencies shall have a lifeguard SUPERVISOR instructor renewal/recertification process.

6.2.2.4 Competency and Certification

6.2.2.4.1 Supervisor Proficiency

LIFEGUARD SUPERVISOR training course providers shall have a method to evaluate proficiency of the content in MAHC Section 6.2.2.2.

6.2.2.4.2 Supervisor Certifications

LIFEGUARD SUPERVISOR certifications shall be issued by the course provider to recognize successful completion of the course as per the requirements of MAHC Section 6.2.2.2.

6.3 Aquatic Facility Management

6.3.1 Aquatic Facilities Requiring Qualified Lifeguards

AQUATIC VENUES with standing water and with any of the following conditions listed in MAHC Section 6.3.1.1 shall be required to have a lifeguard(s) conducting patron surveillance at all times the AQUATIC VENUE is open.

6.3.1.1 List of Aquatic Facilities Requiring Qualified Lifeguards

Note: This list includes but shall not be limited to the following:

1) For new construction occurring from the date of acceptance of this CODE, any AQUATIC VENUE deeper than 5 feet (1.5 m) at any point.
2) Any AQUATIC VENUE that allows for unsupervised children under the age of 14 years.
3) Any AQUATIC VENUE while it is being used for the recreation of youth groups, including but not limited to childcare usage or school groups.
4) Any AQUATIC VENUE while it is being used for group training, including but not limited to competitive swimming and/or sports, lifeguard training, exercise programs, and swimming lessons.
5) Any AQUATIC VENUE with a configuration in which any point on the AQUATIC VENUE surface exceeds 30 feet from the nearest deck.
6) Any AQUATIC VENUE with standing water and with an induced current or wave action including but not limited to wave AQUATIC VENUES, vortex AQUATIC VENUES, waterslide catch pools, and endless/leisure, action, or lazy rivers.
7) Any AQUATIC VENUE which allows the usage of diving boards of any type or starting platform.

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6.3.2 Safety Plan LG

All AQUATIC FACILITIES shall create and implement a SAFETY PLAN to include, but not be limited to the following elements:

1) Staffing Plan,
2) EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN,
3) Pre-Service Training Plan, and
4) In-service Training Plan

6.3.2.1 Code Compliance Staff Plan LG

Staffing Plans shall designate person(s) for the following responsibilities

1) Identifying and communicating health and safety hazards,
2) Mitigating health and safety hazards and closing the facility if needed,
3) Interfacing with the AHJ related to the requirements of this CODE,
4) Maintaining water quality and, if required, air quality,
5) Enforcing the AQUATIC FACILITY rules and regulations,
6) Responding to reported emergencies,
7) Supervising the SAFETY TEAM,
8) Conducting pre-service evaluations, and
9) Conducting in-service training.

6.3.2.1.1 Zone of Patron Surveillance LG

When QUALIFIED LIFEGUARDS are used, the STAFFING PLAN shall include diagrammed zones of patron surveillance for each AQUATIC VENUE such that:

1) The QUALIFIED LIFEGUARD is capable of viewing the entire area of the assigned zone of patron surveillance,
2) The QUALIFIED LIFEGUARD is able to reach the furthest extent of the assigned zone of patron surveillance within 20 seconds,
3) Identify whether the QUALIFIED LIFEGUARD is in an elevated stand, walking, in-water and/or other approved position,
4) Identifying any additional responsibilities for each zone, and
5) All areas of each AQUATIC VENUE are assigned a zone of patron surveillance.

6.3.2.1.2 Rotation Procedures LG

When QUALIFIED LIFEGUARDS are used, the STAFFING PLAN shall include QUALIFIED LIFEGUARD rotation procedures such that:

1) Identifying all zones of patron surveillance responsibility at the AQUATIC FACILITY,
2) Operating in a manner so as to provide an alternation of tasks for each QUALIFIED LIFEGUARD conducting patron surveillance activities such that no qualified lifeguard conducts patron surveillance activities for more than 60 continuous minutes,
3) Have a practice of maintaining coverage of the zone of patron surveillance during change of QUALIFIED LIFEGUARD,
4) Have period(s) of at least 10 minutes of non-patron surveillance activity for the purpose of providing an alternation of task.

6.3.2.1.3 Non-Patron Surveillance Activity LG

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The non-patron surveillance activity does not include the time of rotation from zone to zone, but may include other activities such as breaks, maintenance, and ride dispatch.

6.3.2.1.4 Supervision Protocols LG
When QUALIFIED LIFEGUARDS are used, the STAFFING PLAN shall include lifeguard supervision protocols to achieve the requirements of MAHC 6.3.3.

6.3.2.2 Emergency Action Plan LG
EMERGENCY ACTION PLANS and operating procedures shall include but not be limited to:
1) Outline types of emergencies and imminent health hazards, as per MAHC 6.6.4;
2) Outline the methods of communication between responders, emergency services, and patrons;
3) Identify each anticipated responder;
4) Outline the tasks of each responder;
5) Identify required equipment for each task; and
6) Emergency closure requirements.

6.3.2.2.1 Coordination of Response LG
When one or more QUALIFIED LIFEGUARDS are used, the EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN and SAFETY PLAN shall identify the best means to provide additional persons to rapidly respond to the emergency to help the initial rescuer.

6.3.2.3 Pre-Service Requirements LG
The Pre-Service Plan shall include:
1) Policies and procedure training specific to the AQUATIC FACILITY,
2) Demonstration of SAFETY TEAM skills specific to the AQUATIC FACILITY prior to active duty, and
3) Documentation of training.

6.3.2.3.1 Safety Team EAP Training LG
Prior to active duty all members of the SAFETY TEAM shall be trained on and receive a copy of and/or have a copy posted and always available, the specific policies and procedures for the following:
1) STAFFING PLAN,
2) EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN,
3) Emergency closure, and
4) Fecal, vomit, and blood contamination on surfaces and in the water as outlined in MAHC section 6.5

6.3.2.3.2 Safety Team Skills Proficiency LG
Prior to active duty, all members of the SAFETY TEAM shall demonstrate knowledge and skill competency specific to the AQUATIC FACILITY for the following criteria:
1) Understand their responsibilities and of others on the AQUATIC FACILITY SAFETY TEAM,
2) Ability to execute the EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN,
3) Know what conditions require closure of the facility, and
4) Know what actions to take in response to a fecal, vomit, or blood contamination on a surface and in the water as outlined in MAHC section 6.5.

6.3.2.3.3 Qualified Lifeguard Emergency Action Plan Training  LG
When QUALIFIED LIFEGUARDS are used, they shall be trained on and receive a copy of and/or have a copy of the EAP posted and always available at the AQUATIC FACILITY, the specific policies and procedures for the following:
1) Zone of Patron Surveillance Plan,
2) Rotation Plan, and
3) Minimum Staffing Plan.

6.3.2.3.4 Qualified Lifeguard Skills Proficiency  LG
When QUALIFIED LIFEGUARDS are used, they shall demonstrate knowledge and skill competency specific to the AQUATIC FACILITY for the following criteria:
1) Ability to reach the bottom at the maximum water depth of the venue to be assigned,
2) Ability to identify all zones of patron surveillance responsibility to which they could be assigned,
3) Ability to recognize a victim in their assigned zone of patron surveillance,
4) Ability to reach the furthest edge of assigned zones of patron surveillance within 20 seconds,
5) Water rescue skills outlined in MAHC Section 6.2.1.1.2,
6) CPR/AED and First Aid,
7) Ability to execute EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN,
8) Emergency Closure Issues, and
9) Fecal, Vomit and Blood Contamination Incident Response as outlined in MAHC section 6.5.

6.3.2.3.5 CPR/AED and First Aid Certificate  LG
The designated person(s) with CPR/AED and First Aid training shall present unexpired certificate(s) as per MAHC Section 6.2.1.1.3 and 6.2.1.1.4 prior to active duty.

6.3.2.3.5.1 Copies Maintained  LG
Copies of certificates shall be maintained at the AQUATIC FACILITY and be available for inspection.

6.3.2.3.6 Documentation of Pre-service Training  LG
Documentation verifying the pre-service requirements shall be completed by the person conducting the pre-service training, maintained at the facility for 3 full years, and be available for inspection.

6.3.2.3.6.1 Lifeguard Certificate  LG
When QUALIFIED LIFEGUARDS are used, they shall present an unexpired certificate as per MAHC Section 6.2.1.3.4 prior to active duty.
6.3.2.3.6.2 Copies Maintained LG
Copies of certificates shall be maintained at the facility and be available for inspection.

6.3.2.4 Documented In-Service Training LG
During the course of their employment, AQUATIC FACILITY staff shall participate in periodic in-service training to maintain their skills.

6.3.2.4.1 Documentation of In-service Training LG
Documentation verifying the in-service requirements shall be completed by the person conducting the in-service training, maintained at the AQUATIC FACILITY for 3 years, and available for inspection.

6.3.2.4.2 In-Service Documentation LG
Documentation shall include:
1) Names of those attending,
2) Content of training,
3) Date of training, and
4) Name of the Trainer(s)

6.3.2.4.3 In-Service Training LG
The In-Service Plan shall include:
1) In-service training frequency,
2) Documentation of in-service training,
3) Maintenance of certifications, and
4) Demonstration of test-ready skills.

6.3.2.4.4 Maintain Certificates LG
The designated person(s) with CPR/AED and First Aid training shall maintain certifications to show the following:
1) CPR/AED training is completed annually and certificates are unexpired, and
2) First Aid training certificates are unexpired.

6.3.2.4.5 Competency Demonstration LG
When QUALIFIED LIFEGUARDS are used, they shall be able to demonstrate proficiency in the skills as outlined by MAHC Section 6.2.1 and have the ability to perform the following water rescue skills consecutively so as to demonstrate the ability to respond to victim and complete the rescue:
1) Reach the furthest edge of zones of patron surveillance within 20 seconds,
2) Recover a simulated victim including extrication to a position of safety consistent with MAHC Section 6.2.1.1.2, and
3) Perform resuscitation skills consistent with MAHC Section 6.2.1.1.3.

6.3.2.5 AHJ Authority to Approve Safety Plan LG
The AHJ shall have the authority, if they so choose, to require:
1) Submittal of the SAFETY PLAN for archiving and reference, or
2) Submittal of the SAFETY PLAN for review and approval prior to opening to the public.

6.3.2.5.1 Safety Plan on File  
LG
The SAFETY PLAN shall be kept on file at the AQUATIC FACILITY.

6.3.2.5.2 Safety Plan Implemented  
LG
The elements detailed in the SAFETY PLAN must be implemented and in evidence in the AQUATIC FACILITY operation and is subject to review for compliance by the AHJ at any time.

6.3.3 Staff Management

6.3.3.1 Staff Provided Prior to Aquatic Venue Use  
LG
Prior to use of any AQUATIC VENUE, the AQUATIC FACILITY shall provide staff required per the provisions of the SAFETY PLAN as stated in MAHC Section 6.3.2.

6.3.3.2 Safety Team Responsibilities  
LG
SAFETY TEAM responsibilities shall include but not be limited to:
1) Enforcing the AQUATIC FACILITY rules and regulations by interfacing with patrons,
2) Respond to reported emergencies,
3) Identify health and safety hazards and take action to mitigate or avoid the hazard,
4) Know where personal protective equipment is located and use it when required, and
5) Interface with the AHJ related to the requirements of this CODE.

6.3.3.3 Lifeguard Staff

6.3.3.3.1 Minimum Number of Lifeguards  
LG
Where QUALIFIED LIFEGUARDS are used, the AQUATIC FACILITY shall provide, prior to opening the AQUATIC FACILITY to the public, the minimum number of QUALIFIED LIFEGUARDS and staff required per the provisions of the SAFETY PLAN such that:
1) All zones of patron surveillance are staffed during operation,
2) Rotations can be conducted while all zones are staffed, and
3) Supervisor is present.

6.3.3.3.2 Lifeguard Responsibilities  
LG
QUALIFIED LIFEGUARD responsibilities shall include but not be limited to:
1) Monitor patrons within the zone of patron surveillance responsibility,
2) Enforce facility rules,
3) Respond to emergencies including water rescue, CPR, and First Aid,
4) Identify health and safety hazards and take action to mitigate or avoid the hazard,
5) Maintain skills at a test-ready level of proficiency,
6) Wear the identifying uniform,
7) If needed for effective patron surveillance, wear corrective eyewear,
8) If exposed to UV, wear polarized sunglasses and SPF 15 or greater UV protection,
9) Know where personal protective equipment is located and use it when required.

6.3.3.3.3 Shallow Water Certified Lifeguards LG
QUALIFIED LIFEGUARDS certified for shallow water depths shall not be assigned to a body of water in which any part of the water’s depth is greater than the depth for which they are certified.

6.3.3.3.4 Direct Surveillance LG
QUALIFIED LIFEGUARDS assigned for the direct surveillance of BATHERS shall not be assigned other tasks that intrude on patron surveillance while performing patron surveillance activities.

6.3.3.3.5 Distractions LG
While conducting patron surveillance, QUALIFIED LIFEGUARDS shall not engage in social conversations or have on their person or lifeguard station cellular telephones, texting devices, mp3 players, or other similar non-emergency electronic devices.

6.3.3.4 Supervisor Staff LG

6.3.3.4.1 Lifeguard Supervisor Required LG
AQUATIC FACILITIES that are required to have two or more QUALIFIED LIFEGUARDS per the zone plan of patron surveillance responsibility in MAHC Section 6.3.2.1.1 shall have at least one person located at the AQUATIC FACILITY during operation designated as the LIFEGUARD SUPERVISOR who meets the requirement of section MAHC Section 6.2.2.

6.3.3.4.2 Designated Supervisor LG
One of the QUALIFIED LIFEGUARDS as per MAHC Section 6.3.3.5.1 may be designated as the LIFEGUARD SUPERVISOR in addition to fulfilling the duties of QUALIFIED LIFEGUARD. A QUALIFIED LIFEGUARD cannot be on duty with scanning responsibilities if they are acting as the LIFEGUARD SUPERVISOR.

6.3.3.4.2.1 Lifeguard Supervisor Duties LG
LIFEGUARD SUPERVISOR duties shall not interfere with the primary duty of patron surveillance.

6.3.3.4.3 Lifeguard Supervisor LG
LIFEGUARD SUPERVISOR responsibilities shall include but not be limited to:
1) Monitor performance of QUALIFIED LIFEGUARDS in their zone of patron surveillance responsibility,
2) Make sure the rotation is conducted in accordance with the SAFETY PLAN,
3) Coordinate staff response and patron care during an emergency,
4) Identify health and safety hazards and communicate to staff and management to mitigate or otherwise avoid the hazard, and
5) Make sure the required equipment per MAHC Section 5.8.5 is in place and in good condition.