

**Model Aquatic Health Code
Operator Training Technical Committee**

**Conference Call Minutes
September 5, 2008**

Members Present: Dennis Berkshire, Tracynda Davis, John Whitmore, Wayne Crokus, Connie Harvey (for Greg Stockton), Colleen Maitoza, Lorraine Forston, Michele Hlavsa, Dean Hyatt, Kay Smiley, Tom Donaldson, Carl Ralph, Doug Sackett, Lee Tate

Members Absent: Mark Pabst

1. Introductions: All technical committee (TC) members introduced themselves. Dennis Berkshire is the TC chairperson, and Doug Sackett and Lee Tate are liaisons from the steering committee. John Whitmore and Michele Hlavsa volunteered to be the vice chairperson and secretary, respectively.

What is the Model Aquatic Health Code?: The national MAHC will be a living document that will change with time. It will be scientifically driven and based on best practices when scientific data are not available. It is intended to be a resource for local and state health departments looking to update individual pools codes. The code will have simple language with keywords in the margins as well as a detailed annex with references supporting code requirements, much like the food code. The work of the TC is voluntary and non-proprietary. The primary objective is to decrease recreational water illness (RWI).

2. Housing of technical committee documents: TC documents will be deposited in a community depository facilitating the ability of TC members to collaborate on developing documents and allow other TCs and the steering committee to view them and provide comments. Lee Tate will provide training on this system in the future.

3. Scope of Work: The TC discussed key issues that will direct its work. The following points were raised: dealing with one type of illness (RWIs) but many different facilities, not reviewing individual courses but requiring essential components of a course, defining the scope of certification, requiring a certified operator to be on-site, having consistent requirements for operators, looking or not looking at different methods to deliver training, having a practical component to the training and subsequent exam, and ultimately ensuring that someone who successfully completes an operator training course has the knowledge and skills needed operate and maintain a pool or spa.

4. Next Steps: Doug Sackett sent a document that summarizes state codes regulating operator training, the operator manual, and record keeping. TC members are to review and consider additional topics for the operator training section of the straw man and submit them to Dennis Berkshire by September 11, 2008. The TC's next conference call will be held September 18, 2008 at 3:30 PM Eastern Standard Time.