



Public Health
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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March 31, 2016

POSITION STATEMENT

PURSUANT TO: 15A NCAC 18A .2518

SOURCE: Phil Thompson, Pools, Tattoos and State Institutions Program Manager

QUESTION / ISSUE: Sizing Suction Piping on Public Swimming Pools
Rescinding Position Statement dated June 30, 2015

DISCUSSION AND RATIONALE:

References to water velocity in suction piping have been removed from the latest edition of APSP-7. Therefore, the Position Statement dated June 30, 2015, requiring suction pipe sizing to be based on maximum pump flow, is hereby rescinded.

Suction pipe sizing (skimmers, gutters and main drains) will revert back to Rule .2518 (c) and (d) which states: “(c) Skimmer piping constructed after May 1, 2010 shall be sized to handle the maximum flow rate for the required number of skimmers, but in no case less than 100 percent of the design flow rate. Perimeter overflow system piping constructed after May 1, 2010 shall be sized to handle 100 percent of the design flow rate. The main drain piping constructed after May 1, 2010 shall be sized to handle 100 percent of the design flow rate. (d) Piping shall be designed to reduce friction losses to a minimum and to carry the required quantity of water at a maximum velocity not to exceed six feet per second for suction piping...”

RESPONSE / INTERPRETATION:

All suction piping (skimmers, gutters and main drains) shall be sized to handle 100 percent of the design flow rate without exceeding a velocity of six feet per second. The design flow rate of the pump may be estimated with an assumed total dynamic head loss of 65 feet.

REFERENCES:

ANSI/APSP/ICC-7 2013 American National Standard for Suction Entrapment Avoidance
In Swimming Pools, Wading Pools, Spas, Hot Tubs, and Catch Basins
15A NCAC 18A .2518 (c) and (d) – North Carolina Rules Governing Public Swimming Pools

NOTE: Position statements are policy documents to clarify how to interpret or enforce a law or rule. They are not enforceable on their own, but are intended to promote uniform interpretation and enforcement of the underlying law or rule.



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