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Key proposed changes to *The Swimming Pool Regulations, 1999*

The proposed amendments to *The Swimming Pool Regulations, 1999* have been finalized, and the regulatory process is now progressing to the consultation phase to solicit input from stakeholders and the public.

As the regulations are being comprehensively updated, the existing regulations are intended to be repealed in full and replaced with the newly proposed regulations, pending approval.

The Swimming Pool Regulations, 1999 changes are intended to reflect modern practices and address gaps that have emerged over time. The existing regulation, over two decades old, is outdated in several areas - from administrative provisions to technical requirements.

The proposed updates respond to:

- Housekeeping and administrative updates to improve clarity and usability,
- Lessons learned from incidents and operational challenges reported to the Ministry and the Saskatchewan Health Authority,
- Regulatory developments in other jurisdictions,
- Advancements in public health and safety practices, and
- New facility types and technologies, such as recirculated spray parks and cold plunge pools, not fully addressed in the current regulations.

Updates by theme:

1. Administrative:

- The proposed updates aim to clarify jurisdiction and enforceability, introduce definitions to enhance clarity and usability for operators and regulators, align terminology with other Canadian jurisdictions, and promote consistent interpretation and application across Saskatchewan.

2. Exemptions:

- The proposed exemptions are intended to reduce regulatory burden in settings where oversight mechanisms already exist, and public health risk is low.
- To support transparency and informed use, new signage requirements will ensure public awareness and understanding of facility conditions.

3. Facility Design & Construction:

- Many proposed amendments are not new, their inclusion in the regulation formalizes existing design and operational standards, strengthens enforceability, and aligns with national best practices.

- These proposed updates help clarify expectations, reduce operator liability, and support consistency with approaches used in other jurisdictions.

4. Water Quality Monitoring:

- Formalizing routine monitoring requirements (such as cyanuric acid (CYA) for outdoor pools, total alkalinity (TA), pH, and Pseudomonas testing for whirlpools) strengthens enforceability and promotes consistent water safety practices across facilities.

5. Staffing & Supervision:

- This proposed amendment formalizes on-deck supervision requirements for hotel and motel pools with waterslides, reflecting current safety practices that should already be in place.
- It clarifies expectations for operators and ensures direct supervision to help prevent injuries and enable timely response when needed.

6. Operations & Maintenance:

- The proposed operations and maintenance updates clarify expectations around areas such as record keeping and facility upkeep, define permissions for service animals, and introduce public access to inspection information (disclosure).
- These changes support consistent practices, enhance transparency and accountability, and empower the public to make informed decisions—ultimately strengthening trust in the regulatory system.

The consultation is open from September 17th until **October 24th. Your feedback will help shape a regulation that is clear and effective! Thank you for participating.**