

Requirement of Lighting Provision for Swimming Pool Licence

Licensing of Swimming Pool

In accordance with the Swimming Pools Regulation, Cap. 132CA, the operation of a private swimming pool requires a licence granted by the Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene.

Requirement of provision of 200 lux lighting system

2. For the safety of users of a covered pool or an open air pool that has been declared to be used after sunset, amongst other licensing requirements and conditions, the following additional licensing requirement for lighting of the swimming pool shall be complied with:

Additional Licensing Requirement-

“The pool shall be provided with a lighting system which shall

- (a) maintain a standard of illumination of an average intensity of not less than 200 lux at all sidewalks and standing space immediately adjoining the rim of the pool and the water surface of the pool; the illumination shall be of acceptable uniformity and such that the underwater areas of the pool and other appurtenances are clearly visible; and
- (b) have emergency luminaries supported by emergency power supply for lighting all sidewalks and open spaces surrounding the pool, all dressing, shower, bathing, washing and toilet accommodation and exit passageways. They shall be capable of automatically operating continuously for not less than 1 hour whenever the normal power supply fails.”

3. For pool that has been declared not to be used after sunset, the following additional licensing requirement and condition shall be

complied with-

Additional Licensing Requirement-

“A notice, written in English and Chinese, declaring that the swimming pool will not be opened for use after sunset, shall be continuously displayed in a conspicuous place at the entrance of the pool.”

Additional Licensing Condition-

“Except with the approval of the Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene, the pool shall not be used after sunset.”

Relaxation of requirement for provision of 200 lux lighting system

4. For licensed swimming pools in private housing estates, clubs and hotels that are used after sunset and have low utilization rate during night-time, the respective licensees of swimming pools may apply to the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) to relax the requirements for pool lighting. For swimming pools under application for licences that will be used after sunset and have low utilization rate during night-time, the respective applicants may also apply to FEHD to relax the requirements for pool lighting. After receiving the application for relaxation of the requirements for pool lighting, FEHD would take into account the conditions of the subject swimming pool and the safety of swimmers in processing the application. A combination of the following could be reasons to substantiate the grant for exemption-

- (a) Provision of lighting (though not fulfilling the not less than 200 lux requirement) at all sidewalks and standing space immediately adjoining the rim of the pool and water surface of the pool;
- (b) Provision of underwater lighting;
- (c) Provision of additional lifeguards on duty;
- (d) Pool's own house rules such as restricting the use of the swimming pool by children after sunset;
- (e) Size and depth of pool;
- (f) Usage rate of pool; and

(g) *Past safety record of the pool.

Remarks: *Applicable to licensed swimming pools only.

Enquiries on application for relaxation of provision of 200 lux lighting system for licensed swimming pool and swimming pool under application for licence

5. Enquiries about the application procedures and other issues on application for exemption from compliance with the requirement of provision of 200 lux lighting system for the licensed swimming pool and swimming pool under application for licence may be addressed to the respective FEHD District Environmental Hygiene Office and Licensing Office respectively either in person or by telephone. Contact details could be found at the **Appendix**.

Electrical installation under Code of Practice for the Electricity (Wiring) Regulations (COP)

6. The requirements of electrical installation for swimming pool are stated in Code 26M of the COP. Adoption of Separated Extra-Low Voltage (SELV) as protective measure against electric shock, safety isolating transformer complying to IEC 61558-2-6, no earth connection between primary and secondary sides of the safety isolating transformer, and testing the insulation resistance of the safety isolating transformer as per COP Table 21(1) are the key requirements in COP. To enhance electrical safety, additional protection for the related circuit by means of a Residual Current Device (RCD) having the characteristics specified in Code 11J of the COP can be used.

7. During Periodic Inspection, Testing and Certification by a Registered Electrical Contractor, a compliance check on the electrical installations against COP Code 26M is required and a checklist for inspection and testing of electrical installation of swimming pool shall be submitted. The checklist is available in EMSD website : <http://www.emsd.gov.hk> (Electricity Safety > Publications > Guidance Notes / Guidelines > Electrical Installations > Additional Checklist for Inspection and Testing of Electrical Installation of Swimming Pool and Fountain).

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

8. Swimming pool licensees and applicants for swimming pool licences are advised to read the following FAQs before making an enquiry:

(i) What is the purpose of providing pool lighting system to the swimming pool?

Ans.: The purpose of requiring the provision of pool lighting system is to let the lifeguards or other persons may observe, without interference from direct and reflected glare from the lighting sources, every part of the underwater area with no blind spot and swimming pool surface or other appurtenances. Illumination shall enable a lifeguard or other persons to determine whether a bather is lying on the bottom of the pool.

(ii) Can the glare to the swimming pool users be controlled and the amount of spilled light to the neighbourhood be reduced?

Ans.: The adoption of the narrow beam type floodlight fittings together with suitable design of the mounting height and aiming angle of the floodlights, the glare to the facility users would be controlled and at the same time, the amount of spilled light to the neighbourhood would be reduced.

Appendix

The District Environmental Hygiene Offices of FEHD

辦事處 Office	地址 Address	詢問電話Enquiries 傳真Fax 電郵地址E-mail address
港島及離島區環境衛生辦事處 Hong Kong and Islands District Environmental Hygiene Offices		
中西區環境衛生辦事處 Central/Western District Environmental Hygiene Office	香港皇后大道中345號上環市政大廈10樓 10/F, Sheung Wan Municipal Services Building, 345 Queen's Road Central, Hong Kong	電話TEL 2545 0506 傳真Fax 2851 7653 電郵地址E-mail address cwdoeh@fehd.gov.hk
東區環境衛生辦事處 Eastern District Environmental Hygiene Office	香港鰂魚涌街38號鰂魚涌市政大廈3樓 3/F, Quarry Bay Municipal Services Building, 38 Quarry Bay Street, Hong Kong	電話TEL 3103 7008 傳真Fax 2565 8203 電郵地址 E-mail address edoeh@fehd.gov.hk
南區環境衛生辦事處 Southern District Environmental Hygiene Office	香港香港仔大道203號香港仔市政大廈4樓 4/F, Aberdeen Municipal Services Building, 203 Aberdeen Main Road, Hong Kong	電話TEL 2903 0411 傳真Fax 2873 1608 電郵地址 E-mail address sdoeh@fehd.gov.hk
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The Licensing Offices of FEHD

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