

PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING GUIDELINE: WHEN TO APPLY FOR A POOL CONSTRUCTION PERMIT (PCP)

All Pool Construction Permit applications must be submitted by a Professional Engineer or Architect. CPs may be waived if only "minor" changes are proposed to the physical infrastructure.

1. WHAT DOES THE POOL REGULATION SAY?

"construction" includes the design, installation, repair, renovation and alteration of a pool

Basically very broad and definitely not limited to original construction of a new pool.

Construction permit required

- (6) Despite subsection (1), a health officer may waive the requirement for a construction permit
 - (a) on request of a person and after receiving any information the health officer may require, and
 - (b) if the proposed construction is a repair or alteration
 - (i) performed for emergency purposes, or
 - (ii) that is so minor that requiring a construction permit is not necessary to protect the public interest.

So the EHO can waive a CP **if** the operator requests it, and the EHO has all the info requested, and it's either an emergency or minor.

2. HOW DO WE DECIDE IF A PROPOSED CHANGE IS MINOR (CP WAIVABLE) OR NOT MINOR (CP REQUIRED)?

Historically, replacement or repair of broken equipment "like for like" has always been automatically "minor". Like for like doesn't have to mean exactly the same model number, but similar performance. Replacing liquid chlorine pump X for liquid chlorine pump Y with similar output (mL/min) would be like for like. Replacing 2 hp pump with a different brand of 2 hp pump would be like for like, but moving up to a 3 hp pump or a down to a 1.5 hp pump would not be. Replacing calcium hypochlorite with sodium hypochlorite? No, not like for like.

Northern Health generally uses the Pool Data Sheet as a guide. The PDS lists all the key mechanical equipment in the pool and requires a signature by a PEng or Arch. So changes that require an updated PDS would usually be triggers for a Construction Permit.

3. WHO DECIDES?

Ultimately, it is the Health Officer, i.e. EHO who decides, in consultation with their manager and PHE.

4. EXAMPLES

The changes

Proposed change	Minor → CP may be waived	Not Minor → CP required
1. Replace stabilized chlorine erosion feeder with chlorine injection pump (sodium hypochlorite)		✓
2. Add chemical controller		✓
3. Add pH control pump and acid storage		✓
4. Add alkalinity control pump and lime storage		✓
5. Install new main drain cover		✓
6. Install in line Flow Meter		✓
7. Install deck drains		✓
8. Replace tiles with non-slip in high traffic areas.		✓
9. Provide surface treatment to increase wet friction in low traffic areas.		✓
10. Add secondary disinfection to reduce combined chlorine. (UV)		✓
11. Add secondary disinfection to reduce combined chlorine. (Ozone)		✓
12. Add lift device to assist disabled clients entering and exiting pool.*		✓ (structural)
13. Add climbing wall or "Tarzan" rope swing.*		✓ (structural)
14. Install vapour collection and treatment system to reduce odours.	✓ ¹	
15. Replace water heater with more powerful energy efficient model.	✓	
16. Purchase Pool Test 6 kit for ongoing monitoring	✓	
17. Paint pool depth numbers and toe trim on steps	✓	
18. Stabilize ladders with wedges	✓	
19. Attach new signage where required	✓	
20. Supply 3.5 metre safety hook	✓	
21. Supply approved throw ring and appropriate rope	✓	
22. Complete any other cosmetic touch up painting or grouting as required.	✓	
23. Add drinking fountain.	✓	
24. Install lockers in change room.	✓	
25. Add handicapped washroom to change room.	✓	
26. Install clock to hot tub area.	✓	

¹ This isn't "minor", but it is out of scope. We review air quality (exchanges/hour, humidity) but we don't approve HVAC in general.

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Oct 2012
* modified Feb 2014