

Part 10. Public Swimming Pools.

§ 130A-280. Scope and definitions.

(a) This Part provides for the regulation of public swimming pools in the State as they may affect the public health and safety. This Part does not apply to any of the following:

- (1) A private pool serving a single family dwelling and used only by the residents of the dwelling and their guests, regardless of whether their guests gain use of the private pool through a sharing economy platform or pay a fee for its use. In all cases in which a fee is exchanged for access to a private pool serving a single family dwelling that is used only by the residents of the dwelling and their guests, the private pool shall be maintained in good and safe working order.
- (2) Repealed by Session Laws 2025-94, s. 17, effective October 6, 2025.
- (3) Therapeutic pools used in physical therapy programs operated by medical facilities licensed by the Department or operated by a licensed physical therapist, nor to therapeutic chambers drained, cleaned and refilled after each individual use.

(b) Definitions. - The following definitions apply in this Part:

- (1) Artificial swimming lagoon. - Any body of water used for recreational purposes with more than 20,000 square feet of surface area, an artificial liner and a method of disinfectant that results in a disinfectant residual in the swimming zone that is protective of the public health.
- (2) Public swimming pool. - Any structure, chamber, or tank containing an artificial body of water used by the public for swimming, diving, wading, recreation, or therapy, together with buildings, appurtenances, and equipment used in connection with the body of water, regardless of whether a fee is charged for its use. The term includes municipal, school, hotel, motel, apartment, boarding house, athletic club, or other membership facility pools and spas, spas operating for display at temporary events and artificial swimming lagoons.
- (3) Sharing economy platform. - An online platform used to facilitate peer-to-peer transactions to acquire, provide or share access to goods and services. (1989, c. 577, s. 1; 1997-443, s. 11A.80; 2019-88, s. 2(a); 2021-77, s. 8(a); 2024-49, s. 4.51(a); 2025-94, s. 17.)

§ 130A-281. Operation permit required.

No public swimming pool may be opened for use unless the owner or operator has obtained an operation permit issued by the Department pursuant to rules adopted under G.S. 130A-282. (1989, c. 577, s. 1.)

§ 130A-282. Commission to adopt rules; exception.

(a) Rules Required. For protection of the public health and safety, the Commission shall adopt and the Department shall enforce rules concerning the construction and operation of public swimming pools. The Commission shall classify public swimming pools on the basis of size, usage, type, or any other appropriate factor and shall adopt requirements for each classification. The rules shall include requirements for:

- (1) Submission and review of plans prior to construction.
- (2) Application, review, expiration, renewal and revocation or suspension of an operating permit.

- (3) Inspection.
- (4) Design and construction including materials, depth and other dimensions, and standards for the abatement of suction hazards.
- (5) Operation and safety including water source, water quality and testing, fencing, water treatment, chemical storage, toilet and bath facilities, measures to ensure the personal cleanliness of bathers, safety equipment and other safety measures, and sewage and other wastewater disposal.

(b) Exception. Public swimming pools constructed or remodeled prior to May 1, 1993, that do not meet specific design and construction requirements of the rules for public swimming pools adopted by the Commission shall not be required to comply with design and construction requirements other than requirements related to the abatement of suction hazards. Public swimming pools constructed or remodeled prior to May 1, 1993, shall comply with all other rules for public swimming pools adopted by the Commission.

(c) No single drain, single suction outlet public swimming pools less than 18 inches deep shall be allowed to operate. (1989, c. 577, s. 1; 1993, c. 215, s. 1; 1993 (Reg. Sess., 1994), c. 732, s. 1.)