

1 15A NCAC 18A .2543 is proposed for amendment as follows:

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3 **15A NCAC 18A .2543 WATER RECREATION ATTRACTIONS**

4 (a) Water recreation attractions including water slides, wave pools, rapid rides, lazy ~~rivers~~ rivers, artificial swimming  
5 lagoons, and other similar features can deviate from the requirements of this Section with respect to pool profile,  
6 depth, freeboard, flow dynamics and surface skimming systems. The designing engineer or equipment manufacturer  
7 shall provide the Department with ~~information~~ design plans and technical specifications to justify such ~~deviation~~  
8 deviation, ~~as necessary for the proper function of the attraction~~. Water recreation attractions shall meet all other  
9 requirements of this Section.

10 (b) Water slide landing pools with a capacity of less than 60,000 gallons shall have a circulation and filtration system  
11 capable of turning over the entire pool capacity every two hours. Where automatic chemical controllers are used the  
12 turnover time shall be no more than three hours. Landing pool dimensions shall be consistent with the slide  
13 manufacturer's recommendation.

14 (c) When waterfalls are incorporated in water recreation attractions, they shall be constructed with no handholds or  
15 footholds to a height of four feet to discourage climbing.

16 (d) Interactive play attractions shall be constructed and operated in accordance with the ~~rules of this section~~ Rules of  
17 this Section and shall comply with the following:

18 (1) The recirculation system shall contain a water capacity equal to at least three minutes of maximum  
19 flow of all feature pumps and filter circulation pumps combined and shall not be less than 1,000  
20 gallons. Where the water capacity exceeds 10,000 gallons, the minimum capacity shall be based on  
21 the lesser of three minutes of maximum feature flow or 7.5 gallons per square foot of splash zone  
22 watershed drained to the surge container.

23 (2) Access shall be provided to the surge water container.

24 (3) A filter circulation system shall be provided and shall be separate from the feature pump system  
25 except that both systems can draw water from a common drain pipe if the drain and pipe are sized  
26 to handle the flow of all pumps without exceeding the flow velocities specified in Rule .2518 of this  
27 Section.

28 (4) The filter circulation system shall draw water from the surge container through a variable height  
29 surface skimmer and a bottom drain located no more than 6 inches from the bottom of the container.  
30 ~~Custom skimming systems that do not comply with ANSI/NSF Standard 50 shall be approved where~~  
31 ~~the operational requirements make it necessary to deviate from that standard.~~

32 (5) The filter circulation system shall filter and return the entire water capacity in no more than 30  
33 minutes and shall operate 24 hours a day.

34 (6) Automatic chemical controllers shall be provided to monitor and adjust the disinfectant residual and  
35 pH of the water contained in the system.

- 1 (7) The disinfectant residual in interactive play attractions shall be maintained at a level of at least two  
2 parts per million of free chlorine. Chlorine feeders shall be capable of producing 12 parts per million  
3 of free chlorine in the filter circulation piping.
- 4 (8) Valves shall be provided to control water flow to the features in accordance with the manufacturers'  
5 specifications.
- 6 (9) Splash zones shall be sloped to drains sized and located to remove all feature water to the surge tank  
7 without water accumulating on the surface.
- 8 (10) Deck or walkway space is not required outside the splash zone.
- 9 (11) Dressing and sanitary facilities shall ~~not be provided~~ required.
- 10 (12) Interactive play features shall not be required to have a fence except the wading pool fence  
11 requirements shall apply to interactive play features located inside a swimming pool enclosure.
- 12 (13) The safety provisions of Rule .2530 of this Section shall not apply except a sign shall be posted  
13 prohibiting pets and glass containers.
- 14 (14) Interactive play attractions built prior to April 1, 2004, that do not comply with these design and  
15 construction requirements shall be permitted to operate as built if no water quality or safety  
16 violations occur.

17 (e) Training pools shall meet the requirements for swimming pools with the following exceptions:

- 18 (1) Training pools shall be equipped with a filter circulation system that filters and returns the entire  
19 pool capacity in no more than two hours.
- 20 (2) The free chlorine residual in training pools shall be maintained at no less than two parts per million.

21 (f) Artificial swimming lagoons shall meet the requirements for public swimming pools except as specified in this  
22 Rule:

- 23 (1) Pool shells shall not be required. Liners shall meet the requirements of Rule .2514 of this Section.
- 24 (2) Underwater components of the artificial swimming lagoon or float lines with openings greater than  
25 one-half inch shall not be allowed in swimming zones.
- 26 (3) All swimming zone float rope components shall be a color contrasting with the pool liner. The  
27 location of the float rope may vary from the requirements of Rule .2523(e) of this Section regarding  
28 breakpoint and slope. A contrasting color band shall not be required on the liner under the rope.
- 29 (4) Each swimming zone and water feature shall meet water quality standards as required in Rule .2535  
30 of this Section. If the water quality of a swimming zone or water feature does not meet the  
31 requirements of Rule .2535 of this Section, the operator shall close the swimming zone or water  
32 feature and post a sign at the entrance of the swimming zone with legible letters of at least four  
33 inches (10 cm) in height stating "ATTENTION: THE SWIMMING ZONE IS CLOSED.  
34 SWIMMING IN THIS AREA IS NOT PERMITTED AT THIS TIME." The swimming zone or  
35 water feature shall remain closed until the water quality in the swimming zone or water feature  
36 complies with the requirements of Rule .2535 of this Section.
- 37 (5) All non-swimming zones shall be maintained so the bottom of the lagoon is visible in all areas.

- 1           (6) A sign shall be posted at all entrances with legible letters of at least four inches (10 cm) in height  
2           stating “NOTICE – NO SWIMMING ALLOWED OUTSIDE OF DESIGNATED SWIMMING  
3           ZONES.”
- 4           (7) Signage shall be provided indicating swimming zones.
- 5           (8) Depth markings and no diving markers shall be provided on decks in swimming zones as required  
6           in Rule .2523 of this Section. Signs shall be posted at all entrances to swimming zones with legible  
7           letters of at least four inches (10cm) in height stating “NO DIVING” and stating the maximum depth  
8           of the swimming zone in Arabic numerals and shall include the word “feet” or the symbol “ft” to  
9           indicate the unit of measure.
- 10          (9) Decks may vary from the minimum deck area requirements in Rule .2522 of this Section at zero  
11          entry areas located within swimming zones. Access to swimming zones shall be provided for  
12          emergency vehicles and personnel. No decks shall be required in non-swimming zones. The  
13          requirements of Rule .2515(g)(1) of this Section shall not apply to swimming zones and Rule  
14          .2515(g) of this Section shall not apply to non-swimming zones.
- 15          (10) Swimming zones shall meet all safety provisions as set out in Rule .2530 of this Section. Where  
16          swimming zones are separated by more than 75 feet, each swimming zone shall separately meet all  
17          safety provisions. Non-swimming zones are exempt from the requirements in Rule .2530 of this  
18          Section.
- 19          (11) A water treatment system that does not meet the requirements of Rules .2518 and .2519 of this  
20          Section shall be approved by the Environmental Health Section of the Department’s Division of  
21          Public Health when the treatment system performs in a manner equal or superior to the systems  
22          described in Rules .2518 and .2519 of this Section in terms of water clarification, disinfection, and  
23          removal of debris, and results in a disinfectant residual and pH level as required in subparagraph  
24          (f)(4) of this Rule.
- 25          (12) The requirements of Rule .2529 of this Section and Rule .2526(e)–(h) of this Section shall not apply.  
26          Sanitary facility requirements shall comply with the 2018 North Carolina State Building Code:  
27          Plumbing Code, which is incorporated by reference, including any subsequent amendments or  
28          editions and available free of charge at: <https://codes.iccsafe.org/content/NCPC2018>.
- 29          (13) Bacteriological samples shall be collected by the operator in non-swimming zones and tested  
30          weekly. One sample shall be collected for every 250 feet of shoreline, with no more than 300 feet  
31          and no less than 25 feet between any two sampling locations. The samples shall be collected at least  
32          one foot below the surface, in at least three feet of water. The samples shall be analyzed by a  
33          laboratory accredited by the North Carolina Drinking Water Laboratory Certification Program, the  
34          North Carolina Wastewater/Groundwater Laboratory Certification Program, or the National  
35          Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program. The test results shall be maintained as part of the  
36          records required in Rule .2535(11) of this Section.

1 (14) When the result of any test required by subparagraph (f)(13) of this Rule exceeds the standards in  
2 Rule .3402(a) of this Subchapter, the operator shall:

3 (A) notify the permitting agency and resample the water within 24 hours of receipt of the result  
4 from the laboratory; and

5 (B) close all non-swimming zones and post a sign at all non-swimming zone entrances with  
6 legible letters of at least four inches (10 cm) in height stating “ATTENTION: ALL NON-  
7 SWIMMING ZONES ARE CLOSED. RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THIS AREA  
8 ARE NOT PERMITTED AT THIS TIME.” This sign shall remain posted until resampling  
9 determines that bacterial levels do not exceed the standards in Rule .3402(a) of this  
10 Subchapter.

11 (15) Non-swimming zones shall not be required to comply with the lighting requirements of Rule .2524  
12 of this Section. When night swimming is allowed, the operator shall provide lighting in swimming  
13 zones as required for public swimming pools.

14 (16) The requirements of Rule .2537(b)(16) of this Section shall not apply. Submersible pumps or  
15 mechanical pool cleaning equipment shall not be used in swimming zones or within 25 feet of  
16 swimming zones when a swimming zone is open to bathers. If submersible pumps or mechanical  
17 pool cleaning equipment are used in non-swimming zones when a non-swimming zone is open to  
18 users, the following conditions shall apply:

19 (A) A registered design professional shall provide design plans or technical specifications that  
20 demonstrate that any underwater suction outlets perform in a manner that is equally  
21 protective or more protective than the Pool and Hot Tub Alliance’s ANSI/APSP/ICC-7  
22 2013 Standard for Suction Entrapment Avoidance in Swimming Pools, which is  
23 incorporated by reference, including any subsequent amendments or editions, and available  
24 for a fee of one hundred sixty-five dollars (\$165.00) at <https://www.apsp.org/store1>; and

25 (B) All floating components of submersible pumps or mechanical pool cleaning equipment  
26 shall be labeled with a sign above the water line with legible letters of at least four inches  
27 (10 cm) in a contrasting color stating: “DANGER: MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT IN  
28 USE. STAY BACK 25 FEET.”

29 (17) The requirements of Rule .2521 of this Section shall not apply to non-swimming zones.

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31 *History Note: Authority G.S. 130A-280; 130A-282; SL 2011-39; S.L. 2019-88;*

32 *Eff. April 1, 1999;*

33 *Amended Eff. March 1, 2004.*

34 *Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. July 20,*  
35 *2019;*

36 *Temporary Amendment Eff. December 3, 2019.*