

## SAFETY EXCERPTS FROM 454.1 1-2024

### 454.1 Public swimming pools and bathing places.

Public swimming pools and bathing places shall comply with the design and construction standards of this section.

#### Exceptions:

1. A portable pool used exclusively for providing swimming lessons or related instruction in support of an established educational program sponsored or provided by a school district may not be regulated as a public pool. Such pool shall be regulated as a private swimming pool under Section 454.2.
2. A temporary pool may not be regulated as a public pool. Such pool shall be regulated as a private swimming pool under Section 454.2.

### 454.1.2.3 Markings.

#### 454.1.2.3.1 Depth and markings.

Depth and markings shall meet the following criteria:

1. The minimum water depth shall be 3 feet (914 mm) except in sun shelves, wading pools, water-activity pools, and zero entry areas.
2. Permanent depth markings followed by the appropriate full or abbreviated words "FEET," "FT," or "INCHES," "IN," shall be installed in minimum 4-inch-high (102 mm) numbers and letters on a contrasting background. Depth markers shall indicate the actual pool depth, within 3 inches (76 mm), at normal operating water level when measured 3 feet (914 mm) from the pool wall.
3. At a minimum, the markings shall be located on both sides of the pool at the shallow end, slope break, deep-end wall and deep point (if located more than 5 feet (1524 mm) from the deep-end wall). Depth markings shall be legible from inside the pool and also from the pool deck. The maximum perimeter distance between depth markings is 25 feet (7620 mm). Pool size and geometry may necessitate additional depth marking placements about all sides of the pool to meet this requirement.
4. When a curb is provided, the depth markings shall be installed on the inside and outside or top of the pool curb. When a pool curb is not provided, the depth markings shall be located on the inside vertical wall at or above the water level and on the edge of the deck within 2 feet (610 mm) of the pool water. When open type gutter designs are utilized, depth markers shall be located on the back of the gutter wall. When a coping stone with curved or angled underside is provided, the depth markings may be installed on the curved or angled coping underside, and outside or top of the pool curb.
5. When deck level perimeter overflow systems are utilized, additional depth marking signs shall be posted nearby or placed on adjacent fencing or walls and the size shall be increased so they are recognizable from inside the swimming pool. Alternatively, tile depth markers may be placed at the top of the pool wall just under the water level. Depth markers placed on the pool deck shall be within 3 feet (914 mm) of the water.

6. 6.Those areas of the pool that are not part of an approved diving bowl shall have dark contrasting tile, 4-inch-high (102 mm) “NO DIVING” markings installed along the perimeter of the pool on the top of the pool curb or deck within 2 feet (610 mm) of the pool water with a maximum perimeter distance of 25 feet (7620 mm) between markings. A 6-inch (152 mm) tile with a 4-inch (102 mm) or larger red, international “NO DIVING” symbol may be substituted for the “NO DIVING” markings. “NO DIVING” markings are not required within the swimming pool.
7. 7.All markings shall be tile, except that pools constructed of fiberglass, thermoplastic or stainless steel may substitute other type markings when it can be shown that said markings are permanent and will not fade over time. This exemption does not extend to concrete pools that are coated with fiberglass. Tile alternative examples include stone or manufactured plaques with engraved or sandblasted numbers and characters with permanent paint. Permanent appliqués may be used for fiberglass, thermoplastics or stainless steel pools. All markings installed on horizontal surfaces shall have a slip-resistant finish. Markings shall be flush with the surrounding area where placed and recessed if necessary to provide a smooth finish that will avoid creation of an injury hazard to bathers. Pools that are not conducive to tile can employ other equivalent markings as stated above.

#### **454.1.2.3.2 Designs or logos.**

Any design or logo on the pool floor or walls shall be such that it will not hinder the detection of a human in distress, algae, sediment, or other objects in the pool.

#### **454.1.2.3.3 Lane markings.**

Pools that are not intended to be utilized for officially sanctioned competition may install lap lane markings provided they meet the following criteria: the markings must be 2 to 6 inches (51 to 152 mm) wide, they must terminate 5 feet (1524 mm) from the end wall in a “T” with the “T” bar at least 18 inches (457.2 mm) long, they must be placed at 7-foot (2134 mm) minimum intervals on center and be no closer than 4 feet (1219 mm) from any side wall, steps or other obstructions. Floating rope lines associated with lap lanes must not obstruct the entrance or exit from the pool and are prohibited when the pool is open for general use.

#### **454.1.2.3.4 Targets.**

Pools that are not intended for officially sanctioned competition may have 2 to 6 inch (51 to 152 mm) wide 18-inch by 18-inch (457 mm by 457 mm) targets (+) installed on the pool wall.

#### **454.1.2.3.5 Rules and regulations signage.**

Rules and regulations for bathers shall be installed in minimum 1-inch (25.4 mm) letters that must be legible from the pool deck, and shall contain the following:

- 1.1.No food or beverages in the pool or on pool wet deck. Commercially bottled water in plastic bottles is allowed on the pool wet deck for pool patron hydration.

Exception: Food and beverages served in accordance with swim-up bar requirements found in Department of Health (DOH) Rule 64E-9.004, Florida Administrative Code.

- 2.2.No glass or animals in the fenced pool area (or 50 feet (15 240 mm) from unfenced pool).

Exception: Service animals as defined in s. 413.08, Florida Statutes All animals are prohibited to enter the pool water or onto the drained area of an interactive water feature.

- 3.3. Bathing load: \_\_\_ persons.
- 4.4. Pool hours: \_\_\_ a.m. to \_\_\_ p.m.
- 5.5. Shower before entering.
- 6.6. Pools of 200 square feet (18.58 m<sup>2</sup>) in area or greater without an approved diving well configuration shall have "NO DIVING", in 4 inch (102 mm) letters included with the above listed pool rules.
- 7.7. Do not swallow the pool water. This statement shall be added to signs at pools that conduct alterations as that term is defined.
8. If the pool includes a sun shelf, "WARNING: DROP OFF AT SUN SHELF EDGE IS \_\_\_ FEET DEEP" in 4-inch (102 mm) letters. Not required where sun shelves transition to steps.
9. 9.If the pool includes a sun shelf or a zero depth entry area, "DO NOT PLACE FURNITURE IN POOL." Not required when all movable furniture on the deck or in the pool is entirely made from UV-resistant, inert plastic.
- 10.10. By January 1, 2022, all pools shall add: "POOL MAXIMUM DEPTH: \_\_\_ FEET," in 2-inch (51 mm) letters with the previously listed pool rules.

#### **454.1.2.5.6 Disabled access.**

Permanent or portable steps, ramps, handrails, lifts or other devices designed to accommodate handicapped individuals in swimming pools may be provided. Excluding all ADA pool access area(s) and their clear deck area(s), the height of the pool wall above wet deck around the remainder of pool perimeter shall comply with Section 454.1.3.1.2 or 454.1.8.5. Lifts mounted into the pool deck shall have a minimum 4-foot-wide (1219 mm) deck behind the lift mount.

#### **454.1.2.7 Diving areas.**

Diving facilities shall meet the minimum requirements of the FINA dimensions for diving facilities in accordance with the 2021 FINA Handbook and include the following

- 1.1. Diving boards or platforms with heights of less than the established standard shall meet the dimensional requirements of the next greater height.
- 2.2. Diving boards, platforms and ladders shall have a nonabsorbent, slip-resistant finish and be of sufficient strength to safely carry the anticipated loads. Diving equipment 1 meter and greater shall have guard rails which extend to the edge of the pool wall. All diving boards over 21 inches (533 mm) from the deck shall be provided with a ladder. Diving boards or platforms shall not be installed on curved walls where the wall enters into the defined rectangular diving area specified in this section. Adjacent platform and diving boards shall be parallel.
- 3.3. The location of pool ladders shall be such that the distance from the ladder to any point on a diving board or platform centerline is not less than the plummet to side wall dimension (b) indicated in the FINA standards. Trampoline-type diving facilities are prohibited.
- 4.4. Diving targets may be installed in accordance with FINA standards.

#### **454.1.2.8.1 Sun shelf dimensional requirements.**

Sun shelf areas must be a minimum of 20 inches (508 mm) wide and provide a minimum of 10 square feet (0.93 m<sup>2</sup>) of horizontal surface adjoining on the edge of the pool over a distance of not less than 3 feet (914 mm). The sun shelf edge that adjoins the pool edge must be continuous. The sun shelf floor shall be horizontal or sloped at a maximum of 1 unit vertical in 60 units horizontal, or shall have a uniform slope from a zero depth entry, and its maximum depth shall be between 6 inches (152 mm) minimum and 12 inches (254 mm) maximum below the water surface.

#### **454.1.2.8.2 Depth markers at sun shelves.**

Where a sun shelf is installed, wet deck-located depth and no-diving markers shall be placed every 25 feet (7620 mm) or less, with at least two (2) markers per sunshelf. If the vertical distance between the coping or wet deck and the shelf floor adjacent to the wall is 12 inches (305 mm) or less, these markers shall indicate the water depth of the sun shelf. For open-type gutter pools, the vertical distance shall be measured from the gutter lip to the shelf floor. Where vertical distance between the coping or wet deck and the shelf floor adjacent to the wall is more than 12 inches (305 mm), “No-Entry” markers as described in Section 454.1.9.6.4 shall be provided in the deck. When the sun shelf does not use stairs as a transition, depth markers of the adjacent pool depth at the sun shelf edge and no-dive markers shall be placed on the sun shelf floor, every 10 feet (3048 mm) or less, along a line no more than 1 foot (305 mm) back from the edge of the sun shelf above the deeper pool. All markers shall comply with Items 2, 6 and 7 of Section 454.1.2.3.1, except the distance between them as described in this section shall be followed.

### **454.1.3.3 Safety.**

#### **454.1.3.3.1**

All swimming pools shall be installed with a shepherd’s hook securely attached to a one piece pole not less than 16 feet (4880 mm) in length, and at least one 16—24-inch (457—610 mm) diameter lifesaving ring, approved or certified under a nationally recognized water safety device standard, with sufficient rope attached to reach all parts of the pool from the pool deck. Safety equipment shall be mounted in a conspicuous place and be readily available for use. Pools greater than 50 feet (15 250 mm) in length shall have multiple units with at least one shepherd’s hook and one lifesaving ring located along each of the longer sides of the pools. Spa pools under 200 square feet (1.86 m<sup>2</sup>) of surface area, and interactive water features or wading pools with 2 feet (610 mm) or less of water depth are exempt from this requirement.

#### **454.1.3.3.2**

All pools with a slope transition shall have safety line anchors as required by Section 454.1.2.2.3.2.

#### **454.1.3.3.3**

If a pool cover or solar blanket is installed, it shall be secured around the entire perimeter and designed to support a live load of an adult person; or, the pool area shall be inaccessible to unauthorized individuals during times of cover or blanket use.

#### **454.1.3.3.4**

A room or space shall be provided for chemicals to be stored, and the area shall be inaccessible to the public.

#### **454.1.3.3.5**

Swimming pool slides shall be installed in accordance with manufacturer’s specifications and sound engineering practice, to include water depth, height above water, distance from pool structure, and isolation of landing area from other pool patrons. If an unenclosed ladder is used, it shall have handrails beginning at the bottom step and be no taller than 6 feet (1829 mm). Pools

with slides designed for swimming pools are not required to satisfy those of slide plunge pools in Section 454.1.9.2.1.

#### **454.1.3.3.6**

Floating and climb-on devices, objects or toys that are not a part of the approved pool design shall not be tethered in the pool or installed without an engineering alterations application.

#### **454.1.3.3.7**

To reduce the possibility of injury, removable padding may be installed over the walls and floors of the pool, in areas where impacts are likely, so long as the surface of the padding is impervious, nontoxic, smooth, and slip resistant. Such padding shall be installed and maintained according to the manufacturer's specifications. The surface underneath the padding must be structurally rigid, impervious, nontoxic, smooth, and slip resistant. The padding may be white or a contrasting color.