



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH

PO Box 47820 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7820  
(360) 236-3000 • TTY Relay Service: (800) 833-6388

October 27, 2016

**TO:** Michelle A. Davis, Executive Director  
State Board of Health

**FROM:** Clark Halvorson, Assistant Secretary  
Division of Environmental Public Health

**SUBJECT:** Rule Making Request for Chapter 246-260 WAC, Water Recreation Facilities,  
and Chapter 246-262 WAC, Recreational Water Contact Facilities

The Department of Health (department) is requesting the State Board of Health initiate rule making to consider revisions to chapter 246-260 WAC, Water Recreation Facilities, and chapter 246-262 WAC, Recreational Water Contact Facilities (water recreation rules) as a result of the department rule review required under chapter 43.70 RCW. The department recommends the rules be revised to consider the newly adopted federal Model Aquatics Health Code (MAHC), to modify the rules to keep pace with changing water recreation technologies, and to improve clarity and usability.

The department rule review found that though changes to reduce entrapment risks were adopted in 2012, the rules have not been thoroughly reviewed and revised since 1991. Since then, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention adopted the 2015 MAHC for public swimming pools and spas and innovations in the water recreation industry have outpaced the rules. In addition, the review showed the rules would benefit from revision to improve clarity and usability. This includes the possibility of consolidation of the water recreation rules into a single chapter to address overlapping requirements and clarification that recreational water contact facilities are a type of water recreation facilities. Longstanding guidance will also be evaluated for inclusion in the rules as part of this rule making process.

If adopted, these changes will reflect current best practice, include clear requirements for water recreation facilities, and be more user friendly.

Please contact David Gifford, Local Health Support Section Manager, 360-236-3074 or [dave.gifford@doh.wa.gov](mailto:dave.gifford@doh.wa.gov) if you have any questions.

cc: David Gifford, Department of Health