

WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

WATER RECREATION FACILITIES AND RECREATIONAL WATER CONTACT FACILITIES

RULEMAKING SUMMARY AND TIMELINE

Background

The State Board of Health (Board) is considering updating the [Water Recreation Facilities](#) and the [Recreational Water Contact Facilities](#) rules to align the rules with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Model Aquatic Health Code (MAHC), clarify regulations on inflatable equipment, keep pace with changing water recreation technologies, and to improve clarity and useability of the rules.

Purpose

The current rules regulate water recreation and recreational water contact facilities such as swimming pools, spas, hot tubs, splash pads, water parks (including slides, lagoons, and lazy rivers), natural designated swim areas, and more. The rules aim to keep the public safe by outlining requirements related to permits for construction and operation, operating plans, water quality standards, inspections, equipment, emergency response, and personnel training.

In December 2016, the Board filed a CR-101, Preproposal Statement of Inquiry, to explore possible updates to these rules. The scope of the rulemaking includes statutory requirements to consider the most recent version of the MAHC and exemptions on inflatable equipment operated at temporary events and considers the consolidation of these two chapters into one to improve clarity and useability. These rules have not been substantially revised since 1991, and rulemaking is intended to update these regulations with best practices and industry standards.

Next Steps

The Board is working closely with the Department of Health to identify possible revisions to chapters 246-260 and 246-262 WAC and convene a technical advisory committee to provide input on proposed revisions. Staff will send rulemaking updates and ways to be engaged to the Board's interested parties list and post updates on the Board's Water Recreation Rulemaking webpage.

Contact Information

Email WaterRecreation@sboh.wa.gov for more rule information or to be added to the interested parties list. When you subscribe you will receive rule updates and information on how to provide comments on the rule during the rulemaking process.

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Washington State Board of Health

Water Recreation Facilities and Recreational Water Contact Facilities

ESTIMATED RULEMAKING TIMELINE		
Rule Activity	Anticipated Completion Date	Completion Date
File CR-101, Preproposal Statement of Inquiry	December 2016	December 2016
Interested Parties Survey; Identify Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Members	Fall-Winter 2022	Underway
Initial Policy Research and Rule Revision	Fall-Winter 2022	Underway
TAC Meetings	Spring 2023	
Listening Sessions	Spring 2023	
Distribute Informal Draft for Comment	Summer 2023	
Revise Draft, Address Comments	Summer-Fall 2023	
Complete Rule Analysis	Fall 2023	
State Board of Health Briefing	Fall 2023	
File CR-102, Proposed Rule	Winter 2023	
Formal Public Comment Period	Early 2024	
State Board of Health Public Rules Hearing	Early 2024	
File CR-103, Permanent Rule	Summer 2024	
Rules Effective	Winter 2024	

To request this document in an alternate format please contact Kelie Kahler, Washington State Board of Health Communication Manager, at 360-236-4102 or by email at kelie.kahler@sboh.wa.gov TTY users can dial 711.