**PART 4: POLICIES AND MANAGEMENT (MAHC 6.0)**

**Subpart A: Staff Training**

**WAC 246-261-600010 Staff Training** (2023 MAHC 6.0.1)

(1) **Training**. All staff, or any others who are involved in the STORAGE, use, or handling of chemicals shall receive training prior to access of chemicals and receive at least an annual review of procedures thereafter.

(2) **Training Plan**. Employers shall have a training plan in place and implement training for employees on chemicals used at the AQUATIC FACILITY before their first assignment and whenever a new hazard is introduced into the work area. The training shall comply with Chapter 296-901 WAC.

(3) **Training Records**. Records of all training shall be recorded and maintained on file at the facility for a period of at least 3 years.

(4) **PPE Provided and Disposed**. PPE shall be provided and properly disposed.

**Subpart B: Qualified Operator Training**

**WAC 246-261-601010 Qualified Operator Qualifications and Certification** (2023 MAHC 6.1.1)

(1) **Qualifications**. A QUALIFIED OPERATOR of an AQUATIC FACILITY shall have completed an operator training course that is recognized by the DEPARTMENT or on the Council for the Model Aquatic Health Code Certified Products and Services list.

(2) **Training Documentation**. A QUALIFIED OPERATOR shall have a current certificate or written documentation acceptable to the DEPARTMENT or LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER showing completion of an operator training course.

(a) **Certificate Available**. Originals or copies of such certificate or documentation shall be available onsite for inspection by the DEPARTMENT or LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER for each QUALIFIED OPERATOR employed at or contracted by the site, as specified in this chapter.

(b) **Originals**. Originals shall be made available upon request by the DEPARTMENT or LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER.

**WAC 246-261-601020 Essential Topics in Qualified Operator Training Courses** (2023 MAHC 6.1.2) **Course Content**. All operator training courses recognized by the DEPARTMENT shall include, at a minimum, the following teaching elements as listed in MAHC 6.1.2 (5th Edition).

**WAC 246-261-601030 General Requirements for Operator Training Courses** (2023 MAHC 6.1.3)

(1) **Recognized Courses**. Operator training courses shall be developed by individuals or organizations with expertise in AQUATIC FACILITY operation and maintenance and expertise in education or training as evidenced by combined work experience and training. Providers of recognized operator training courses, if required by the DEPARTMENT to verify that the course meets the requirements and intent of this chapter, shall submit course information including:

(a) Course development expertise,

(b) Course content,

(c) Course length,

(d) Instructor qualifications,

(e) Exam administration,

(f) Certificate procedures, and

(g) Updates of information as changes are made.

(2) **Course Content**. Training materials at a minimum, covering all of the essential topics as outlined in WAC 246-261-601020 shall be provided and used in operator training courses.

(3) **Course Length**. Course agenda or syllabus shall show time planned for each essential topic.

(4) **Instructor Requirements**. Operator training course providers shall furnish course instructor information including:

(a) Expertise in AQUATIC FACILITY operation and maintenance, as evidenced by work experience and/or training;

(b) Completion of an operator training course, which at a minimum, covers all of the essential topics as outlined in WAC 246-261-601020, including passing the final exam,

(c) Successful completion of an operator training instructor course, and

(d) If the operator training course is online, procedures which make such an instructor available to answer students’ questions during normal business hours.

(5) **Final Exam**. Operator training course providers shall:

(a) Furnish course final exam information including:

(i) Final exam(s), which at a minimum, covers all of the essential topics as outlined in WAC 246-261-601020,

(ii) Final exam passing score criteria, and

(iii) Final exam security procedures.

(b) Provide final exam administration, proctoring and security procedures including:

(i) Checking student’s government-issued photo identification, or another established process, to ensure that the individual taking the exam is the same person who is given a certificate documenting course completion and passing of exam;

(ii) Final exam completion is without assistance or aids that are not allowed by the training agency; and

(iii) Final exam is passed, prior to issuance of a QUALIFIED OPERATOR certificate.

(6) **Course Certificates**. Operator training course providers shall furnish course certificate information including:

(a) Procedures for issuing nontransferable certificates to the individuals who successfully complete the course work and pass the final exam,

(b) Procedures for delivery of course certificates to the individuals who successfully complete the course work and pass the final exam,

(c) Instructions for the participant to maintain their originally issued certificate, or a copy thereof, for the duration of its validity, and

(d) Procedures for the operator training course provider to maintain an individual’s training and exam record for a minimum period of 5 years after the expiration of the individual’s certificate.

(7) **Certificate Renewal**. Operator training course providers shall furnish course certificate renewal information including:

(a) Criteria for re-examination with a renewal exam that meets the specifications for initial exam requirements and certificate issuance specified in this chapter or

(b) Criteria for a refresher course with an exam that meets the specifications for the initial course, exam, and certificate issuance requirements specified in this chapter.

(8) **Certificate Suspension and Revocation**. Course providers shall have procedures in place for the suspension or revocation of certificates.

(a) **Evidence of Health Hazard**. Course providers may suspend or revoke a QUALIFIED OPERATOR’S certificate based on evidence that the QUALIFIED OPERATOR’S actions or inactions unduly created SAFETY and health hazards.

(b) **Evidence of Cheating**. Course providers may suspend or revoke a QUALIFIED OPERATOR’S certificate based on evidence of cheating or obtaining the certificate under false pretenses.

(9) **Additional Training or Testing**. The DEPARTMENT or LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER may, at its discretion, require additional operator training or testing.

(10) **Course Recognition**. The DEPARTMENT may, at its discretion, recognize, choose not to recognize, or revoke a previously accepted course based upon demonstration of inadequate knowledge or poor performance of its QUALIFIED OPERATORS, or due cause.

(11) **Length of Certificate Validity**. The maximum length of validity for QUALIFIED OPERATOR training certificate shall be 5 years.

**Subpart C: Lifeguard Training**

**WAC 246-261-602010 Lifeguard Qualifications** (2023 MAHC 6.2.1)

(1) **Qualified**. A qualified lifeguard shall:

(a) Have successfully completed a:

(i) DEPARTMENT-recognized lifeguard training course offered by a DEPARTMENT-recognized training agency, or

(ii) CMAHC -certified lifeguard training course,

(b) Possess a current certificate for such training,

(c) Have met all pre-service requirements, and

(d) Participate in continuing in-service training requirements of the AQUATIC FACILITY.

(2) **Course Content**. Lifeguard Training Courses shall include but not be limited to:

(a) **Hazard Identification and Injury Prevention**. Hazard identification and injury prevention shall include:

(i) Identification of common hazards or causes of injuries and their prevention,

(ii) Responsibilities of a QUALIFIED LIFEGUARD in prevention strategies,

(iii) Victim recognition,

(iv) Victim recognition scanning strategies,

(v) Factors which impede victim recognition,

(vi) Health and SAFETY issues related to lifeguarding, and

(vii) Prevention of voluntary hyperventilation and extended breath holding activities.

(b) **Emergency Response Skill Set**. Emergency response content shall include:

(i) Responsibilities of a QUALIFIED LIFEGUARD in reacting to an emergency;

(ii) Recognition and identification of a person in distress and/or drowning;

(iii) Methods to communicate in response to an emergency;

(iv) Rescue skills for a person who is responsive or unresponsive, in distress, or drowning;

(v) Skills required to rescue a person to a position of safety;

(vi) Skills required to extricate a person from the water with assistance from another lifeguard(s) and/or PATRON(S); and

(vii) Knowledge of the typical components of an EAP for AQUATIC VENUES.

(c) **Resuscitation Skills**. CPR/AED, AED use, BVM (adult & pediatric) use, and other resuscitation skills shall be professional level skills that follow treatment protocols consistent with the current ECC and/or; the ILCOR guidelines for cardiac compressions; foreign body restriction removal; and rescue breathing for infants, children, and adults.

(d) **First Aid**. First aid training shall include:

(i) Basic treatment of bleeding, shock, sudden illness, and muscular/skeletal injuries;

(ii) Knowing when and how to activate the EMS;

(iii) Rescue and emergency care skills to minimize movement of the head, neck and spine until EMS arrives for a person who has suffered a suspected spinal injury on land or in the water; and

(iv) Use and the importance of universal precautions and PPE in dealing with body fluids, blood, and preventing contamination according to current OSHA guidelines.

(e) **Legal Issues**. Course content related to legal issues shall include but not be limited to:

(i) Duty to act,

(ii) STANDARD of care,

(iii) Negligence,

(iv) Consent,

(v) Refusal of care,

(vi) Abandonment,

(vii) Confidentiality, and

(viii) Documentation.

(3) **Lifeguard Training Delivery**.

(a) Standardized and Comprehensive The educational delivery system shall include standardized student and instructor materials to convey all topics including but not limited to those listed per subsection (2) of this section.

(b) **Skills Practice**. Physical training of lifeguarding skills shall include in-water and out-of-water skill practices led by an individual currently certified as an instructor by the training agency which developed the lifeguard course materials.

(c) **Shallow Water Training**. If a training agency offers a certification with a distinction between “shallow water” and “deep water” lifeguards, candidates for shallow water certification shall have training and evaluation in the deepest depth allowed for the certification.

(d) **Deep Water Training**. If a training agency offers a certification with a distinction between “shallow water” and “deep water” lifeguards, candidates for deep water certification shall have training and evaluation in at least the minimum depth allowed for the certification.

(e) **Sufficient Time**. Course length shall provide sufficient time to cover content, practice, skills, and evaluate competency for the topics listed in subsection (2) of this section.

(f) **Certified Instructors**. Lifeguard instructor courses shall be taught only by individuals currently certified as instructor trainers by the training agency which developed the lifeguard course materials.

(i) **Minimum Prerequisites**. Lifeguard training agencies shall develop minimum instructor prerequisites that include but are not limited to successful completion a lifeguard training course which complies with subsection (2) of this section.

(ii) **Completed Training**. Prior to instructing lifeguard training, instructors are required to ~~have~~ successfully completed a lifeguard instructor training course which includes, at a minimum, the following:

(A) Mastery and knowledge of lifeguard training course content,

(B) Demonstration of the ability to effectively deliver lifeguard training course content,

(C) An evaluation and feedback process to improve instructor candidate presentation skills/techniques,

(D) Course management and administration procedures, and

(E) Testing and evaluation procedures.

(iii) **Instructor Renewal/Recertification Process**. Lifeguard training agencies shall have a lifeguard instructor renewal/recertification process.

(iv) **Quality Control**. Training agencies shall have a quality control system in place for evaluating a lifeguard instructor’s ability to conduct courses.

(g) **Training Equipment**. All lifeguard training courses shall have, at a minimum, the following pieces of equipment available in appropriate student to equipment ratios during the course:

(i) Rescue tubes,

(ii) Backboard with head immobilizer and sufficient straps to immobilize the victim to the backboard,

(iii) CPR manikins (Adult and infant),

(iv) Resuscitation mask with one-way valve (Adult and Pediatric),

(v) BVM (Adult and Pediatric),

(vi) Disposable gloves,

(vii) AED trainer with adult and pediatric training pads,

(viii) First aid supplies for first aid training, and

(ix) Manikin cleaning supplies.

(4) **Competency and Certification**.

(a) Proficiency Lifeguarding skills per subsection (2) of this section shall be tested, by a certified instructor, to a level of proficiency accepted by the training agency.

(b) Requirements Lifeguard training course providers shall have a final exam including but not limited to:

(i) Written and practical exams covering topics outlined in subsection (2) of this section;

(ii) Final exam passing score criteria, including the level of proficiency needed to pass practical and written exams; and

(iii) Security procedures for proctoring the final exam to include:

(A) Checking student’s government-issued photo identification, or another established process, to ensure that the individual taking the exam is the same person who is given a certificate documenting course completion and passing of exam; and

(B) Final exam is passed, prior to issuance of a certificate.

(c) **Instructor Physically Present**. The instructor of record shall be physically present at all classroom and in-person contact time, skills evaluation, and testing during the course.

(d) **Certifications**. Lifeguard and lifeguard instructor certifications shall be issued to recognize successful completion of the course as per the requirements of WAC 246-261-602010.

(e) **Number of Years**. Length of valid certification shall be a maximum of 2 years for lifeguarding first aid and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR/AED).

(f) **Documentation**. Course documentation of training and certificates shall identify the following:

(i) Name of trainee,

(ii) Level of training,

(iii) Expiration date,

(iv) Restrictions on depth of water for which the lifeguard is qualified,

(v) Identifier of the instructor of record,

(vi) Any other restrictions that maybe applied by the training agency, and

(vii) Identifier of the agency providing the certification.

(g) **Expired Certificate**. When a certificate has expired for more than 45 days, the QUALIFIED LIFEGUARD shall retake the course.

(h) **Certificate Renewal**. Certificate renewal, if offered by the certifying organization may be accomplished by the completion of either a Challenge Program or an Abbreviated Course if completed no later than 45 days after certificate expiration.

(i) **Challenge Program**. A QUALIFIED LIFEGUARD challenge program, when utilized, shall be completed in accordance with the training of the original certifying agency, by an instructor certified by the original certifying agency, and include but not be limited to:

(A) Pre-requisite screening;

(B) A final practical exam, with certified instructor present, demonstrating all skills, in and out of the water required in the original lifeguard course for certification, which complies with subsection (2) of this section, and uses the equipment specified in subsection (3)(g) of this section; and

(C) Final written, proctored exam.

(ii) **Abbreviated Course**. An abbreviated course must be:

(A) Conducted in accordance with the training of the original certifying agency;

(B) Taught by an instructor certified by the original certifying agency;

(C) Conducted with a demonstration of skills, in and out of the water, required in the original course, which complies with subsection (2) of this section, and uses the equipment specified in subsection (3)(g) of this section;

(D) A final written, proctored exam; and

(E) A final practical exam with a certified instructor(s) of record present and actively administering the practical testing.

**WAC 246-261-602020 Lifeguard Supervisor Training** (2023 MAHC 6.2.2)

(1) **Lifeguard Supervisor Candidate Prerequisites**. LIFEGUARD SUPERVISOR candidate prerequisites shall include but not be limited to:

(a) A current certificate for lifeguard training from a DEPARTMENT-recognized agency,

(b) A current certificate for LIFEGUARD SUPERVISOR training from a DEPARTMENT-recognized agency

(c) Previous experience as a QUALIFIED LIFEGUARD of at least 100 hours of active duty, and

(d) Ability to effectively communicate in English or languages common with safety team members and emergency services.

(2) **Lifeguard Supervisor Training Elements**. LIFEGUARD SUPERVISOR training shall include, at a minimum, the following:

(a) Activation and execution of EAP,

(b) CPR/AED and first aid training that complies with WAC 246-261-602010(2)(c) and (d) or present an unexpired certificate issued by a DEPARTMENT-approved agency documenting the required training has been completed,

(c) Scanning and vigilance requirements and how to ensure that systems which accomplish these goals are in place and operational,

(d) Development and evaluation of zones of BATHER surveillance responsibility diagrams for an AQUATIC VENUE,

(e) MONITORING lifeguard performance as it relates to lifeguard and facility-specific training, including preservice assessments,

(f) Strategies to reduce risk and mitigate the health and SAFETY hazards to both the PATRONS and the staff,

(e) Knowledge of the legal issues and responsibilities relating to lifeguarding as listed in WAC 246-261-602010(2)(e), and

(f) Knowledge of the proper use and maintenance of the equipment required per WAC 246-261-508050.

(3) **Lifeguard Supervisor Training Delivery**.

(a) **Standardized and Comprehensive**.

(i) **Traditional and Blended Courses**. For traditional and blended learning courses, the educational delivery system shall include standardized student and instructor content and delivery to convey all topics including but not limited to those listed per subsection (2) of this section.

(ii) **E-Learning Courses**. For e-learning courses, the educational delivery system shall include defined learning objectives, and standardized student content and delivery to convey all topics including but not limited to those listed per subsection (2) of this section.

(b) **Sufficient Time**.

(i) **Traditional and Blended Courses**. For traditional and blended learning classes, course length shall provide sufficient time to cover content, demonstration, skill practice, and evaluate competency for the topics listed in subsection (2) of this section.

(ii) **E-Learning Courses**. For e-learning courses, course length shall provide sufficient time to cover content, provide for online activities relating to content as necessary to reinforce comprehension of learning objectives, and assessments sufficient to evaluate competency for the topics listed in subsection (2) of this section.

(c) **Course Setting**. LIFEGUARD SUPERVISOR training courses shall be:

(i) Taught in person by a trained LIFEGUARD SUPERVISOR instructor,

(ii) Blended learning offerings with electronic content deliverables created, and presented by, and in-person portions taught by, trained LIFEGUARD SUPERVISOR instructors, or

(iii) Online offerings created and presented by trained LIFEGUARD SUPERVISOR instructors.

(d) **Lifeguard Supervisor Course Instructor Certification**. LIFEGUARD SUPERVISOR course instructors shall be certified through a training agency or by the facility whose training programs meets the requirements specified in this section.

(i) **Lifeguard Supervisor Course Instructor**. LIFEGUARD SUPERVISOR course shall be taught by trained LIFEGUARD SUPERVISOR instructors through a training agency or by the facility whose training programs meets the requirements specified in this section.

(ii) **Minimum Prerequisites**. Course providers shall develop minimum instructor prerequisites that include, but are not limited to:

(A) A current certificate for lifeguard training from a DEPARTMENT-recognized agency,

(B) Successful completion of a LIFEGUARD SUPERVISOR training course that complies with subsection (2) of this section;

(C) Ability to effectively communicate in English;

(D) Has completed a LIFEGUARD SUPERVISOR instructor training course which includes, at a minimum, the following:

(I) Mastery and knowledge of LIFEGUARD SUPERVISOR training course content,

(II) Demonstration of the ability to effectively deliver LIFEGUARD SUPERVISOR training course content,

(III) An evaluation and feedback process to improve instructor candidate presentation skills/techniques,

(IV) Course management and administration procedures, and

(V) Testing and evaluation procedures.

(iii) **Quality Control**. Course provider shall have a quality control system in place for evaluating a LIFEGUARD SUPERVISOR instructor’s ability to conduct courses.

(iv) **Lifeguard Supervisor Renewal & Recertification**. LIFEGUARD SUPERVISOR training agencies shall have a LIFEGUARD SUPERVISOR instructor renewal/recertification process.

(4) **Competency and Certificate of Completion**.

(a) **Lifeguard Supervisor Proficiency**. LIFEGUARD SUPERVISOR training course providers shall have a method to evaluate proficiency of the content in subsection (2) of this section.

(b) **Lifeguard Supervisor Certificate of Completion**. LIFEGUARD SUPERVISOR certificates of completion shall be issued by the course provider to recognize successful completion of the course as per the requirements of subsection (2) of this section.

(c) **Number of Years.** Length of valid certification shall be a maximum of 2 years.

**Subpart X: Inspections**

**WAC 246-261-606010 Inspection Process** (2023 MAHC 6.6.1)

(1) **Inspection Authority**. The DEPARTMENT or LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER has the right to perform onsite inspections of an AQUATIC FACILITY as necessary to ensure compliance with this chapter and chapter 70.90 RCW.

(2) **Inspection Scope and Right**. The DEPARTMENT or LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER has the right to be permitted to enter any AQUATIC FACILITY or AQUATIC VENUE area and support infrastructure, at any reasonable time for the purpose of any of the following:

(a) Inspect, investigate, evaluate, or conduct other surveillance activities considered necessary to ensure compliance with this chapter;

(b) Verify compliance with previously written violations;

(c) Respond to complaints;

(d) Respond to reports of incidents including illness or injury reports;

(e) Collect samples or specimens;

(f) Examine, review, and copy relevant documents and records;

(g) Obtain photographic or other evidence needed to enforce this chapter; or

(h) Interview or question any person.

(3) **Based on Risk** An AQUATIC FACILITY’S inspection frequency may be amended based on a risk of recreational water injury and illness.

(4) **Inspection Interference**. It is a violation of this chapter for a person to interfere with, deny, or delay an inspection or investigation conducted by the DEPARTMENT or LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER.

(5) **Report of findings** The LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER or DEPARTMENT shall provide a copy of the completed inspection report and the notice to correct violations to the permit holder or to the person in charge, and request an acknowledgment of receipt.

**WAC 246-261-606020 Publication of Inspection Forms** (2023 MAHC 6.6.2)

The DEPARTMENT or LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER may publish or post on the web or other source the reports of AQUATIC FACILITY inspections.