

Pueblo County Recreational Water Facility Updates

Model Aquatic Health Code (MAHC) Adoption

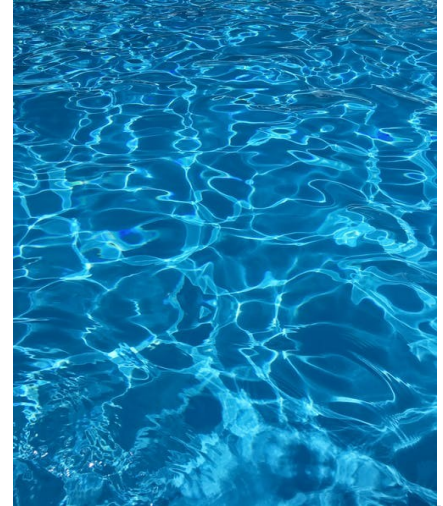
On February 19, 2020, the Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment held the first stakeholder meeting for recreational water facilities to learn about the MAHC and the move to adopt Centers for Disease Control and Prevention written guidelines at the state and local level. Another stakeholder meeting was held November 5, 2020 for additional updates and opportunities for feedback. Individuals unable to attend the meetings can view the slide presentations on the [website](#).

On October 22, 2020 the Colorado Board of Health unanimously voted to allow counties with voluntary pool programs to move forward to adopt MAHC by reference, effective December 16, 2020. Rulemaking hearing minutes available on the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment [website](#).

There is still much to do before new regulations can be implemented in Pueblo County. The health department pool team will be presenting information to the Pueblo Board of Health, Pueblo City Council, and the Board of County Commissioners between February and June 2021.

Once approved to move forward, new ordinance language will be drafted to include sections of MAHC deemed appropriate for use in Pueblo County. A public comment period is required before new ordinances can take effect. Stakeholders will be notified of this opportunity.

The health department pool team will need stakeholder feedback throughout this process. Periodically, facilities will receive surveys, stakeholder meeting invites, and newsletters providing updates regarding the regulation changes. Call 719-583-4307 if you have feedback, concerns or questions as they arise.



Resources available on the health department website

MAHC Transition Guide: A quick guide to MAHC necessities with a daily operator's inspection checklist

Time Sensitive MAHC Regulations: Highlights regulations required upon adoption or within one year of MAHC adoption

Equipment and Chemical Inventory: A template to log in-use equipment and chemicals

CDC Model Aquatic Health Code: To learn about MAHC requirements

Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act Drain Cover Standard: For the latest successor standard

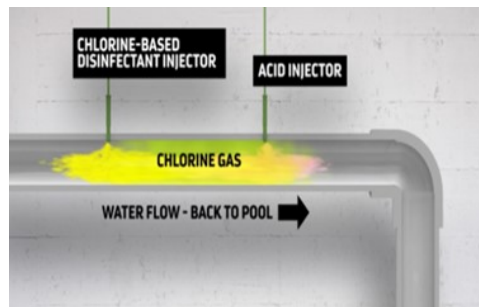
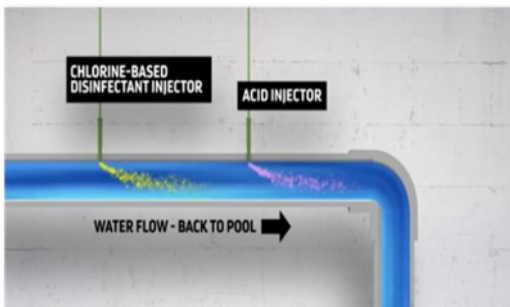
MAHC Regulation Highlights

MAHC 4.7.3.2.1.3 states “For all new or substantially renovated aquatic venues and within one year of adoption of this code for existing facilities, all chemical control and feed systems shall be provided with an automatic means to disable all chemical feeders for each venue or portion of a venue in the event of a low flow or no flow condition. This shall be accomplished through an electrical interlock consisting of at least two of the following:

- 1) Recirculation pump power monitor
- 2) Flow meter/flow switch in the return line
- 3) Flow meter/flow stick at the chemical controller

What this Means for Operators

Electrical interlock systems ensure when the pool pump is disabled, the chemical feed equipment is also disabled. This safety measure prevents chlorine-based disinfectant from mixing with acid in a line with little to no water pumping through it. The result is a surge of chlorine gas to the swimming area. Operators should begin assessing all chemical control and feed systems to determine if the MAHC requirements can be met. If not, operators should begin planning for upgrades to controllers and feed systems within the year following MAHC adoption.



Take the Model Aquatic Health Code (MAHC) Stakeholder Meeting Survey

Pro Tip: Scratched or cloudy ColorQ test tubes (cuvettes) can alter chemical readings.

Did you know: A pH of less than 6.5 can remove dental enamel?



Industry Update:

On May 24, 2019, the Consumer Product Safety Commission issued a direct final rule incorporating sections of APSP-16 2017 as the successor drain cover standard under the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act. Due to COVID-19, the effective date has been moved from 11/24/20 to 5/24/21. View the health department's [website](#) for the successor standard.