

**TYPE E**  
Residential  
Pools

# GUIDELINES FOR SAFE POOL OPERATION

RESIDENTIAL POOLS

المؤسسة الملكية  
للإنقاذ والسلامة المائية  
**ROYAL  
LIFE SAVING  
BAHRAIN**





## Royal Life Saving Bahrain

Royal Life Saving Bahrain (RLSB) is a charity registered under the Ministry of Social Development. RLSB is supported by Life Saving Bahrain Management WLL (commercial registration number 102436-1), which has been incorporated to undertake commercial activities related to RLSB. Royal Life Saving Bahrain is a full member of the International Life Saving Federation.

### Our Vision

To prevent drowning related death and injury and prosper from our waters

### Our Mission

To promote safe enjoyment of recreation in water, build cohesive communities, enable economic development and save lives

### Production of the Guidelines For Safe Pool Operation

The Guidelines for Safe Pool Operation have been produced by Royal Life Saving Bahrain (RLSB), and adapted from a range of international best practice resources; including but not limited to the following:

- Royal Life Saving Society – Australia. (2017). Guidelines for Safe Pool Operation. Sydney, Australia: RLSSA.
- Health and Safety Executive. (2003). Managing Health and Safety in Swimming Pools (HSG 179) (3rd Ed.). United Kingdom: Health and Safety Executive.

### Contact Us

For more information on our Water Safety Strategy for the Kingdom of Bahrain please visit our website [www.rlsbahrain.org](http://www.rlsbahrain.org) or contact us via:

- Email: [info@rlsbahrain.org](mailto:info@rlsbahrain.org)
- Social Media: RLSBahrain



## **Introduction**

### **Scope**

The Guidelines for Safe Pool Operation (GSPO) have been developed by personnel from a wide range of groups, in conjunction with international best practice, to support Pool Operators with providing a safe swimming environment. The GSPO does not have any legal status, however relevant authorities may use this document for enforcement purposes.

### **Purpose**

The purpose of the GSPO is to ensure that all Pool Operators understand their responsibilities with regards to health and safety in swimming pools. Ultimately, the purpose of this document is to reduce drownings and other water related injury as far as is reasonably practicable.

### **Format**

As guidelines may periodically change or be updated, this document is provided in a soft copy format.

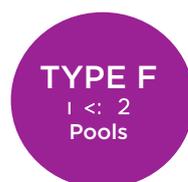
### **Swimming Pool Classification**

For the purpose of these guidelines, 6 (six) types of Swimming facilities have been identified. It is important that the Pool Operator understands which category of pool they operate, and which guidelines are applicable to their facility. Below there is a description of each type of swimming pool. If the Pool Operator is still unsure, further guidance can be provided by contacting Royal Life Saving Bahrain.



## Swimming Pool Classification Table

<p><b>Type A</b> Waterparks and Hotel Pools</p>	<p>Waterparks are large aquatic amusement parks. Features at Waterparks will vary, although common attractions include Lazy Rivers, Wave Pools, Splash decks, Slides and Flumes. Hotel Pools are any pools within a building or facility that has a commercial registration as a hotel with the BTEA and are rated five or four star.</p>
<p><b>Type B</b> Public Pools</p>	<p>Public Pools are facilities where any members of the public can pay to swim during clearly defined operating hours. These pools may also be found in social or private members clubs.</p>
<p><b>Type C</b> Private Hire Pools</p>	<p>Private Hire Pools are facilities that are licenced to rent the swimming pool for private hire. They are not open to the public for general use, and only operate when hired by an individual or group.</p>
<p><b>Type D</b> School Pools</p>	<p>School Pools are any swimming pool within an educational establishment. This may include but is not limited to schools, colleges and universities.</p>
<p><b>Type E</b> Residential Pools</p>	<p>Residential Swimming Pools are swimming pools that are within furnished and non furnished apartment buildings or compounds that are provided to residents for shared use. They are also found in three star hotels.</p>
<p><b>Type F</b> Private Home Pools</p>	<p>Private Home Pools are private swimming pools within a personal residence. Typically found in villas, they are a variety of sizes and may include features such as spa pools. They do not have shared use.</p>





### **Ongoing Review**

It is intended that these guidelines will be regularly reviewed and updated, at least once annually by Royal Life Saving Bahrain. Pool Operators are encouraged to provide written comments on these guidelines so that they may be evaluated during the review process.

### **Implementation**

It is recognised that Pool Operators will require some time to be able to implement these guidelines. Once a guideline is published, it is therefore expected that a period of 6 months should be given to allow changes to be introduced. However, it is important to understand that Pool Operators are expected to work towards implementing each guideline from the date of publication, and enforcing authorities may allow a shorter or longer period of time to make the required changes.

### **Assistance**

Royal Life Saving Bahrain, and other organisations involved in the development of these safety guidelines are able to provide information and advice on their implementation. Pool Operators should seek support from the relevant support services provider if necessary.



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## Section Three (3) First Aid

Reference	Title	Version	Date of Issue	Pages
FA 3	Introduction	1	June 2018	1
FA 3.2	First Aid Equipment	1	June 2018	2
FA 3.3	First Aid Trained Staff	1	June 2018	2

## Section Four (4) Emergency Management

Reference	Title	Version	Date of Issue	Pages
EM 4	Introduction	1	June 2018	1
EM 4.1	Aquatic Emergency Rescue Equipment	1	June 2018	2



# FSD 1

## FACILITY AND SWIMMING POOL DESIGN

### Introduction

Pool Operators are required to ensure that they provide a safe swimming environment at all times. Access to the swimming area should be controlled, and swimmers should be provided with important safety information to assist them in swimming safely.

This section of the guidelines provides information on the considerations that must be taken when designing swimming facilities to minimise the risk of drowning and serious injury to swimmers.

Reference	Guideline	Current Version	Issue Date
FSD 1.1	Signage	Version 1	June 2018
FSD 1.2	Access Control	Version 1	June 2018



**FSD 1.1**

## FACILITY AND SWIMMING POOL DESIGN

1. **Title:** SIGNAGE

2. **Version:** 1.0

3. **Date Issued:** June 2018

4. **Purpose:** To establish the minimum signage requirements for swimming pools.

5. **Description**

### 5.1 Depth markings

Pool Operators are required to ensure that depth markings are clearly displayed. The following factors should be considered when designing depth marking signage:

- a) The markings should be in numerals that are at least 100mm in height;
- b) Markings must be placed in a position where they can be seen from the water and from the pool side;
- c) The number of depth markings required will vary dependent on the size and configuration of the pool, however they should be visible from all areas of the pool and pool deck;
- d) Depth marking signage should be of a strong contrast to the surrounding area;
- e) Any sharp change in gradient must be clearly marked and sign posted. A sharp gradient is any change that is greater than 1:14;
- f) In shallow water (1.2m deep or less) – the words **CAUTION SHALLOW WATER** and the symbol for shallow water should be displayed in English and Arabic. The number of these signs that are required will also depend on the size and configuration of the pool.



## 5.2 NO DIVING Signage

The minimum depth for diving (without a diving board or platform) is 1.8m. NO DIVING signage must be clearly displayed in English and Arabic, along with the recognised symbol for NO DIVING in any area of the pool that has a water depth of less than 1.8m.

The number of **NO DIVING** signs required will vary dependent on the size and configuration of the pool; however, they should be visible from all areas of the pool and pool deck.

## 5.3 Child admission policy (see also SFO2.5)

The child admission policy for the swimming pool must be clearly displayed at all entrances to the pool area. For swimming pools that are open to members of the public, the child admission policy must also be displayed at the point of sale, and Pool Operators should make adults aware of the policy prior to admission. Signage should be provided in English and Arabic.

## 5.4 Pool rules/conditions of use

The pool rules for safe use should be clearly displayed in English and Arabic, and appropriate symbols should also be used. Pool rules signage should be displayed at the entrance to the swimming pool and should also be visible from the pool and pool deck.

The Pool Operator must decide on the rules and conditions of use for their swimming pools. Swimming pool rules may include, but not be limited to:

- No running
- No glass
- No alcohol
- No drugs
- No smoking
- No pushing
- No tuck jumping
- No photography or video without prior management consent



## 5.5 Other signage

Pool Operators must determine any other necessary signage that should be displayed in or around the pool area based on a risk assessment. Other signage may include, but is not limited to:

### **Slippery When Wet**

Appropriate for changing room areas and the poolside.

### **Pool Closed**

To be displayed whenever a pool is not in use (see also FSD1.2).

### **Safe use of water features**

These should be in line with manufacturer guidelines for features such as wave pools, lazy rivers, slides and flumes.

### **Lap Lanes**

Should be displayed at the ends of each swimming lane, showing the direction swimmers should swim in and the stroke or speed of the lane.

### **Pool activity signage**

Indicating what activities are permitted, and who is allowed to access each area of the pool.

### **Warning signs**

Advising swimmers of changing water conditions, such as wave pools, lazy rivers and other water features.

## 6. References

International Organization for Standardization (ISO) standards:

ISO 20712-1: Water safety signs and beach safety flags – Part 1: Specifications for water safety signs used in workplaces and public areas

ISO 20712-2: Water safety signs and beach safety flags – Part 2: Specifications for beach safety flags – Colour, shape, meaning and performance

ISO 20712-3: Water safety signs and beach safety flags – Part 3: Guidance for use



FSD 1.2

## FACILITY AND SWIMMING POOL DESIGN

1. **Title:** ACCESS CONTROL

2. **Version:** 1.0

3. **Date Issued:** June 2018

4. **Purpose:** To establish the minimum requirements for controlling access to a swimming pool.

### 5. Description

#### 5.1 Controlling access to the swimming pool

Effective precautions (physical barriers, supervision, or both) should be in place to prevent unauthorised access to a pool intended to be out of use, such as at closing time.

#### 5.2 Swimming pool safety barriers

Safety barriers must be sufficient to prevent a child under 10 years of age from accessing the pool without the correct level of supervision. Devices for unlocking the door must be at least 1.5m from the ground, and doors must be self-closing and self-latching. Further guidance on the safety and design requirements for swimming pool safety barriers may be found in the Safety Barrier Guidelines for Residential Pools.

#### 5.3 Controlling access to plant rooms and other areas

Plant rooms, chemical stores and other areas should be secured against unauthorised access. This includes preventing untrained staff from entering these areas.



#### **5.4 Preventing overcrowding**

Admissions are normally controlled at the point of entry to the pool facility, rather than to the water itself. Therefore, allowance can be made in setting a maximum bather load for the number of people that can be safely admitted to the pool. Facilities may also decide to set a maximum bather load for each individual swimming pool or feature within a given facility.

Pool Operators should, as part of the risk assessment, ensure that an effective method of access control and attendance recording is in operation. Should there be a risk of the number being exceeded, admissions into the facility should be restricted.

Staff must be trained in the Emergency Action Plan for the management of overcrowding.

#### **6. References**

US Consumer Product Safety Commission. (2012). Safety barrier guidelines for residential pools: Preventing child drownings. Washington, DC: US Consumer Product Safety Commission (US CPSC).



## FA 3

### FIRST AID

#### Introduction

It is required that all Swimming Pool Operators provide adequate and appropriate equipment, facilities and personnel to enable first aid assistance to be given to all employees and guests.

This section of the guideline outlines the minimum provision that should be provided for the Swimming Pool area/s, and does not relate to the provisions necessary for other areas of the facility such as hotels, beaches, gyms or schools.

Reference	Guideline	Current Version	Issue Date
FA 3.1	First Aid Room/ Designated Area	Version 1	June 2018
FA 3.2	First Aid Equipment	Version 1	June 2018
FA 3.3	First Aid Trained Staff	Version 1	June 2018
FA 3.4	Oxygen Resuscitation Equipment	Version 1	June 2018



FA 3.2

## FIRST AID

1. **Title:** FIRST AID EQUIPMENT

2. **Version:** 1.0

3. **Date Issued:** June 2018

4. **Purpose:** To establish the minimum first aid equipment required for Pools.

### 5. Description

#### 5.1 First Aid Kits

It is essential that First Aiders have access to first aid equipment in order to provide appropriate treatment in accordance with their training. An appropriate number of first aid kits should be readily available at all times. The international colours for a first aid kit are green with a white cross. All first aid equipment should be readily identifiable by these colours.

#### 5.2 Number of First Aid Kits

The exact number of first aid kits required should be determined by the Pool Operator, however a minimum of 1 (one) fully stocked first aid kit must be available for use on the pool deck at all times. Some factors to consider when determining the number of first aid kits are:

- a) Number of swimming pools
- b) Number of pool users that may be in the pool area
- c) Planned activities/ programmes
- d) Location of the first aid kit/s
- e) Number of trained staff
- f) Emergency service response time

#### 5.3 Inspection and Records

The Pool Operator is required to routinely inspect all first aid kits to ensure that they remain appropriately stocked, and that items do not exceed the expiry date. Inspections of first aid kits should take place on a minimum basis of once per week, and all inspections should be documented. Records of inspections must be maintained by the Pool Operator and available for audit at all times.



#### 5.4 Content of First Aid Kit

The table below details the minimum contents required in a Swimming Pool first aid kit. Additional quantities of each item should be stored and available on site to ensure that any used or expired items can be immediately replenished/ replaced.

First aid item	Quantity in each first aid kit
Guidance Leaflet for first aid	1
Contents List	1
Medium unmedicated sterile dressings	4
Large sterile dressings	4
Eye pad sterile dressings	4
Alcohol free moist cleansing wipes	10
Adhesive tape (hypoallergenic)	1 Roll
Nitrile non-latex disposable gloves	4 Pairs
Low adherent burn dressing	1
Foil blanket	1
Shears (suitable for cutting clothing)	1 Pair
Conforming bandage	1
Triangular bandage	4
Pocket mask or other barrier for use in CPR	1
Sterile adhesive dressings (various sizes)	100
Saline Solution	2
Safety Pins	4



FA 3.3

## FIRST AID

1. **Title:** FIRST AID TRAINED STAFF

2. **Version:** 1.0

3. **Date Issued:** June 2018

4. **Purpose:** To establish the required number of first aiders and level of training.

### 5. Description

#### 5.1 First Aiders

Swimming Pool Operators are required to ensure that there is an appropriate number of suitably trained first aid staff to enable immediate treatment of anyone that becomes injured or unwell when using a facility. Pool Lifeguards are trained in emergency first aid as part of the RLSB Pool Lifeguard Course.

Swimming pool supervision must not be compromised when providing first aid assistance and the facility should have effective Emergency Action Plans in place to ensure that this does not occur. This may include evacuation of the pool until effective supervision is resumed. In addition, Pool Operators should consider training other team members including receptionists, team leaders or security staff in first aid, so that they may assist the Pool Lifeguards in the effective management of first aid.

The provision of first aiders must not be compromised by shift patterns, staff sickness or annual leave. To avoid this, it is recommended that as many members of staff as possible are trained in first aid.



## 5.2 Induction and in-service training

Pool Operators must provide documented evidence that all employees are trained in first aid and understand the site-specific arrangements relating to first aid treatment. This should form part of a person's employment induction and should detail at a minimum the:

- a) Location of first aid room/s
- b) Location of first aid equipment
- c) List of all first aid trained staff
- d) Emergency Action Plans relating to first aid including roles and responsibilities in providing first aid assistance.

In order to maintain ongoing competence, first aid staff should attend in-service training at least once every 3 months. This training must be delivered by an appropriately qualified person. Records of training must be maintained by the Pool Operator and available for audit at all times.

## 5.3 Signage

A list of all trained first aiders (including Pool Lifeguards) as well as internal and external emergency contact phone numbers should be clearly displayed in the designated first aid area. In addition, the first aid area should display a standard first aid sign at the entry point.



## EM 4

### EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

#### Introduction

In the event of an emergency, it is essential that an incident is managed safely and efficiently to prevent further escalation or injuries. As all swimming pools are different, Pool Operators are required to complete a risk assessment to identify all foreseeable emergencies that could occur at their swimming pool.

Once a list of possible emergency situations has been developed, the Pool Operator must then decide on the actions that each member of staff should take in the event of these emergencies. These actions should be documented as an Emergency Action Plan (EAP).

An EAP is particularly vital at a swimming pool facility that employs Pool Lifeguards. These Pool Lifeguards are required to act in accordance with their training and the EAP.

In addition, Pool Operators must provide adequate and appropriate Emergency Rescue Equipment to enable the effective rescue and treatment of someone that is injured or in danger of drowning.

This section of the guidelines provides support and information on effective emergency management.

Reference	Guideline	Current Version	Issue Date
EM 4.1	Aquatic Emergency Rescue Equipment	Version 1	June 2018



## EM 4.1

### EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

1. **Title:** AQUATIC EMERGENCY RESCUE EQUIPMENT

2. **Version:** 1.0

3. **Date Issued:** June 2018

4. **Purpose:** To establish the aquatic emergency required equipment required

#### 5. Description

##### 5.1 Rescue Equipment

In order to assist in the rescue of an injured or compromised swimmer, all Pool Operators are required to provide an adequate provision of appropriate rescue equipment for use by Pool Lifeguards and/ or pool users. In swimming pools that do not have a Pool Lifeguard, rescue equipment must still be provided in order to enable bystanders to assist a person in distress. The table below outlines the minimum requirement of rescue equipment that must be available at each type of swimming facility.

As each pool facility is different, the required quantity of each piece of rescue equipment will vary and will likely be higher than the minimum stated in the table below. Pool Operators should assess the requirement at their location and ensure that an appropriate provision is provided.

When deciding on the exact quantity required, Pool Operators should consider:

- a) The number of Pool Lifeguard positions - Each Pool Lifeguard must be able to access a primary piece of rescue equipment within 10 seconds
- b) Secondary equipment should be accessible within 1 (one) minute of an incident
- c) The size of the swimming pool/s
- d) The layout and design of the facility
- e) Where the equipment will be located



	POOL TYPE					
Aquatic Rescue Equipment	Type A	Type B	Type C	Type D	Type E	Type F
<b>PRIMARY RESCUE EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>MINIMUM QUANTITY REQUIRED</b>					
Rescue Tube	1	1	1	1	1	1
Reach Pole	1	1	1	1	1	1
Throw Bag	1	1	1	1	1	1
<b>SECONDARY RESCUE EQUIPMENT</b>						
Rescue Board	1	1		1		
Oxygen Resuscitation	1	1				
Automated External Defibrillator	1	1		1		

## 5.2 Inspection and Records

Aquatic Rescue Equipment should be inspected daily by a trained and competent person to ensure it is in good working order prior to opening. Faulty equipment should be removed and replaced as soon as possible. Pool Operators should consider keeping a stock of some spare equipment. Inspections should be documented, and records should be maintained by the Pool Operator and be available for audit