POOLS WITHOUT PENALTIES ACT OF 2018

Cooperatives, condominiums, or apartment buildings with Class C, semi-public pools may elect to operate without being licensed and inspected by DC Health pursuant to the “Pools Without Penalties Act of 2018” are exempted from complying with the District’s Aquatic Facilities Regulations published in the DC Register at 64 DCR 005359 on June 9, 2017.

- A certified pool and spa operator on duty during operational hours is optional for Class C swimming pools operating at a cooperative, condominium, or apartment building. 25C-DCMR - 300.1
- A lifeguard is optional for all Class C swimming pools except when there is a diving board, a depth greater than five feet (5 ft.) built after June 30, 2018, or an expected bather population that is 50% or more children under 15 years of age. 25C-DCMR - 303.2
  However, “Child Safety Plans” are required for all pools that operate without a lifeguard.
- Daily water quality & safety logs are optional for Class C pools operating at a cooperative, condominium, or apartment building. 25C-DCMR - 412
- Safety lines are optional for Class C pools operating at a cooperative, condominium, or apartment building. 25C-DCMR - 505.4
- Fences around a rooftop pool are optional for Class C pools operating at a cooperative, condominium, or apartment building. There must be some other compliant barrier for access to the rooftop. 25C-DCMR - 610
- Eye wash stations are optional at any Class C pools operating at a cooperative, condominium, or apartment building in which the furthest dwelling unit is less than 300 feet from the swimming pool area. Directly plumbed eye wash stations capable of delivering low-pressure, tepid, potable water to both eyes simultaneously for at least ten (10) minutes shall be installed in all chemical storage rooms and work areas with corrosive substances that do not meet this requirement. 25C-DCMR - 609.1
- Licensure is optional for Class C pools operating at a cooperative, condominium, or apartment building. 25C-DCMR - 700.1
- Class C pools operating at a cooperative, condominium, or apartment building are not required to provide new construction of, or alterations to a swimming pool beyond those required by section 303 of the Americans with Disabilities Act – Check with your Associations’ Legal Counsel or Pool Management Professional.
- The Department of Health does not inspect unlicensed pool facilities. Facilities that fall under this category must conspicuously post a sign that states:
  This aquatic facility is not licensed by the Department of Health and does not comply with the District’s Aquatic Facilities Regulations.

For more information, please contact the Division of Community Hygiene at community.hygiene@dc.gov

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