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Swimming pools – Part 2: Safety requirements for operation

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English Version

Swimming pools - Part 2: Safety requirements for operation

Piscines - Partie 2: Exigences de sécurité pour le fonctionnement

Schwimmbäder - Teil 2: Sicherheitstechnische Anforderungen an den Betrieb

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 25 July 2008.

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Foreword

This document (EN 15288-2:2008) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 136 "Sports, playground and other recreational equipment", the secretariat of which is held by DIN.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by March 2009, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by March 2009.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. CEN [and/or CENELEC] shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

This standard EN 15288 "Swimming pools" consists of the following parts:

- *Part 1: Safety requirements for design*
- *Part 2: Safety requirements for operation*

According to the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organizations of the following countries are bound to implement this European Standard: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

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Introduction

Pools come in a wide range of types, from water parks with thousands of visitors per day, through communal pools, to hotel and guest houses. Such a wide range implies a gradation of the safety requirements, considering the specific level of hazards. It should also be considered that in Type 1 swimming pools the user expects poolside supervision, while in other Types the user may not expect it.

On the basis of regular risk assessment, the operators of swimming pools should take reasonable measures to ensure the safety of users taking into consideration the risks as well as the restrictions imposed by technical and commercial factors.

Pool operators should also consider EN 15288-1, when carrying out risk assessments.

This European Standard includes requirements, recommendations and notes. While compliance with requirements is mandatory, recommendations indicate best practices and notes give additional information and/or explanations.

1 Scope

This European Standard specifies safety requirements for operating of classified pools according to clause 4. It is intended for those concerned with the operation and management of classified swimming pools. It provides guidance about the risks for staff and users associated with public swimming pools, by identifying the precautions needed to achieve safety.

This European Standard has limited application to classified pools which consist of segregated areas of rivers, lakes or the sea. The requirements for safe working methods and supervision should be followed insofar as they are relevant.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

EN 15288-1:2008, *Swimming pools — Part 1: Safety requirements for design*

EN ISO 14121-1, *Safety of machinery — Risk assessment — Part 1: Principles (ISO 14121-1:2007)*

ISO 7001, *Graphical symbols — Public information symbols*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

3.1

pool/swimming pool

facility, with one or more water areas, intended for swimming, leisure or other water based physical activities

3.2

indoor swimming pool

one or more constructed water areas for bathing enclosed in a building, covered by a roof (fixed or moveable)

3.3

outdoor swimming pool

one or more constructed open-air water areas for bathing

3.4

private use

use of an installation designated solely for the owner's/proprietor's/operator's family and guests including the use connected with renting houses for family use

3.5

public use

use of an installation open to everyone or to a defined group of users, not designated solely for the owner's/proprietor's/operator's family and guests independently from paying an entrance fee

3.6

therapeutic pool

designed to provide medical and physiotherapeutic care under control of a competent person

NOTE Pools destined for fitness and related activities are not considered therapeutic pools.

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- 3.7**
pool basin
water tank where water-related activities can take place
- 3.8**
pool surround
walkable area around a pool basin, to do with the use of the basin itself, like circulation areas, areas of entry and exit, etc.
- 3.9**
pool operator
designated person/organization responsible for the operation of the pool in terms of health and safety
- 3.10**
staff areas
areas only the staff have access to
- 3.11**
pool technical staff
trained and competent people responsible for the operations of the technical equipment
- 3.12**
supervision
assistance to the users and/or surveillance from trained and competent personnel to ensure safe pool operation
- 3.13**
pool supervisory staff
trained and competent persons (e. g. lifeguards) responsible for the supervision of users in the controlled area
- 3.14**
poolside supervision
action of supervising users in water and on the pool surround

4 Classification

4.1 Swimming pool Type 1

Pool where the water-related activities are the main business (e. g. communal pools, leisure pools, water parks, aquaparks) and whose use is "public" according to 3.5.

4.2 Swimming pool Type 2

Pool which is an additional service to the main business (e. g. hotel pools, camping pools, club pools, therapeutic pools) and whose use is "public" according to 3.5.

4.3 Swimming pool Type 3

All pools except:

- pools Type 1;
- pools Type 2;
- pools of private use according to 3.4.

5 Organisational requirements

5.1 General operational procedure

5.1.1 General

Pool operators shall follow four steps, considering the specific pool facilities and related hazards:

- a) prepare a written procedure on managing health and safety;
- b) identify the hazard, assess the risk (see EN ISO 14121-1), set related procedures and instructions to prevent and protect from the assessed risks, distribute procedures and instructions and train the staff;
- c) define the organisation chart and the related roles and responsibilities;
- d) monitor the performance of the organisation and evaluate the results on a regular basis and adapt and improve the organisation accordingly.

In pools where constant supervision is not foreseen, the requirements stated below may not be fully applicable but the relevant principles are always valid and shall be followed by the pool operator.

NOTE Where appropriate, technical and supervisory roles can be combined.

5.1.2 Prepare a written procedure on managing health and safety

Based on a safety concept the procedure shall include:

- a) the name and roles of key individuals and their responsibilities;
- b) a list of hazards and the safe systems of work or precautions for avoiding them;
- c) the arrangements for dealing with incidents and accidents;
- d) the arrangement for providing the instructions, training and supervision to ensure that safe systems of work are always adopted and followed;
- e) the arrangements to ensure that employees follow the rules and precautions.

5.1.3 Define the organisation chart and the related roles and responsibilities

An organisation chart shall be formulated, distributed and maintained. It shall include a functional job description, and shall identify who does what, when and the results expected.

5.1.4 Assess the risk, set related procedures and instructions

A specific risk assessment shall be performed for every swimming pool before its first opening to the user and shall be maintained and reviewed in any case every time there is a major technical change, an accident or a series of incidents.

The aim of the risk assessment is to examine the aspects of pool operation that could possibly harm people. It shall:

- a) evaluate the severity and probability of the hazards;
- b) establish the necessary precautions;
- c) check what precautions have been taken, and act if necessary.