

# Model Aquatic Health Code



Dear Applicant:

In the United States, pool codes are typically reviewed and approved by state and/or local public health officials. There are no uniform standards governing design, construction, operation, and maintenance of swimming pools and other recreational water venues. One outcome of a 2005 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)-sponsored workshop on reducing the risk of recreational water illnesses was the need for code uniformity. A national model code would ensure that the best available standards and practices for protecting public health are available for adoption by state and local agencies.

CDC has undertaken a project to develop a national model aquatic health code and risk reduction plan, with the goal of developing a Model Aquatic Health Code (MAHC) that is user-friendly, knowledge-based, and scientifically supported in an effort to reduce risk and promote healthy recreational water experiences. The MAHC project strives to transform varied swimming pool regulations used by health departments into a uniform national code to ensure the health and safety of the swimming public.

Technical committees are being organized to assist in the development of model code content. If you are committed, flexible, willing to think 'outside the box', and would like to participate in this project, please review the attached Technical Committee Rules of Engagement and Code of Ethics (no need to complete the Code of Ethics until you are selected to sit on a committee) and complete the Application. Thank you for your help in the effort to protect public health.

Sincerely,

*The MAHC Steering Committee*

**Model Aquatic Health Code**  
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

***Application***

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name and Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Info: Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Years of Experience in Aquatics and/or Public Health Protection: \_\_\_\_\_

Job Responsibilities: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

***See explanation and instructions for the following categories on the next page:***

1.) *Attributes:*

2.) *Areas of Expertise:*

3.) *Technical Committee Interests(s):*

4.) *Time Commitment:*

(Attach additional sheets as necessary)

### ***Explanation and Instructions for Answering Application Questions***

- 1) Attributes – please comment on the qualities you possess that would make you an ideal candidate for a member of a technical committee. Attributes include:
  - ◆ Ability to think independently, communicate ideas clearly, and work as a team member;
  - ◆ Willingness to review current code language and determine generally accepted practices, and to make recommendations to keep the code up-to-date with current research and data;
  - ◆ Commitment to act in the interest of the model aquatic health code and not to advance an individual/corporate agenda.
- 2) Areas of expertise – please state your specific area(s) of expertise and interest in the field of aquatics/public health protection.
- 3) Technical Committee Interest(s) – please indicate from the list of potential technical committees on the following page which committee(s) you would be interested in serving on.
- 4) Time commitment – please comment on your ability to commit to the time necessary for technical committee member responsibilities which will include regular conference calls (at least twice a month, approximately 1 hour in duration) and time spent reviewing documents.

*Please submit the Application to Doug Sackett via fax, email, or mail:*

New York State Department of Health  
Bureau of Community Environmental Health  
and Food Protection  
547 River Street, Room 515  
Troy, NY 12180-2216  
Fax: 518.402.7609  
Email: dcs02@health.state.ny.us

## Potential Technical Committees

- 1) Disinfection & Water Quality (*established*)
- 2) Operator Training (*established*)
- 3) Contamination Burden (i.e. bather load) (*established*)
- 4) Ventilation & Air Quality (*recruiting*)
- 5) Monitoring & Testing (*recruiting*)
- 6) Recirculation Systems & Filtration (*recruiting*)
- 7) Lifeguarding/Bather Supervision  
(includes lifeguard training, staffing of lifeguards and attendants, lifeguard equipment, requirements, safety training (CPR, AED, etc.), and first aid equipment and facilities.)
- 8) Risk Management/Safety  
(includes chemical handling and storage, slip coefficient safety markings, user guidelines/signage, fencing, pool entry/egress, diving boards, starting blocks, slides, food/drink facilities, emergency response & communication plan, severe weather closing, safety inspections, water depth, supervision (lifeguard, etc.) requirements, pool water temperature, and safety criteria.)
- 9) Hygiene Facilities  
(includes location/distance/access, size/number, signage, toilets, showers, changing areas, handwashing (lavatories), diaper changing stations, and cleaning and disinfection)
- 10) Facility Design & Construction  
(includes pool shell, decks, lighting, electrical, water supply/drainage/sewer, cross connections, and ambient temperature control)
- 11) Facility Maintenance & Operation  
(includes preventative maintenance, equipment inspections, seasonal opening/closing, cleaning & disinfection, and recordkeeping)
- 12) Regulatory Program Administration  
(includes permitting, plan submission, plan review/approval, inspections, pool closures, and public information/posting)

# Model Aquatic Health Code

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

## *Rules of Engagement/ Instructions*

- **The technical committee will:**
  - ◆ Have a chairperson, a vice-chair, and a steering committee liaison designated by the steering committee.
  - ◆ Have a minimum of six and a maximum of fifteen members.
  - ◆ Have a Code of Ethics signed by all members.
  - ◆ Strive for consensus using available science, engineering, best practices, and defensibility.
  - ◆ Draft members from across the country who represent various disciplines, namely regulators, designers, operators, suppliers, consumers, and academia.
  - ◆ Consent to the publishing of member names and a short biography for each member on the Model Aquatic Health Code website ([http://wwwdev.cdc.gov/healthyswimming/MAHC/model\\_code.htm](http://wwwdev.cdc.gov/healthyswimming/MAHC/model_code.htm)), in press releases, or other appropriate media outlets.
  
- **The module will:**
  - ◆ Be written in a common format/language used for all modules.
  - ◆ Be data/best practices driven.
  - ◆ Identify performance-based criteria where possible, and establish the required burden of proof and provide for prescriptive design options where appropriate.
  - ◆ Incorporate science-based decision making:
    - Decision making should also be informed by data collected as part of the research agenda and will reinforce, redefine, or reevaluate plan recommendations.
  - ◆ Be timely: consider excellence vs. perfection.
  
- **Module development will include:**
  - ◆ Establishment of a workplan and timeline.
  - ◆ Drafting of module language.
  - ◆ Research needs identified:
    - Need to clearly outline data that are needed and how they will be used in order to ensure that the research yields data that are needed. These data will strengthen or underwrite plan recommendations. Quality data will drive better decisions on engineering, hydraulics, disinfection, etc.
  - ◆ Reports/briefings to steering committee.
  - ◆ Submission of module to steering committee for review:
    - This will include a coversheet that discusses the defensibility of the recommendations and requires citation of references.
  - ◆ Incorporate recommended edits into module language.
  
- **The module will include:**
  - ◆ References cited
  - ◆ Preventive maintenance guide (where applicable)
  - ◆ Glossary
  - ◆ Appendices as needed

# Model Aquatic Health Code

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

## Code of Ethics

As a member of a technical committee for the Model Aquatic Health Code (MAHC), I hereby pledge that:

- *My actions as a technical committee member will be made as an individual and in the interest of protecting the health and safety of patrons using recreational water venues; I will not act in any manner that suggests self-interest or the interest of other organizations or corporations of which I am a member for any type of recognition, profit, or gain.*
- *As a technical committee member, I will communicate with colleagues within and outside of my company or department; I understand that I can and should represent other interests besides those of my company or organization in the mission of creating the MAHC, provided that I do not act in self-interest.*
- *Although my ideas and input may become part of the MAHC document, they will be represented as part of the document; I will not be quoted or recognized directly for my individual thoughts and opinions should they become part of the MAHC.*

Member Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Witness Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please submit the Code of Ethics to Doug Sackett via fax, email, or mail:*

New York State Department of Health  
Bureau of Community Environmental Health  
and Food Protection  
547 River Street, Room 515  
Troy, NY 12180-2216  
Fax: 518.402.7609  
Email: dcs02@health.state.ny.us