



Department of Health

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To aquatic venue applicants and licensees:

As you may know, the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) Licensed Swimming Pools Program is facing a temporary staffing shortage and recruiting and retaining skilled staff for this program has been challenging. We are writing to provide two important updates that aim to resolve this challenge while ensuring licensed aquatic venues operate safely.

First, RIDOH filed [emergency regulations](#) to ensure safe construction and compliance of aquatic venues by allowing applicants and licensees to have their existing professional engineer or hire a professional engineer to conduct required plan and specification reviews for the construction of new aquatic venues, alterations to existing aquatic venues, or in-kind replacement at existing aquatic venues reviewed for compliance with the regulations. This engineer shall be hired by the aquatic venue owner at his or her own expense.

The emergency regulations also permit a private engineer to conduct the conformance inspection after the completion of the construction. The professional engineer must certify to RIDOH that the aquatic venue was built in accordance with the Aquatic Venue Design Compliance Form.

Second, we wanted to ensure you are aware that a proposed amendment to the Rhode Island Code of Regulations for Licensing Aquatic Venues (216-RICR-50-05-4) was filed on May 18, 2022 that would codify the ability to hire a professional engineer for these services. The public comment period for this amendment ends June 17, 2022.

Review the proposed amendment online: <https://rules.sos.ri.gov/Promulgations/Part/216-50-05-4>

Aquatic venue applicants and licensees are encouraged to review the rule changes under the emergency regulations and hire professional engineers, when needed. If you have questions, please call 401-222-6867 or email [doh.ridwq@health.ri.gov](mailto:doh.ridwq@health.ri.gov).

Regards,

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State of Rhode Island