Welcome to the Model Aquatic Health Code Network Webinar

Results from Vote on the Code: A Review of Key Proposed Changes for the MAHC 4th Edition

Tuesday, February 16, 2021
1:00 pm ET

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This webinar is being recorded.
Today’s Presenters

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Revising the MAHC

... 2020 Vote on the Code Results

Driven by your expertise.
For This Presentation

• Due to sheer volume, we will only discuss the most significant Change Requests today.
• Change Requests will be covered by topic or MAHC section.
  • Specific code numbering omitted for this presentation
• For a full listing of Change Requests and the recommended vote to CDC by the CMAHC Board of Directors (BOD), please visit www.cmahc.org.
At A Glance

- 530 Change Requests submitted
- 61% (approx. 320) of Change Requests passed
- 7 Change Requests where votes differed between CMAHC BOD and membership
Unprecedented Times

Early Days of COVID-19
• 530 submitted CRs
• Challenging in normal circumstances
• A significant obstacle

Technical Review Committee
• About ½ Public Health officials
• Pandemic response took priority
• Two-month delay in review process

Recruitment Challenges
• Public Health committee members are difficult to recruit
• Little time for external work
• CMAHC needs Public Health representation at every level
Editorial Changes

Providing Clarity

A vast majority of Change Requests were aimed at providing basic edits to the MAHC. These included:

- Modifying language for consistency
- Eliminating unnecessary or repetitive references
- Clarifying references to "all applicable codes" to reflect regulations at all levels of authority (Federal, State, Local)
- Clarifying terms
A committee was formed to identify areas of disagreement between the MAHC and the International Swimming Pool and Spa Code (ISPSC). This committee identified nine areas in the MAHC where edits were recommended to harmonize the construction standards.

Edits to modify the ISPSC will be made in its next update cycle in 2021.
MAHC / ISPSC

Changes to the MAHC

- Approving the use of Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) in the design process
- Limiting depths adjacent to sunshelves and requiring steps
- Clarifying handrail spacing in relation to the vertical rise on stairs and dimensions of recessed steps
- Modifying "No Diving" signage to remove the words "No Diving" and utilize the universal symbol for "No Diving"
- Harmonizing language for Suction Outlet Fitting Assemblies (SOFAs)
MAHC / ISPSC

Resolving Conflicts

The CMAHC Board of Directors voted differently on two change requests relating to the MAHC/ISPSC harmonization process.

Both change request votes resolve conflicts made by membership votes:

- Approving changes in the code for "No Diving" but not approving a new definition in Section 3.0.
- Approving the use of CFD with perimeter systems, but not approving the use of CFD with regards to overall recirculation design.
Cyanuric Acid

An Issue of Complexity

• Multiple change requests were submitted by both the CMAHC Chlorine Stabilizer Ad Hoc committee and individuals/general audience.

• In general, these Change Requests were influenced by an article submitted in the journal *Water*.

• Most of these Change Requests were not supported by the TRC or membership.

• Concerns existed that, while supported by research, some of these Change Requests do not necessarily hold with the MAHC philosophy of "Evolution not Revolution."
Cyanuric Acid

What Passed?

- A new definition of free available chlorine. DPD-FC is being used to identify chlorine levels using standard colormetric based tests.

- The inclusion of HOCl response curves when CYA is used into qualified [pool] operator training.

- Requiring a minimum testing frequency of weekly for aquatic venues utilizing cyanuric acid.

- A modification to imminent health hazards warranting pool closure to include:
  - When CYA/DPD-FC ratio exceeds 45:1
  - When total CYA exceeds 300 ppm
Cyanuric Acid

CRs Overturned by CMAHC BOD

• A Change Request that would result in a de facto 20-26:1 CYA/DPD-FC ratio.

• A change request that would result in end-of-day pool closures when CYA levels exceeded 90 ppm and remediation to at least 75 ppm before reopening.

These change requests were considered "revolutionary" in that these were a major change from current guidance found in the MAHC. The impacts of these change requests to aquatic venues specifically using stabilized chlorine products were considered in this decision.
Novel Aquatic Venues

Surf Venues & Artificial Swimming Lagoons

• Committee work from 2018-19 produced change requests to include these unique and complex venues.

• When discussing, the TRC and TSCs provided comments that indicated these change requests needed additional work before inclusion in the MAHC.

• These Change Requests received a No vote from the TRC and this was affirmed by membership.

• Committees are being reconvened to work on these Change Requests, which would then be considered by CDC for release as standalone guidance and eventual possible adoption into the 5th edition MAHC.
Section 4.0

Changes to Design & Construction

• Technical improvements with regards to ventilation and air handling to include limiting air flow to 30 fpm and increased focus on moving air over the water surface to aid in removing disinfection by products (DBPs).

• Increase the ability of the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) to issue a stop-work order for unsafe conditions or code violations at this stage.

• Addition of reference tiles for depths 10 ft or greater.
Section 5.0

Changes to Operation & Maintenance

• Lower limit of pH changed to 7.0 instead of current 7.2.

• Modifies requirement for an 8”x8” reference tile to a 4”x4” reference tile.

• Makes multiple modifications for "barrier" and "enclosure" to better conform with MAHC definitions.

• For unguarded aquatic venues, requires a person 18 years old or older to supervise persons under the age of 14 years.
Section 6.0

Changes to Policies & Management

• Modifies requirement for lifeguard supervisor course prerequisites.
• Requires a lifeguard when a slide discharge is over 5 ft deep.
• A new requirement for the aquatic venue owner, operator, or supervisor to close the pool if they discover an imminent health hazard.
Next Steps

- Votes will be reviewed by CDC
- Annex committee being formed and chart of work will be finished by end of March/early April
- 4th Edition MAHC to be released in 2021
Become a CMAHC Member Today!

Join aquatics professionals and local and state authorities using the Model Aquatic Health Code (MAHC) to help make swimming and other recreational water activities healthier and safer.

Visit CMAHC.org to join – only $90 for the 2021-2023 voting cycle!

Make Your Voice Heard

- Participate in CMAHC’s triennial Vote on the Code conference to discuss, debate, and vote on proposed updates to the MAHC

Educational Resources

- Discounts on MAHC webinars and trainings
- Free access to MAHC presentations and case studies

Get Involved

- Serve on one of CMAHC’s many committees, including those focused on research and the MAHC update process
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