

SKAC28 (SQA Unit Code - FA4T 04)

Maintain the safety of the pool environment and its users



Overview

Pool users have every right to expect a clean, hygienic and safe environment. This unit covers checking the pool meets all its requirements for hygiene and quality, supervising pool activities and dealing with emergencies when they occur. Staff using this unit should bear in mind that regular training and assessment are necessary to maintain their competence in this safety critical role.

The unit is divided into three parts. The first part describes the three things you have to do. These are:

1. prepare and maintain a healthy and safe pool environment
2. supervise pool activities
3. carry out pool emergency procedures

The second part covers the knowledge and understanding you must have.

The third part gives examples and explanations of some words we use in the unit.

The unit is intended mainly for lifeguards working in a swimming pool.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

Prepare and maintain a healthy and safe pool environment

- P1 carry out visual water quality and other safety checks of the pool and its facilities complying with your organisation's requirements
- P2 cause as little disruption to normal activities as possible
- P3 identify and assess any hazards
- P4 deal with any hazards quickly following organisational and legal requirements
- P5 check and store emergency equipment correctly
- P6 make any required reports and complete relevant records

You must be able to:

Supervise pool activities

- P7 apply your organisation's admissions policy
- P8 observe activities carefully and continuously in the pool area you are supervising
- P9 give your customers any information and help that they need
- P10 supervise and educate your customers to use the pool safely
- P11 identify and deal with any potential hazards promptly and in line with the pool safety operating procedures
- P12 communicate effectively with your customers and colleagues when necessary
- P13 follow the normal operating procedures at all times

You must be able to:

Carry out pool emergency procedures

- P14 promptly identify and assess the emergency
- P15 implement the emergency action plan
- P16 take action appropriate to the emergency
- P17 call for qualified assistance that is appropriate to the emergency
- P18 give appropriate first aid and basic life support as necessary
- P19 help to return the pool to normal operating procedures
- P20 provide clear reports on the emergency and the events leading up to it
- P21 identify and report any problems with the emergency action plan to the responsible colleague

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

Prepare and maintain a healthy and safe pool environment

- K1 the types of hazards which may occur and how to look for them and provide the proper response
- K2 the rules regulations and bye-laws covering the pool including Health and Safety at Work Act, Health and Safety Executive's "Managing Health and Safety in Swimming Pools";
- K3 the types of emergency equipment required, where it is kept and how it is properly maintained
- K4 the checks required for each type of pool environment specified in range
- K5 which records need to be kept and how to complete them

You need to know and understand:

Supervise pool activities

- K6 the types of advice and assistance which each of the different types of customer may require and the most appropriate way of providing it
- K7 the normal operating procedures for the pool
- K8 staffing levels for different types of activities and what to do if these are not adequate
- K9 the types of hazards which may occur and how to look for them and provide the proper response
- K10 principles of water safety, accident prevention;
- K11 the role of the lifeguard;
- K12 how the pool is zoned for effective supervision;
- K13 the effect of the pool environment on safety
- K14 when and how to communicate with customers

You need to know and understand:

Carry out pool emergency procedures

- K15 the Emergency Action Plan for the pool and facility
- K16 the differences in dealing with all the different kinds of customers
- K17 how to identify and assess the nature of the emergency situation
- K18 the right course of action to meet the needs of each kind of emergency situation
- K19 the importance of responding calmly and promptly and providing reassurance to all those involved environment and its users
- K20 the nature and type of qualified assistance required for each of the types of emergency situation
- K21 the importance of identifying the possible cause of the emergency
- K22 the importance of reporting any difficulties which occurred in implementing the emergency procedures

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Additional Information

Scope/range related to performance criteria

1. **pool**
 - 1.1. conventional pools
 - 1.2. leisure pools
 - 1.3. diving pools
2. **facilities**
 - 2.1. water features
 - 2.2. play equipment
 - 2.3. pool surrounds
 - 2.4. signage
 - 2.5. moveable floors
 - 2.6. pool hoists
3. **emergency equipment**
 - 3.1. stretchers
 - 3.2. pool side rescue aids
 - 3.3. first aid equipment, including defibrillators
 - 3.4. communications equipment
 - 3.5. cameras and computer-aided surveillance systems
4. **activities**
 - 4.1. leisure swimming
 - 4.2. lane swimming
 - 4.3. diving and jumping
 - 4.4. organised games
 - 4.5. sub-aqua
 - 4.6. canoeing
 - 4.7. teaching of swimming
5. **customer**
 - 5.1. adults
 - 5.2. children
 - 5.3. customers with particular needs
6. **hazard**
 - 6.1. inadequate adult supervision of children
 - 6.2. unacceptable customer behaviour
 - 6.3. failure of equipment
 - 6.4. poor water quality
 - 6.5. physical hazards

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7. **ways to communicate**
 - 7.1. speech
 - 7.2. hand signals
 - 7.3. whistles
 - 7.4. alarm systems
 - 7.5. public address
 - 7.6. radio

8. **emergency**
 - 8.1. drowning
 - 8.2. injured customers
 - 8.3. unconscious casualties
 - 8.4. multiple casualties

9. **action**
 - 9.1. alerting colleagues
 - 9.2. rescuing the casualty from the side of the pool
 - 9.3. rescuing the casualty in standing depth
 - 9.4. rescuing the casualty out of standing depth
 - 9.5. dealing with other customers

10. **casualty**
 - 10.1. adults
 - 10.2. children
 - 10.3. customers with disabilities
 - 10.4. customers with medical conditions

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Glossary

Customers with medical conditions

epilepsy, asthma and diabetes

Emergency action plan

the written plan which has been developed by the facility to deal with any emergencies which may occur

Normal operating procedures

the procedures which have been developed by the facility to cover detailed day- to-day operations of the pool

Pool Safety Operating Procedures

written after a risk assessment and made up of two parts an Emergency Action Plan and Normal Operating Procedures

Responsible Colleague

the person with overall responsibility for the swimming pool and its environment - usually the duty manager or supervisor

Rules, regulations and bye laws

the sections of legislation and regulations which impact on the role of the lifeguard and the operation of the pool to include:

1. Health and Safety at Work Act 1974
2. Health and Safety Regulations (First Aid)1981
3. The Reporting of Incidents, Diseases and Other Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995
4. Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005
5. Control of Substances Hazardous to Health
6. Health and Safety (Safety Signs and Signals) Regulations 1996
7. Health and Safety Executive Publication "Managing Health and Safety in Swimming Pools"

Unacceptable customer

Behaviour that contravenes the pool safety operating procedure, for example 'bombing', rowdy behaviour, petting etc.

Water features

For example, flumes, wave machines, water jets, bubble beds etc.

Links to other NOS

This unit links closely with unit SKAOSC22 and SKAOSC35.

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