

Requirement of Lighting Provision for Swimming Pool Licence

Licensing of Swimming Pool

In accordance with the Swimming Pools Regulation, Cap. 132CA, the operation of a private swimming pool requires a licence granted by the Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene.

Requirement of provision of 200 lux lighting system

2. For the safety of users of a covered pool or an open air pool that has been declared to be used after sunset, amongst other licensing requirements and conditions, the following additional licensing requirement for lighting of the swimming pool shall be complied with:

Additional Licensing Requirement-

“The pool shall be provided with a lighting system which shall

- (a) maintain a standard of illumination of an average intensity of not less than 200 lux at all sidewalks and standing space immediately adjoining the rim of the pool and the water surface of the pool; the illumination shall be of acceptable uniformity and such that the underwater areas of the pool and other appurtenances are clearly visible; and
- (b) have emergency luminaries supported by emergency power supply for lighting all sidewalks and open spaces surrounding the pool, all dressing, shower, bathing, washing and toilet accommodation and exit passageways. They shall be capable of automatically operating continuously for not less than 1 hour whenever the normal power supply fails.”

3. For pool that has been declared not to be used after sunset, the following additional licensing requirement and condition shall be

complied with-

Additional Licensing Requirement-

“A notice, written in English and Chinese, declaring that the swimming pool will not be opened for use after sunset, shall be continuously displayed in a conspicuous place at the entrance of the pool.”

Additional Licensing Condition-

“Except with the approval of the Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene, the pool shall not be used after sunset.”

Relaxation of requirement for provision of 200 lux lighting system

4. For licensed swimming pools in private housing estates, clubs and hotels that are used after sunset and have low utilization rate during night-time, the respective licensees of swimming pools may apply to the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) to relax the requirements for pool lighting. For swimming pools under application for licences that will be used after sunset and have low utilization rate during night-time, the respective applicants may also apply to FEHD to relax the requirements for pool lighting. After receiving the application for relaxation of the requirements for pool lighting, FEHD would take into account the conditions of the subject swimming pool and the safety of swimmers in processing the application. A combination of the following could be reasons to substantiate the grant for exemption-

- (a) Provision of lighting (though not fulfilling the not less than 200 lux requirement) at all sidewalks and standing space immediately adjoining the rim of the pool and water surface of the pool;
- (b) Provision of underwater lighting;
- (c) Provision of additional lifeguards on duty;
- (d) Pool's own house rules such as restricting the use of the swimming pool by children after sunset;
- (e) Size and depth of pool;
- (f) Usage rate of pool; and

(g) *Past safety record of the pool.

Remarks: *Applicable to licensed swimming pools only.

Enquiries on application for relaxation of provision of 200 lux lighting system for licensed swimming pool and swimming pool under application for licence

5. Enquiries about the application procedures and other issues on application for exemption from compliance with the requirement of provision of 200 lux lighting system for the licensed swimming pool and swimming pool under application for licence may be addressed to the respective FEHD District Environmental Hygiene Office and Licensing Office respectively either in person or by telephone. Contact details could be found at the **Appendix**.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

6. Swimming pool licensees and applicants for swimming pool licences are advised to read the following FAQs before making an enquiry:

(i) What is the purpose of providing pool lighting system to the swimming pool?

Ans.: The purpose of requiring the provision of pool lighting system is to let the lifeguards or other persons may observe, without interference from direct and reflected glare from the lighting sources, every part of the underwater area with no blind spot and swimming pool surface or other appurtenances. Illumination shall enable a lifeguard or other persons to determine whether a bather is lying on the bottom of the pool.

(ii) Can the glare to the swimming pool users be controlled and the amount of spilled light to the neighbourhood be reduced?

Ans.: The adoption of the narrow beam type floodlight fittings together

with suitable design of the mounting height and aiming angle of the floodlights, the glare to the facility users would be controlled and at the same time, the amount of spilled light to the neighbourhood would be reduced.