



THE POOL SPA & AQUATICS  
ALLIANCE™



**CPSA**  
California Pool & Spa Association

November 1, 2018

## The Pool Spa & Aquatics Alliance™ (The Alliance™) & California Pool & Spa Association (CPSA)

### Position Statement

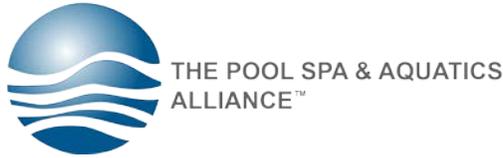
On November 1, 2018, The Pool Spa & Aquatics Alliance (The Alliance) and The California Pool & Spa Association (CPSA) Board of Directors approved the following position statement on a unanimous vote of those present, which represented a quorum, and hereby establishes our support for the Model Aquatic Health Code (MAHC) with respect to commercial aquatic facilities.

#### The Alliance Position:

The Pool Spa & Aquatics Alliance (The Alliance) and California Pool & Spa Association (CPSA) position is that state and local health departments, industry and facilities evaluate and adopt all or part of the MAHC language to protect people and public facilities. In the event there is not suitable MAHC language, authorities having jurisdiction and stakeholders should submit change requests with appropriate supporting documentation to the CMAHC at [www.cmahc.org](http://www.cmahc.org) for assessment and potential incorporation in the next MAHC edition. In this way, we will best ensure protection of the public, more efficient facility operations, and consistent guidelines for suppliers and manufacturers.

#### The Issue:

For 2000–2014, public health officials from 46 states and Puerto Rico reported 493 outbreaks associated with treated recreational water. These outbreaks resulted in at least 27,219 cases and eight deaths.<sup>i</sup> Each year, around 200,000 people seek emergency department care for injuries associated with swimming pools and about 700 die from drowning in a swimming pool.<sup>ii</sup> There are more than 85 environmental health codes in the U.S. designed to protect the public relative to the design, construction and operation of public swimming pools.<sup>iii</sup> A CDC surveillance system that compiled pool/spa inspection data from five states, which represent 15.7% of all U.S. public pools, revealed that 12.3% of routine inspections resulted in immediate closure because of at least one violation that represented a serious public health threat.<sup>iv</sup> Every year



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numerous environmental health departments and stakeholders invest time and effort to update local code. It is not reasonable to expect every local code update to engage a national audience to benefit from the latest scientific evidence, best practices, consensus, and leading experts. As a result, no two-swimming pool and spa environmental health codes are the same. Worse, recreational water illness and drowning rates remain tragically high.

The current redundant and wasteful systems to update, maintain, administer, and enforce local swimming pool and spa codes wastes government resources, precious taxes, manufacturers', designers', builders', suppliers', and facilities' time to participate in code updates and to comply with inconsistent codes.

Based on the substantial limitations of the current pools and spa code systems, the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) took the initiative to develop a national public health and aquatics sector partnership that resulted in the Model Aquatic Health Code (MAHC). The MAHC's vision is to be an up-to-date, consensus, science-based model code that supports public health, facilities, suppliers and authorities having jurisdiction. The MAHC, third edition is scheduled to be published in the summer of 2018. The MAHC is all-inclusive by covering design, construction, and operation. It also includes an Annex, which documents the rationale for the specific MAHC language. In addition, the Council for the Model Aquatic Health Code (CMAHC), a 501(c)(3) non-profit was formed to administer MAHC updates by:

- Collecting, assessing, and relaying national input on needed MAHC revisions back to CDC for final consideration for acceptance
- Advocating for improved health and safety at aquatic facilities
- Aiding health departments, boards of health, legislatures, and other partners on MAHC uses, benefits, and implementation
- Aiding the aquatics industry on uses, interpretation, and benefits of the MAHC
- Soliciting, coordinating, and prioritizing MAHC research needs



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About The Alliance & CPSA:

The California Pool and Spa Association (CPSA) is part of The Pool Spa & Aquatics Alliance (The Alliance), a 501(c)(6) trade association that represent over 300 hundred businesses that design, build, service, and supply pools and spas. The Alliance is a subsidiary of the National Swimming Pool Foundation® (NSPF®), a 501(c)(3) non-profit. The Alliance raises professional standards and improves sustainability through education and promotion. In addition, we engage in government relations to promote reasonable laws, codes, and policies in California and around the United States.

Respectfully,

Jerry Wallace  
Chairman of the Board  
The Pool Spa & Aquatics Alliance  
California Pool & Spa Association

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<sup>i</sup> Hlavsa, M. C. et al. 2018, Outbreaks Associated with Treated Recreational Water – U.S. 2000-2014; MMWR, May 17, 2018

<sup>ii</sup> CPSC. National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS). Washington, DC. Available at <https://www.cpsc.gov/cgibin/NEISSQuery/>. Wide-ranging online data for epidemiologic research (WONDER). Atlanta, GA: CDC, National Center for Health Statistics; 2016. Available at <http://wonder.cdc.gov>

<sup>iii</sup> See <https://www.nspf.org/content/aquatic-codes> for links to the spectrum of health codes.

<sup>iv</sup> Hlavsa, M.C. et al, 2016, Immediate Closures and Violations Identified During Routine Inspections of Public Aquatic Facilities – Network for Aquatic Facility Surveillance, Five States, 2013. MMWR, 65(5), May 20, 2016.