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General

The Model Aquatic Health Code (MAHC)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) created the [Model Aquatic Health Code](#) (MAHC) at the request of health departments and the aquatics sector to provide scientifically based guidance at the national level. Their guidance seeks to prevent injury and illness linked to public aquatic venues. The MAHC is *not a federal law*, rather a guidance document that can be used as a reference. The Council for the Model Aquatic Health Code (CMAHC) publishes a list of [Certified Products & Services](#), which meet or exceed the applicable standards in the MAHC. This includes lifeguard and pool operator training.

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) hosts the [MAHC Network](#), sharing information about the MAHC and providing educational opportunities including 'Quick Guides' documents as well as live and recorded webinars. Topics include cold plunge pools, chloramines, indoor air quality in swimming facilities, increased risk venues (spray pads, wading pools, and therapy pools), and pool chemical injury prevention. For MAHC Network resources, visit NACCHO's [website](#) or check their [YouTube playlist](#). The CMAHC also has numerous recorded webinars available on their [YouTube channel](#).

- [What is the Model Aquatic Health Code \(MAHC\)?](#) (via [NSF](#))
- [MAHC Tools and Training](#)
- [Mini-MAHCs](#) (concise documents make MAHC more accessible)

Pool Chemistry

Pool chemical test kits come with written instructions – refer to manufacturer's instructions for proper sampling and testing procedure. Taylor Water Technologies also has videos available to assist with training for operators and inspectors:

- Taylor Water Technologies playlist: [K-2006 Complete Kit with FAS-DPD](#)
- Taylor Water Technologies playlist: [General Test Interferences](#)

Training and Certification

Lifeguard Training/Certification

The following courses have previously been accepted by the Department as meeting the requirements of lifeguard certification:

- [American Red Cross](#) ([Find My Certificate](#))
- [Ellis & Associates](#) ([Check A Cert](#))
- [StarGuard ELITE](#) ([Certification Lookup](#))

Operator Training/Certification

The CDC has compiled many resources relevant to the operation and maintenance of pools in their [Aquatics Professional Toolkit](#). The following courses have previously been accepted by the Department as meeting the requirements for Nebraska pool operator certification:

- Pool & Hot Tub Alliance (PHTA) [Certified Pool Operator \(CPO\)](#)
- National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) [Aquatic Facility Operator \(AFO\)](#)
- AquaTech [Certified Pool and Aquatic Facility Operator](#)

In addition, there are specialized training opportunities available for pool service and design professionals. *Note: These courses/certificates do not, on their own, meet the requirement for certification of a pool operator.*

- PHTA [Pool Service Professional Pathway](#)
- PHTA [Certified Pool Builder & Design Professional Pathway](#)
- NRPA [Aquatic Management Professional Certificate](#)
- NRPA [Splash Pad Certificate](#)
- Watershape University [Basic Water Chemistry](#)
- Watershape University [Essential Watershape Operation and Maintenance](#)

Inspector Training/Certification

The CDC has compiled many relevant resources in their [Pool Inspection Toolkit](#). The following pool inspection courses are available:

- NEHA [Pool Inspection Training for Environmental Health Professionals](#)
- PHTA [Certified Pool & Spa Inspector \(CPI\)](#)
- CMAHC [Aquatic Venue Public Health Inspector \(AVPHI\)*](#)

*Note: Course will be offered as a pre-conference offering at the NEHA AEC in 2026.

Additional Resources:

- [Association of Aquatic Professionals](#)
- [World Waterpark Association](#)
- [Foundation for Aquatic Injury Prevention](#)
- [American Red Cross](#)
- [Aquatics International](#)
- [Pool Safely](#), a national education campaign from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)
- [Swim Angelfish](#), resources for aquatic venues working with peoples with disabilities