

# MARICOPA COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH CODE

## CHAPTER VI

### BATHING PLACES - PUBLIC AND SEMIPUBLIC SWIMMING POOLS

#### SECTION 13

#### WATER SLIDES

##### **REGULATION 1. Additional Standards and Requirements**

The Department may, at its discretion, establish additional standards or requirements for water slides and recovery pools, taking into consideration any unique features of the water slide and recovery pool and the conditions under which it will be operated. This section does not cover drop slides, slides with a slope greater than ten (10) percent or any slide in which the rider uses any kind of equipment during use of the slide.

##### **REGULATION 2. Construction, Design, and Specifications**

- a. The slide plans and specifications shall be incorporated into swimming pool application forms, plans and specifications prepared and submitted pursuant to Chapter VI, Section 1, Regulation 2 of the Maricopa County Environmental Health Code.
- b. Plan sheets and specifications addressing the structural aspects of the slide tower and the slide support structure shall carry the seal and signature of a registered civil or structural engineer licensed to practice in the state of Arizona.
- c. Structural design calculations for the slide tower and the slide support structure shall be submitted and shall carry the seal and signature of a registered civil or structural engineer licensed to practice in the state of Arizona.
- d. Soil studies and calculations performed in conjunction with the slide tower and support structure design shall carry the seal and signature of a registered professional engineer licensed to practice in the state of Arizona.
- e. Construction of the slide and its appurtenances shall be monitored by the civil or structural engineer of record. This engineer shall certify that the slide was constructed in conformance with the approved plans or as reflected on the sealed as-built plans.
- f. Splashdown area must be cordoned off with buoy lines if not a dedicated slide pool only.
- g. The Department may consider sufficient, sealed design documentation from credentialed waterslide design authorities and/or require a slide splashdown pool to conform to the following dimensions:
  1. There shall be at least six (6) feet clearance from the side of the flume to the recovery poolside wall.
  2. There shall be at least six (6) feet clearance between the sides of two (2) adjacent slides.
  3. The slide shall terminate at or below the water line and the slide terminus shall be in at least three and one-half (3 1/2) feet of water.

4. The engineer or the slide manufacturer must provide calculations to justify the length of runout. In no case shall the runout be less than 25 feet.
5. The exit from the recovery pool area must consist of a set of stairs located at the opposite end of the recovery pool from the slide entrance.
6. Four (4) feet of walkway shall be provided around at least three (3) sides of the recovery pool and behind the slide in semipublic pools, and ten (10) feet of walkway shall be provided around at least three (3) sides of the recovery pool and behind the slide in public pools.
7. There must be at least four and one-half (4 1/2) feet (54 inches) clearance between the invert of the open flume and any object above the flume.
8. When the slide is not in use, a suitable barrier shall be placed at the bottom of the stairs of the slide to prevent bathers from entering the slide.
9. The area on the deck below the water slide and the stair tower must be fenced and made unavailable to pedestrian traffic.
10. Two (2) emergency shut off switches shall be provided for each slide circulation pump, one easily accessible by the lifeguard at the top of the flume and one (1) easily accessible by the lifeguard in the pool area.
11. A training program for the lifeguards shall also be submitted with slide pool plans for approval.

### **REGULATION 3. Lifeguards**

A minimum of two (2) lifeguards shall be on duty at the slide whenever it is in use. One (1) lifeguard at the top of the tower, and one (1) lifeguard at in the splashdown area. The lifeguards shall be in visual or voice contact at all times.

### **REGULATION 4. Operation, Maintenance and Management**

An operation and maintenance manual for the slide shall be prepared and submitted for review and approval. The manual shall contain, but not necessarily be limited to all of the following:

- a. A list of all mechanical equipment and equipment maintenance schedules,
- b. Slide tower and support structure inspection and maintenance schedule,
- c. Slide flume inspection and maintenance schedule,
- d. Slide safety and supervision provisions, and
- e. A lifeguard deployment plan.

### **REGULATION 5. Instruction Signage**

A sign shall be posted at the entrance of the slide tower informing bathers of the necessary safety procedures and informing bathers to follow the instructions of the lifeguard. The sign shall contain the following as a minimum:

- a. Follow the instructions of the lifeguard,
- b. One rider at a time,
- c. Feet first sliding only,
- d. No horseplay,
- e. Exit slide recovery area immediately,
- f. No kneeling or standing on the slide,
- g. Keep hands and feet inside slide,

- h. No riders shorter than 42 inches,
- i. The manufacturers other suggested rules shall be incorporated in the sign, and
- j. Persons not following the safety procedures or the instructions of the lifeguard shall be excluded from the slide.