



LIFESAVING SOCIETY®  
SOCIÉTÉ DE SAUVETAGE

*The Lifeguarding Experts*

*Les experts en surveillance aquatique*

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## Safety Standards for Canadian Swimming Pools and Waterfronts Swimming Pool Standard

### Swimming Pool Basin Colour Standard

#### Standard

The submerged surfaces of a public pool must be white in colour, except for markings for safety or competition purposes.

Safety and competition markings:

- Markings such as lane and drop-off indicators should be dashed rather than solid lines.
- Safety markings should adhere to the applicable Building Code requirements.
- Competition markings should adhere to the applicable sport requirements (e.g., FINA).

#### Definitions

**Public pool** (includes swimming pool, hot tub/whirlpool, wading pools, spray/splash pools):

- a pool to which the general public is admitted for the intention of bathing,
- a pool operated in conjunction with or as a part of the program of an association or similar institution or an educational, instructional, physical fitness or athletic institution supported in whole or in part by public funds or public subscription.

#### Rationale

- Lifeguards and instructors must be able to clearly see the bottom of the swimming pool at all times when they are providing supervision of bathers (see Water Clarity Standard).
- Studies have demonstrated that it is easier to discern objects on the pool bottom when the bottom is white in colour.

## References

- Building codes
- Operational regulations
- Illuminance Engineering Society of North America – IESNA RP-6-01

## Approval

- Approved by the Lifesaving Society Canada Board of Directors on 10 April 2012.

## Disclaimer

Lifesaving Society Canada's National Safety Standards are developed using Coroners' recommendations, the latest evidence-based research, and reflect the aquatic industry's best practices at the time the publication was approved or revised.

The purpose of these standards is to encourage swimming pool, waterpark and waterfront owners, managers, operators and regulators to adopt these standards in order to prevent drownings in aquatic environments.

Lifesaving Society Canada's National Safety Standards do not replace or supersede local, provincial/territorial or federal legislation or regulations, but they are considered the standard to which aquatic facility operators should work towards in order to enhance safety within their operations and to prevent drowning and aquatic-related injury.