



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

### Water Clarity Standard

#### Standard

Every owner and every operator of a pool shall ensure that the pool water is of a clarity to permit a black disc 150 millimetres in diameter on a white background located on the bottom of the pool in the area of its greatest depth to be clearly visible from a point on the deck nine metres away from the disc in the pool. When the disc is not clearly visible, the entire pool area shall be closed.

#### Definitions

**Nine metres:** distance is measured in a straight line from the disc to the observer.

**White background:** must surround the black disc at least 150 mm beyond the disc.

#### Rationale

- To ensure lifeguards are able to provide proper supervision of bathers within their zones, the lifeguards must be able to see the pool bottom clearly at all times.
- A simple test for lifeguards to monitor visibility is the black disc test. Monitoring should be done regularly. When conditions do not meet this standard, the pool must be closed immediately.

#### References

- Various regulatory references from the Canadian Legal Information Institute website ([www.canlii.org](http://www.canlii.org)) which offers regulatory references for all provinces

#### 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.