

BASELINE RISK ASSESSMENT		POOL ACTIVITIES		Ref No.	A04		
Baseline	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Site Specific	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vulnerable Person	<input type="checkbox"/>	Temporary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Activity Covered by this assessment:	Swimming, Canoe Capsize, Pool Party			Hazard References: A04/01 – A04/03			
Assessors:	John Robson (Kingswood H&S Advisor)		Reviewers:				
References:	Pool Activities BRA, issued February 2011 (withdrawn)						
Date of issue:	27/02/12		Planned review date:	End February 2013			

HAZARDS

Hazard Ref.	Hazard description	Activities giving rise to risks	Control Measures	
			Static	Dynamic
A04/01	Drowning	Any pool activities where there are multiple bathers of differing swimming ability engaged in semi-structured activity	S049, S050, S051, S052, S053, S054	D041, D042, D043
		The canoe capsizes activity requires that participants sit in a kayak cockpit which is then rolled over, thus submerging the occupant	S050,	D044, D045, D013
		Fingers or toes getting trapped in vents and ducts on the walls or bottom of the pool tank	S055	
		Unsupervised access to the swimming pool outside of normal activity times	S056,	D051
A04/02	Neck/Spinal Injury	Diving in to pool	S057,	D041, D046
		Jumping in to pool	S057,	D041, D046
A04/03	Slips, trips and falls	Wet floors in changing rooms and around poolside	S058, S059	
		Hoses, ropes and other equipment left on the poolside	S060	
A04/04	Pool environment	Overcrowding of pool hall, leading to disorganisation of both bathers and spectators	S061, S062	
		Excessive glare from overhead lights or windows reducing visibility by lifeguard	S064, D047	
		Extremes of water temperature	S063, D048	
		Extremes of air temperature	S063, D048	
		Reduced poolside visibility	S063, D049	
		Reduced water clarity	S063, D050	
	Reduced water quality	S063, S065		

RISK ANALYSIS

Ref.	Hazard	Who may be harmed	Likelihood	Severity	Risk
A04/01	Drowning	Participants	Low	Major	Marginal
A04/02	Neck/Spinal Injury	Participants, Teachers, Instructors	Low	Major	Marginal
A04/03	Poor environmental conditions	Participants	Low	Minor	Acceptable

RISK CONTROL

Control Ref.	Static Risk – Operational Controls
S049	All pool activities must be supervised by a lifeguard holding the RLSS Pool Lifeguard Qualification, at a ratio of 1 Lifeguard to 30 bathers
S050	Explanation, demonstration and ongoing supervision are to be provided by an instructor trained in activity core skills and who is familiar with the activity session plan. Each instructor can supervise up to 16 active participants for free-swim/pool party sessions (15 students + 1 teacher), or 1 active participant for canoe capsizes sessions
S051	Rescue aids (such as throw bags or reach poles) must be provided at the poolside capable of reaching to the furthest part of the pool.
S052	All lifesaving equipment is subject to weekly inspection and repaired or replaced as necessary
S053	A radio or telephone must be available close by during activities to summon help in emergencies
S054	Signs must be displayed at appropriate points that clearly indicate the pool water depth
S055	Grilles and vents into the pool tank must be covered with a mesh with holes no larger than 8mm
S056	The pool hall must be lockable to prevent unsupervised access and use, using a permanent fixed lock rather than a coded lock
S057	'No diving' and 'No jumping' signs must be displayed in the pool area
S058	Textured non-slip surfaces should be provided on pool-sides and in changing room areas that are likely to get wet
S059	Wet areas should be subject to regular cleaning to remove puddles and other excessive standing water
S060	Equipment kept on the poolside should be tidy, and ropes, hoses, etc. coiled neatly out of the main traffic areas
S061	Bather capacity must be limited to 1 bather per 3m ² , and this capacity documented in the pool's Normal Operating Procedure
S062	A specific area must be designated for spectators, with seating provided if spectators are likely
S063	Swimming Pool Normal Operating Procedure and Emergency Action plan must be in place and up to date
Parent document: H&S-PRO-006, Risk assessment and management	
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Page 1 of 2	

Pool Activities BRA	Issued: 27/02/2012	v1.03	Ref: PROG-OST-004
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S064	Glare from windows, lighting etc. should be eliminated by use of suitable diffusing glazing, blinds or light covers
S065	Pool water quality is subject to daily testing

Control Ref. Dynamic Risk – Instructor Controls	
D013	Check the condition of activity area and equipment before you begin using it, and report defects that arise during the activity.
D041	All pool activity participants must receive a safety briefing from the lifeguard prior to entering the water
D042	All pool activities must begin with a water confidence/swim test to alert the lifeguard to participants who may need specific attention.
D043	Arm bands/flotation aids must be made available to those who require them.
D044	Do not run the canoe capsize activity in water less than 1.2 metres deep (120 cm, 4ft)
D045	An instructor must maintain control over the kayak and its occupant at all times that it is in the water, and act to right it or assist the occupant should they experience difficulty while under water.
D046	Brief participants that diving or jumping into the swimming pool is not permitted under any circumstances
D047	Lifeguards are to position themselves so as to minimise the effects of glare, e.g. by using an elevated lifeguard chair.
D048	Lifeguards must check water and air temperature at the beginning of the activity to ensure they are within acceptable limits
D049	Lifeguards are to cancel or curtail activity session if poolside visibility is reduced to an unsafe level.
D050	Lifeguards must check water clarity at the beginning of the activity to ensure they are able to see all parts of the pool bottom
D051	Lifeguards must ensure the pool hall is secured against casual access at the end of the activity

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<i>Copies of this document may not be up to date and you should check before use</i>	Page 2 of 2