



The Essentials - What you need to know about swimming pool accessibility

Accessible pool program

- Any school pool designated for normal swimming activity must provide an accessible means of entry and exit
- A pool that has less than 300 feet of linear wall must provide one means of access. A pool that has more than 300 linear feet of wall must provide two means of access
- Diving pools which are used exclusively for diving activity are not required to provide an accessible means of entry and exit
- The primary means of pool access must be either a pool lift or a sloped entry (ramp). Existing pools will typically achieve accessibility by a pool lift
- Pools larger than 300 feet in perimeter requiring a second means of access may provide this with a pool lift, sloped entry, transfer wall, transfer system or pool stairs
- Access must be provided during all open hours of operation. A pool lift may not be moved into place only upon request
- An accessible pool program requires an ongoing maintenance program including operational testing, battery recharging and routine maintenance as specified by the equipment manufacturer
- District/school staff are required to be trained on all aspects of how the lift works, where it is stored , normal operation, emergency procedures and regular maintenance
- The federal compliance date for these requirements is January 31, 2013. California currently has regulations in place which require a pool lift at public pool facilities.

Required pool lift features

- The pool lift must be capable of independent operation with a remote control. Manual lift units or Hoyer type sling lifts are not accessible or compliant.
- Lifting capacity – Minimum weight capacity of 300 pounds and capable of sustaining a static load of 1-1/2 times the rated load. Note: SIA recommends purchasing pool lifts with weight capacities greater than the minimum 300 pound limit.
- Pool lift must be able to affix to the pool deck or apron. Portable lifts purchased prior to March 15, 2012, which do not affix to the pool deck or apron but which otherwise comply with the 2010 ADA Standards will be considered acceptable per U.S. Department of Justice policy.

Required pool lift equipment elements

- Rigid seat back with minimum 12" high back support
- Seat width – minimum 16" wide
- Occupant restraint (seat belt)
- Footrest which moves with the seat
- Two armrests – foldable clear of the chair

Lift placement location

- Distance from the centerline of seat to the edge of pool with seat in raised position– minimum 16"
- Level landing on approach side of lift – A 36" wide by 48" long area positioned 12" behind the rear edge of the seat with less than 2% slope
- Seat height in raised position – Between minimum 17" and maximum 19" from deck to top of seat surface
- Submergible depth in lowered position - Minimum 18" below stationary water level to top of the seat
- Water depth at lift location – Between 3 feet and 4 feet. If pool is uniformly more than 4 feet in depth, then this standard is not applied. Note: Confirm that the footrest does not hit the bottom interfering with ability to provide 18" of submergible depth.

Optional pool lift features to consider

- Authorization key - Key control providing ability to turn unit off when not in operation
- Main panel override controls – Main panel control which can raise the pool lift seat if remote control malfunctions
- Storage/Winterization – Many permanent-type installations as well as more portable lifts allow the unit to be detached, transported and stored during extended periods of non-operation including winter months
- Extra battery – Battery life measured in number of lifts on a single charge will vary widely by manufacturer.
- Protective cover – Fitted cover to reduce exposure and extend life of the pool lift

Sources: 2010 ADA Standards for Access Design – Sections 242 and 1009

2010 California Building Code, Title 24, Part 2, Chapter 11B, Section 1104B.4.3

U.S. Department of Justice – Accessible Pools: Means of Entry and Exit

http://www.ada.gov/pools_2010.htm

For more detailed information, contact Bryan Moffitt at bmoffitt@sia-jpa.org