

PLEASE FORWARD TO AQUATIC OR MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL

AFO

The Fall/Winter AFO schedule is posted on the web at CESWaterQuality.com. Obtain schedules, directions, or even sign up for a local course. No Internet access? Contact CES at (800) 940-1557, prompt #5, for more information.

DOH CODE UPDATE

Trichlor Tablets

One of the most obvious changes in the 2004 DOH code deals with using Trichlor tablets in spa, wading pools, and interactive water features. Trichlor tablets are formally known as "chlorinated isocyanurates" or "stabilized chlorine". Predominantly a residential chlorinating tablet, it is found in many smaller commercial pools, spa, and wading pools due to the simplicity (no moving parts) and low chemical feeder costs, whose popularity in commercial installations is now rapidly declining.

One reason for the decline is the new DOH code. According to 64E-9.007 (5) 16 "Feeding chlorinated isocyanurates disinfectant is prohibited on spas, wading pools and interactive water features".

Another reason is the many shortcomings of the chemical compound itself:

Overstabilization: First of all, the primary byproduct of Trichlor is cyanuric acid, the chemical used to protect chlorine from UV Ray destruction. The use of moderate amounts of cyanuric acid (up to 20-30 PPM) is good, as it can cut chlorine consumption by up to 50%. Higher levels have caused problems. At levels above 70 PPM, we have experienced a "blind feed" condition with chemical control systems (where higher chlorine levels do not increase the ORP or kill-power of the chlorine). At higher levels, a "chlorine lockout" condition will develop, causing cloudy stagnant-looking water that needs severe help to comply with health code requirements. One main problem with the Trichlor use as the primary disinfectant is that cyanuric acid (impregnated in large amounts in each tablet) will quickly accumulate and raise the levels well above the desired levels.

The only way to remove stabilizer is to drain the pool. If the stabilizer is at 60 PPM and you want to lower to 20 PPM, you must drain two-thirds of the pool water!! Not a popular move.

Aggressive water: Trichlor has a low pH of approx. 3.0, requiring constant supervision and manual adjustment with soda ash to raise to the 7.2 – 7.8 pH DOH allowed levels. It also an alkalinity scavenger, which means over time it will "consume" alkalinity. This lowers total alkalinity well below the suggested 70-120 PPM range. Once alkalinity (stabilizing force for holding steady pH levels) is lowered, the pH levels will quickly shift and may drop well below acceptable or safe levels. Low pH will in turn promote "aggressive" water that is well below the recommended -.3 to +.3 range in the Langelier Saturation Index. Aggressive water will attack pool finishes, heaters, piping, valves, filters, and grout. All very expensive indeed.

Trichlor has become popular in part because of the convenience of a tablet VS. sometimes messy transporting and filling of bleach on small bodies of water. As much as CES loves bleach, sometimes for some sites a tablet works better. As an alternative to Trichlor, we recommend using Pulsar briquettes. They share the same convenience as Trichlor, but add alkalinity instead of "scavenging" it, add calcium promoting proper water balance, and require very little UDA (ultra-dilute muriatic acid) mixture to balance pH.

If you use Trichlor and want to be proactive with Code compliance and to extend the life of your pool equipment, please contact your local CES representative for more information or an on-site review of your pool treatment.

CLUB ATLANTIS TAKES CONTROL

The Club Atlantis Condominium in Miami Beach recently took giant steps toward resolving problems and saving money by taking control of their pool operation.

Maintenance director, Edgardo Verdes, recently attended the AFO class at FIU, and received his AFO License in compliance with DOH Code requirements for certified operators on all commercial pools. He learned a lot.

He learned that he should take another look at how his active 46,000 gallon pool, equipped with cartridge filters, was operated. A pool service cleaned the pool and filled the chemical drums. A very basic overall pool operation plan was

leading to many complaints for himself and Manager Richard De La Rosa.

The pool was treated with Code required automatic (constant feed) chemical feeders and the dispensing of bleach and muriatic acid. They held a reading of 8 PPM to ensure that there was always enough chlorine to do the job. The chemical readings were purple most of the time, making it tough for Edgardo to closely track the actual readings. They used (2) 55-gallon drums of chlorine on a consistent basis and felt that too much time & money was spent chlorinating the pool, and not enough time attending to overall water balance and other issues.

Troy Schaneman, CES's local WQ Consultant, worked with Edgardo and Richard to formulate a plan to take control. First, they took direct control of chemistry with a Strantrol "Setpoint" control system which provided pinpoint control of chlorine and pH 24 hours a day, thus relieving the tedious practice of constant monitoring and hand-adjusting chemicals for proper levels. Next, they converted from the bulky 55-gallon bleach system to a Pulsar P1 chemical feeder. Pulsar provides the chlorine, calcium, and bicarbonate requirements of the pool chemicals in one compact feeder. This alleviated the constant monitoring and addition of calcium chloride and sodium bicarbonate for proper overall water balance and protection of pool finish, heaters, etc. They also purchased a Harmsco deck vacuum to allow quicker pool cleaning. CES labeled all pump room items to simplify operations, trained all operators, and is standing by to support Edgardo and Richard with any further improvements that they wish to pursue.

The results: crystal clear water using 66% less chemicals. They now receive compliments, not complaints of chemical smell and skin irritation. The staff is taking an "active" role in the pool operation rather than operating the pool "via a checkbook". They have developed a consistent routine, are pro-active (not reactive) with pool maintenance and are saving lots of time and hassles.

Congratulations to the staff (and the patrons) at Club Atlantis. They are working to hard to provide "Excellence in Water Quality Control".