

Spa Pools/Hot Tubs/Scandinavian Hot Tubs

Condition 8 of the Licence conditions for a short term let outlines the requirements of the applicant should they provide a Hot Tub/Spa Pool/whirlpool baths. Along with the application the applicant must also send licensing the following:

- completed self-assessment form;
- specific risk assessment and;
- written control scheme for the hot tub.

Please see the following guidance in relation to Hot Tubs:

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/priced/hsg282.pdf>

Further advice on what should be included in the risk assessment and written control scheme is in the appendix of HSG 282 (page 52/53). Guidance is attached on the next page to further assist.

Further technical guidance in relation to legionnaires can be found here:

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/l8.htm>

The following webpage is also useful for understanding the basics in relation to Health and Safety, there is also a template for risk assessments:

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/simple-health-safety/index.htm>

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/simple-health-safety/risk/risk-assessment-template-2019.docx>

Further useful guidance for businesses is available in the book, Hot Tubs for Business by the Pool Water Treatment Advisory Group. This is available at a cost.

Please note- not all guidance is relevant to Scandinavian Hot Tubs please seek professional advice and contact environmentalhealth@east-ayshire.gov.uk if you are unsure.

SAFETY IN SPA POOLS- Further Guidance

Spa pools can be hazardous places if not well managed. The following details highlight some of the hazards and risks that might exist in your spa pool. They are by no means exhaustive and will vary depending on your particular business.

MAIN TYPES OF HAZARDS	
<p>BACTERIA – Pathogenic bacteria and protozoa if allowed to grow and multiply and can lead to disease including Legionella Pseudomonas E coli & coliforms Mycobacterium species</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply an adequate chemical treatment system, ensure chemical parameters are being maintained within recommended limits and dosage adjusted according to no of users • Monitor chemical parameters as per HSG282 – provide details • Ensure the pH is controlled – provide parameters • Carry out microbiological monitoring daily, weekly/between groups, monthly – provide details • If parameters exceeded – provide details • Implement a procedure to deal with faecal contamination of the water – provide details • Ensure all filters are adequately cleaned and maintained - details • Ensure all equipment is regularly serviced and maintained – specify • Check equipment regularly for problems that could affect water treatment • Ensure there is a responsible person controlling the risks • Put in place an emergency call out procedure • Implement a procedure to regularly check clean and disinfect – provide details
<p>LEGIONNAIRES DISEASE The bacteria that causes legionaired disease live in damp warm conditions and cause illness when sprays from contaminated water are inhaled</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A programme of regular disinfection is required – provide details • Water systems should be designed to avoid ling stretches of pipe where water could lie for periods of time • Ensure the responsible person is adequately trained in water treatment and preventing contamination and the growth of pathogenic organisms. They should also be aware of the symptoms associated with exposure and what to do
<p>CHEMICALS Handling chemicals can cause burns and skin irritation and when certain chemicals are mixed can lead to dangerous gases being produced leading to asphyxiation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a written procedure for storage and handling of chemicals including instructions for dealing with spillages – details • Do not decant chemicals in to other unlabelled containers • Train staff in the handling, storage and use of chemicals • Provide staff with personal protective equipment • Keep records of safety data sheets provided by the manufacturer • Ensure chemical storage area is well ventilated • Check dosing systems to ensure they are working correctly
<p>MANUAL HANDLING</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid lifting items which are too heavy • Where possible design premises which limit the need for manual handling

Lifting and moving stock may cause back injury or muscular strain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train staff in proper lifting techniques
<p>POOL WATER There is a risk of users and staff through slipping and falling outside the pool and in the water through drowning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Display appropriate signage on the safe use of the hot tub - details • Set a maximum user load - details • Advise on the risks associated with the temperature of the spa pool – details • Advise on slips and trips on wet surfaces – details • Suitability of water supply – private/mains – testing – details •
<p>ELECTRICITY Accidents and electrical fires are mainly due to misuse of or badly maintained equipment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure all systems and equipment meet current guidelines and regularly inspected and maintained • Provide clear procedures on what to do when there is damaged equipment or electrical failure especially near wet areas - details

SPA POOLS - TYPICAL INFORMATION FOR BATHERS

THIS IS NOT AN EXHAUSTIVE LIST, BUT BATHERS SHOULD

1. Use the toilet and shower before entering the hot tub
2. Keep their heads above the water
3. Seek medical advice if they are pregnant, have health problems or are immunocompromised
4. Supervise all children in and around the hot tub
5. Not allow in children under 4 years of age, and those unable to keep their heads above the water level when sitting
6. Not wear sun tan lotions, spray tans, or skin creams
7. Keep glass and sharp objects away from the hot tub
8. Not use the hot tub after a heavy meal or under the influence of alcohol or sedatives
9. Not exceed 15 minutes immersion at a time
10. Not exceed the maximum number of bathers (one per seat)