



LIFESAVING SOCIETY®
SOCIÉTÉ DE SAUVETAGE

The Lifeguarding Experts
Les experts en surveillance aquatique

Lifesaving Society Canada
287 McArthur Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario K1L6P3
Telephone: 613-746-5694
E-mail: experts@lifesaving.ca Web: www.lifesaving.ca

Safety Standards for Canadian Swimming Pools and Waterfronts Swimming Pool Standard

Breastfeeding in Swimming Pools

Standard

Pool operators shall permit breastfeeding anywhere, anytime in aquatic facilities.

Definitions

Breastfeeding: pumping or expressing milk, as well as nursing directly from the breast.

Rationale

- Aquatic facilities are baby friendly and supportive of a mother regardless of her way of feeding her baby.
- Women have the right to feed their child in aquatic facilities. If breastfeeding, women have rights as nursing mothers, to breastfeed a child in aquatic facilities.
- A woman should not be prevented from nursing her child simply because she is in a public area. Women should not be asked to leave, move or cover up when feeding their child.
- Change rooms and washrooms should not be promoted as breastfeeding rooms, as they are uncomfortable and make breastfeeding awkward.
- If the infant vomits in the pool water, treat as a pool fouling and follow the Standard Operating Procedure. Health inspectors recommend case by case assessment. Evidence would indicate that composition of breast milk spit up is not a health concern.
- Document customer concerns on an Incident Report.

References

- Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedom
- The Ontario Human Rights Commission on Discrimination Because of Pregnancy and Breastfeeding, Approved by the Commission: September 11, 1996, Revised by the Commission: May 26, 1999, October 9, 2001

Approval

- Approved by the Lifesaving Society Canada Board of Directors on 9 March 2015.

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.