



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

Diving Depths Standard

Standard

- During a recreational swim, the minimum water depth for diving from a pool deck that is 500 mm or less above the surface is 2.75 m for a minimum distance of 6 m from the starting point of the dive.
- Refer to FINA standards for safe diving from pool decks 500 mm or higher from the deck or from diving boards, starting blocks and platforms.
- Diving and no-diving areas must be clearly identified.

Definitions

Diving: any head first entry.

Recreational swim: any period where bather's activities are not restricted and where bathers are not under the supervision or direction of an instructor or coach.

Bather: a person whose intent is to use the swimming facility.

Rationale

- Diving poses a risk to bathers entering the water due to potential collision with other bathers, or the bottom or side of the swimming pool.
- There are clear standards regarding water depths from diving boards and platforms, but few that suggest minimum standards from diving from the swimming pool deck.
- To reduce this risk, those choosing to enter the water head first should have sufficient water depth below them to ensure they do not hit the bottom of the pool regardless of the effectiveness of the diving entry.

References

- Various regulatory references from the Canadian Legal Information Institute website (www.canlii.org) which offers regulatory references for all provinces

- FINA standards for diving (www.fina.org)
- Ontario Building Code, section 3.11
- Avis de santé publique sur la sécurité dans les piscines résidentielles et publiques au Québec, 2006 (Safe Kids Worldwide)

Approval

- Approved by the Lifesaving Society Canada Board of Directors on 10 April 2012.

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.