

THE ITALIAN SWIMMING POOL REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

E. Ferretti, L. Bonadonna

Italian National Institute of Health, Department of Environment and Health, Rome, Italy

Aims. On December 2020, an Interregional Working Group, together with the Italian Ministry of Health and the Italian National Institute of Health, was set up to define the discipline of the swimming pool sector and regulate those aspects not yet considered in the Italian 2003 Agreement on this sector.

Regulatory framework and updating activities. The document produced represents an overall framework of the swimming pool sector, which contemplates the essential health and hygiene requirements, includes updates, and harmonises the discipline on a national level while fully respecting the subsequent competences on a regional scale. The proposal potentially lends itself to being channeled into a Ministerial or Interministerial Decree. At the same time, the Italian standard UNI 10637:2015 (mentioned in the new document) is being revised and optimized by the UNI WG11 involving several authoritative Italian experts (e.g., Assopiscine, Italian National Institute of Health, etc.).

Results and conclusions. The main topics updated in respect of the 2003 Agreement:

- Regulation of swimming pools supplied with seawater.
- Regulation of natural pools such as e.g., bio-lakes and bio-pools.
- Inclusion of new tables of parameters for the quality of the supply water, of the pool, of the microclimate and of the substances for the treatment of the pool water.
- Freshwater supply: water from wells or springs with derogations from the requirements of decree for drinking water, transposition of the Directive (UE) 2020/2184, (suitable for recreational use but not necessarily drinking); alternatively supply with water declared in good chemical status in relation to Directive 2000/60/EC criteria.
- Classification of swimming pools in condominiums and residences that, for their collective use and the associated risks, are considered private pools for collective use.
- The definition of private "domestic" swimming pools shall be limited to the exclusive use of family members and their guests. When they are rented out to third parties, they become pools subject to a minimum of regulation regarding risk prevention, in particular to ensure water quality, the essential elements for the safety of bathers and traceability.
- The identification of the figure of the Pool Manager, Responsible for the safety of bathers and the Manager of technological/maintenance systems, as subjects that contribute to the safe management of the pool (in analogy with the 2003 Agreement).
- The implementation of the principles of auto-control in order to reduce also risks connected with the internal distribution systems, according to the article 10 of the Directive (UE) 2020/2184 on priority premises. The proposed document is currently under final review and consultation between the institutional bodies.