

Testing / Supervision

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Recent code changes to FAC 64E-9 no longer allow feeding of Trichlor (isocyanurates) in commercial spas. I think the driving force behind this change was the over use of this type of chlorine; with such a small body of water the stabilizer quickly exceeds recommended allowable levels and, if the service technician wasn't testing it, could exceed several hundred PPM. Thus the code change.

Recently my company has taken over accounts handled previously by other pool service companies. In some cases it had been disappointing to see the chemical levels. A friend of mine bought a house in January that has a pool. It was being serviced by a large service company in our area (which will remain nameless). I checked the pool before he bought/closed on the house. The chlorine was at flash point and the cyanuric acid level was well over a hundred. I suspect the homeowner didn't know that the professional pool service company was keeping the chlorine level at a totally unacceptable level and was damaging the equipment, pool finish and swimmers! After my friend closed I told him I would test the chemical levels because I was curious how long it would go until it needed chlorine. It was March! I suspect that the technician wasn't bothering to test and that they were adding chemicals at the same level as they had been doing all along.

This wasn't the first time I have personally witnessed this happen. Another friend bought a house and that pool went two years on liquid chlorine before the stabilizer level came down to an acceptable level.

Supervising route technicians will become more and more important as our industry installs more expensive equipment, variable speed pumps, motors, salt systems, heaters, etc.! Education in water testing and chemistry will be more and more important as our industry evolves. We expect long lives out of this expensive equipment. The manufacturers expect them to be properly installed and operated within water chemistry parameters that our industry has set to be safe and acceptable. It is up to the service technician to actually test the water and balance accordingly. If we are trying to be a professional industry, demand service charges that allow us to train and equip employees, then this corner cutting with water testing and over use of chemicals can stop!

C.S. Lewis once said, "Integrity is doing the right thing when no one is watching." People without integrity have no place in our industry and we must work together to raise the bar! We don't need government mandating how we do water chemistry ... or do we?