

Date: 18 March 2020

Dear Sir/Madam,

**ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH ACT (EPHA) AMENDMENTS RELATED TO AEROSOL-GENERATING SYSTEMS AND AQUATIC FACILITIES**

The National Environment Agency (NEA) would like to inform all premises owners/occupiers on the upcoming amendments to the Environmental Public Health Act (EPHA) and its regulations for cooling towers, water fountains and swimming pools. The amendments come after a review of the regulations, with an intent to strengthen environmental public health measures.

- 2 Related systems and facilities will be grouped as follows:
  - a. Cooling towers and decorative water fountains are defined under a broader category called “Aerosol-generating Systems” (AGSes); and
  - b. Swimming pools, water playgrounds (including interactive water fountains) and spa pools are defined under a broader category called “Aquatic Facilities” (AFs).
- 3 The new requirements for AGSes and AFs are as follows:
  - a. Mandatory **registration** for AGSes (cooling towers and decorative water fountains)
  - b. Mandatory **licensing** of AFs (water playgrounds including interactive water fountains, and spa pools) in addition to swimming pools
  - c. Mandatory **submission** of water quality test results for AGSes and AFs

The above-mentioned new requirements are currently scheduled to take effect on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 and a six-month grace period will be given for premises owners/occupiers to comply with the mandatory registration and licensing.

4 We would like to inform you that a series of face-to-face briefing sessions will be conducted in the upcoming months for us to share with you more details on the key amendments and new requirements for AGSes and AFs. We will be contacting you again within the next 2 months to arrange for the briefing.

5 If you need any clarification, you may contact our NEA hotline at 6225 5632 or through the feedback form available on the NEA website at <http://www.nea.gov.sg/feedback>, myENV or OneService mobile applications.

Thank you.



Kelvin Lim  
*for* Director  
Environmental Public Health Operations Department  
National Environment Agency

## **FAQs for Aquatic Facilities**

**1. Why does NEA decide to license water playgrounds (inclusive of interactive water fountains) and spa pools?**

Water playgrounds and spa pools are becoming more popular locally and in the interest of public health, NEA has decided to license these facilities. It is for the same reason that swimming pools need to be licensed since 1968.

**2. When will mandatory licensing of water playgrounds (inclusive of interactive water fountains) and spa pools, and submission of water quality results take effect?**

The tentative effective date is 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 and we will make official announcement closer to the implementation date.

**3. Who is responsible to ensure that the AFs are licensed and water quality results are submitted on time?**

Owners/occupiers of the premises where the AFs are installed, are fully responsible for applying of a licence and submission of the water quality results even if they are outsourced to a contractor.

*(You may wish to refer to section 2 of Environmental Public Health Act for interpretations of owner and occupier of premises)*

### **Application of Licences for AFs**

**4. Can owners/occupiers apply for multiple licences in a single application?**

Similar to swimming pool licence application, GoBusiness only allows owners/occupiers to submit separate application for each licence.

**5. Whose CorpPass account should be used to apply for licences?**

The CorpPass accounts of owners/occupiers are to be used to apply for licences.

**6. What is the validity period of the licence?**

The validity period of the licence is 1 year and annual renewal is required.

**7. Will there be a licence fee for aquatic facilities?**

There will be a licence fee to be paid per AF system. One or more AFs sharing the same recirculated water via a common filtration system, constitute one AF system.

**8. Are applications of licences submitted through the same IT system as swimming pools?**

Similar to swimming pools, all applications of aquatic facility licences are to be submitted in GoBusiness which require CorpPass accounts to log into.

**9. Will there be a grace period before NEA starts to take enforcement for operating water playgrounds (inclusive of interactive water fountains) and spa pools without a licence?**

A grace period of 6 months will be provided when mandatory licensing of water playgrounds (inclusive of interactive water fountains) and spa pools takes effect on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021.

**Submission of water quality test results for AFs**

**10. Whose CorpPass account should be used to submit the water quality test results for AFs?**

The CorpPass accounts of either owners/occupiers or SAC accredited laboratories engaged by the owners/occupiers, are to be used for test result submissions. The list of SAC-accredited laboratories can be found at <https://www.sac-accreditations.gov.sg/Pages/Homepage.aspx>.

**11. Will there be a fee for submission of water quality test results for AFs?**

No fee is required for submission of water quality test results for AFs.

**12. Is the process of submitting water quality test results of AFs same as swimming pools?**

Similar to swimming pools, the water quality test results of AFs are to be submitted in GoBusiness.

**13. Besides the water quality parameters required for swimming pools, will there be new water quality parameters required to be tested for other types of AFs?**

There will be new water quality parameters to be included in the testing. NEA will update on the new requirements during the upcoming briefing sessions.

**14. What is the deadline to submit water quality test results?**

Test results for a particular month are to be submitted latest by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the following month. For example, test results in March are to be submitted latest to NEA by 15 April.

**15. Can more than one test results submitted in a single submission in GoBusiness?**

More than one test results can be submitted through bulk upload function in a single submission in GoBusiness.

**16. What happen if failed water quality test results are submitted?**

Immediate remedial actions are required to be taken, after which, re-sampled test results are to be submitted within 30 days from the date of failed result submission.

**17. Will NEA take enforcement actions for late submission of water quality test results?**

NEA will take enforcement actions for non-compliance.

## **FAQs for Aerosol-generating Systems**

**1. Why does NEA require mandatory registration of AGSes?**

This is to provide traceability of AGSes, to support potential disease outbreak investigation and management.

**2. When will mandatory registration for Aerosol-generating Systems (AGSes) and submission of water quality results take effect?**

The tentative effective date is 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 and we will make official announcement closer to the implementation date.

**3. Does it apply to decorative water fountains of all water capacities?**

The legislation only applies to fountains of total water capacity exceeding 250 litres. As water is generally recycled in such water features, nutrients will be accumulated over times that could promote microbial growth leading to potential public health issues.

**4. Who is responsible to ensure that the AGSes are registered and water quality results are submitted on time?**

Owners/occupiers of the premises where the AGSes are installed, are fully responsible for the registration and submission of the water quality results even if they are outsourced to a contractor.

*(You may wish to refer to section 2 of Environmental Public Health Act for interpretations of owner and occupier of premises.)*

### **Registration of AGSes**

**5. Can owners/occupiers register more than one AGSes in a single application?**

Different types of AGSes (cooling towers and decorative water fountains) located within the same premises using the same postal code, can be registered in a single application.

**6. Whose CorpPass account should be used for registration?**

CorpPass accounts of owners/occupiers are to be used for registration.

**7. Is registration still submitted using manual form?**

All registrations will be submitted electronically via NEA e-Portal. The owners/occupiers' CorpPass accounts will be required for log in.

**8. What is the validity period of a registration?**

The registration of any AGS shall remain valid unless there is a change of ownership of the premises where AGSes are installed or when the AGSes are demolished.

**9. What do owners/occupiers need to do if there is a change of ownership of AGSes?**

The owners/occupiers are required to de-register their AGSes in NEA e-portal. The new owners/occupiers are required to register these AGSes in NEA e-portal.

**10. Will there be a fee for registration of AGSes?**

There will be a one-time registration fee to be paid per AGS. The followings are examples of an AGS:

- a) 1 cooling tower system - 1 or more cells sharing 1 common basin
- b) 1 water fountain system - 1 or more fountains sharing the same recirculated water via a common filtration system

**11. Do owners/occupiers need to register interactive water fountains too?**

Interactive water fountains are defined under another broader category known as “Aquatic Facilities” (AFs), in a similar category as swimming pools. Owners/occupiers are required to obtain a licence before being allowed to operate an interactive water fountain.

**12. If owners/occupiers have previously registered their cooling tower(s) through submission of a manual form in Appendix A of Code of Practice for the Control of *Legionella* Bacteria in Cooling Towers, do they still need to register these cooling towers again in e-Portal and pay the registration fee when registration becomes mandatory?**

When the mandatory registration takes effect, owners/occupiers who have previously registered manually are still required, to register through the NEA e-Portal and the registration fee will apply.

**13. Will there be a grace period before NEA starts to take enforcement for non-registration?**

A grace period of 6 months will be given when the mandatory registration takes effect on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021.

**Submission of water quality test results for AGSes**

**14. Whose CorpPass account should be used to submit the water quality test results for AGSes?**

The CorpPass accounts of either owners/occupiers or SAC accredited laboratories engaged by the owners/occupiers, are to be used for test result submissions. The list of SAC-accredited laboratories can be found at <https://www.sac-accreditations.gov.sg/Pages/Homepage.aspx>.

**15. How do owners/occupiers submit water quality test results to NEA?**

The water quality test results will be submitted using NEA e-Portal.

**16. Will there be a fee for submission of water quality test results for AGSes?**

No fee is required for submission of water quality test results for AGSes.

**17. Besides Standard Plate Count and *Legionella* bacteria count, will there be new water quality parameters required to be tested?**

There are no additional water quality parameters required to be tested. Standard Plate Count will be replaced by Heterotrophic Plate Count.

- a. Heterotrophic Plate Count is to be tested and submitted to NEA monthly.
- b. *Legionella* bacteria count is to be tested and submitted to NEA every 3 months.

**18. What is the deadline to submit water quality test results?**

Test results for a particular month are to be submitted latest by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the following month. For example, test results in March are to be submitted latest to NEA by 15 April.

**19. Can more than one test results be submitted in a single submission?**

A standard template through bulk upload function in the NEA e-Portal can be used to submit more than one test results.

**20. What happens if failed water quality test results are submitted?**

Immediate remedial actions are required to be taken, after which, re-sampled test results are to be submitted within 30 days from the date of failed result submission.

**21. Will NEA take enforcement actions for late submission of water quality test results?**

NEA will take enforcement actions for non-compliance.