



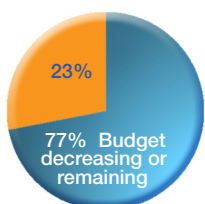
# SMOOTH OPERATOR

### Equipment Difficult to Operate



76 percent of owners and operators who had to shut down their facility cited the equipment that regulates water quality as difficult to operate.

### Shrinking Budgets



77 percent of the owners and operators surveyed believe training budgets will decrease or remain the same during the next two years.

**Better training and understanding of pool equipment may leave aquatic facilities more capable of handling anticipated and stricter water quality regulations.**

### TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Results from a recent survey of pool owners and operators conducted by the Accu-Tab® system group of Axiall Corporation found that staff and personnel responsible for maintaining and operating pools may be lacking adequate training on water quality equipment. In addition, many owners and operators are not routinely informed about the latest health codes and regulations set forth by their state government. Some specific findings were:

- 20 percent of pool owners and operators questioned reported that they had to shut down their facility due to a concern over water quality. Where lack of consistent training may be a factor, 76 percent of these owners and operators cited the equipment that regulates water quality as difficult to operate\*.
- Of the remaining 80 percent of pool owners whose facilities were not shut down, only 51 percent said that same equipment was difficult to operate\*.

If the equipment that regulates water quality is operated inconsistently, operators may be unknowingly putting their patrons at risk for recreational water illnesses (RWIs).

Additionally, 72 percent of aquatic facilities believe new regulations may be enacted to detect the presence of cryptosporidium and other RWI factors\*. Facing more regulations like these and not being completely up-to-date on existing codes and regulations can spell difficulty for pool owners who depend heavily on staff to maintain a safe and healthy environment for patrons.

### STAFF AND BUDGETS PART OF THE PROBLEM

Limited communication among staff members at a large facility, high employee turnover rates—especially at seasonal facilities—and multiple responsibilities assigned to the same person (i.e. building maintenance, landscaping and pool care) at small facilities might explain the limited awareness of the latest codes and regulations for pool and water safety.

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\* Survey of > 100 commercial swimming pool owners/operators conducted by Axiall Corporation, in 2009.



# SMOOTH OPERATOR

**OTHER RESOURCES:**

- National Swimming Pool Foundation (NSPF) [www.nspf.com](http://www.nspf.com)  
Consider The Pool Operator Primer™, an online course offered by NSPF. This course can be taken as a standalone class or as part of a certified training program.
- The Association of Pool & Spa Professionals [www.apsp.org](http://www.apsp.org)
- Professional Pool Operators of America [www.ppoa.org](http://www.ppoa.org)
- NSF International [www.nsf.com](http://www.nsf.com)  
NSF Pool and Spa Equipment Program

**ABOUT ACCU-TAB SYSTEM ADVISORIES**

Accu-Tab System Advisories are a series of informational bulletins highlighting issues of critical importance to the recreational water industry. The information and corresponding action steps in these advisories are based on primary research garnered from a survey of qualified commercial pool owners and operators throughout the United States.

Part of Axiall's comprehensive Accu-Tab System Advisor Series, these Advisories are designed to help commercial pool owners and operators make informed decisions in operating their recreational water facilities more safely, effectively and efficiently. For more information about the Accu-Tab System, please visit [www.accu-tab.com](http://www.accu-tab.com).



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Owners and operators agree that training is crucial to maintain facility viability, but 77 percent of surveyed owners and operators believe that training budgets will decrease or remain the same during the next two years. In addition, maintenance costs continue to rise as new laws (e.g, Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act) force pools to make updates to comply.

Many owners believe that training needs to occur on-site. Eighty-three percent of surveyed owners and operators believe that on-the-job training best prepares pool operators and those who work with them. In fact, on-the-job training, ranked higher than Certified Pool Operator (CPO) certification, state-level training or a technical school degree.

## ACTION STEPS

In order to better ensure that pools run efficiently and safely, owners need to make maintenance and training a year-round/on-going process. By segmenting the pool season into three parts—pre-season, in-season and post-season—owners can better manage the process of maintenance and training.

Pre-season Activity	In-season Activity	Post-season Activity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check all electrical and plumbing systems</li> <li>• Conduct annual training programs: <i>Have the manufacturer's representatives conduct staff training as they inspect, clean and calibrate all feeders and controllers</i> <i>Require at least one key member of the staff to take a Certified Pool Operator (CPO) or Aquatic Facilities operator (AFO) course.</i> <i>Invite local health officials to the pool to review codes with staff.</i></li> <li>• Comply with NSF/ANSI 50 Standards—74 percent of health inspectors check for this compliance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inspect all equipment on at least a weekly basis. Make sure all equipment is running properly, is clean and there are no leaks.</li> <li>• At least once a month, do a quick review with staff on equipment operation.</li> <li>• Set up a regular routine for checking pool water and pay special attention to pH and chlorine measurements.</li> <li>• Keep the pool's log in a specified location and stress the importance of logging accurate records.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disassemble all of the equipment and clean it.</li> <li>• If equipment is outdoors, make sure all of the water is drained and dried to prevent freeze damage.</li> <li>• Prepare for next season. Attend any training sessions and stay informed on any updates to regulations and health codes from state governments on water quality.</li> </ul>

These steps are intended as a basic overview of maintenance practices and do not include all necessary operator actions, which may vary by recreational water facility. Facilities should contact their chemical or equipment provider or manufacturer for more comprehensive information. In addition, owners and operators should maintain regular contact with local health department personnel to stay current on new or changing state and local aquatic regulations.

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