



COUNTY OF DUTCHESS

DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL AND COMMUNITY HEALTH
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Dear Pool Operator:

The Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health would like to bring to your attention that the use of cyanuric acid in public swimming pools is prohibited in New York State. Many of you use liquid sodium hypochlorite or solid-state calcium hypochlorite tablets as primary disinfectant in the swimming pools you operate. As you may be aware, cyanuric acid and the other chlorine-stabilizing compounds are available through industry vendors for private pools. However, Section 6-1.11(c)(4) of the New York State Sanitary Code prohibits the use of this product for public pools because it reduces the disinfection potential of the free chlorine.

State Sanitary Code Subpart 6-1.11(c)(4): "Use of cyanuric acid-based chlorine (or any other chlorine stabilizer) is prohibited. Pools found using or containing any cyanuric compound shall be closed, drained, and refilled prior to use."

To determine if a product has cyanuric acid, check the label or MSDS. Look for phrases such as "cyanurates", or "stabilized chlorine". It is also possible to detect cyanuric acid with a special pool test kit. Cyanuric acid cannot be removed from pool water by adding products such as flocculants. It is only reduced by dilution, and fully removed by draining and refilling the swimming pool.

Chlorine stabilizers inhibit the disinfection power of free chlorine in the swimming pool environment. People may be shedding pathogenic bacteria and viruses when they use the swimming pool. Chlorine at the correct level can disable and eliminate most pathogens introduced into the water. However, stabilizers take away the effectiveness of chlorine to protect swimmers. Bacteria and viruses in the pool may persist, putting the next swimmer at risk for contracting an infection. This is particularly of concern with pathogens such as *Cryptosporidium*.

Should you operate a public pool and have used cyanuric acid or stabilized chlorine or have used these products in the past, please notify the health department representative assigned to your facility. The district office numbers are listed below:

Poughkeepsie Office	845 486 3404
Millbrook Office	845 677 4001
Beacon Office	845 838 4801