

Float Tanks

Guidelines for Regulating Floatation Systems as Special Use Pools



Purpose

This document establishes guidelines for construction, plan reviews, inspections, and operations of FLOATATION SYSTEMS as Special Use Pools in Washington State. Chapter 246-260 WAC specifically identifies “sensory deprivation tanks” (synonymous with FLOATATION SYSTEMS) as one example of special use pools (WAC 246-260-091(7)). This document provides guidance for the DEPARTMENT and LOCAL HEALTH OFFICERS to apply construction and operation criteria to each FLOATATION SYSTEM facility on a case-by-case basis. It also serves as a guidance document for FLOATATION SYSTEM facility owners to obtain information about what the health and safety regulations and expectations may be as they relate to such facilities. The DEPARTMENT may modify this guidance when more information becomes available. Words in caps are defined in the glossary at the end of this document.

FLOATATION SYSTEM History and Description

The concept of sensory deprivation and the effect on the human body and mind have been under study since the late 1950s. Through various modifications and re-designing, a modern version is now available for personal and commercial use. This type of system has grown in popularity in the last half decade.

A typical FLOATATION SYSTEM is a POD (a prefabricated unit) or a CABIN (a small room constructed on site), which contains approximately 150 to 200 gallons of water with about 800 pounds of Epsom salt (magnesium sulfate) dissolved in it. The concentration of the salt is near saturation, and it has a specific gravity of approximately 1.25. This characteristic of the water provides more buoyancy to the bather, helping them to float more easily. The water is typically a foot deep or a little less. The surface area of the water varies depending on the type of the system, but is usually large enough to accommodate one adult person to comfortably lie down and float. The water is kept at human skin temperature. Only one person enters the system at a time and floats facing up quietly. The intent of the experience is to eliminate as much external stimulation to the musculoskeletal system by creating a weightless environment, helping the bather to relax. Other types of sensory inputs are also reduced or eliminated by enclosing the system within a lightproof, soundproof POD or CABIN. One session typically lasts about one hour.

Challenges in applying Chapter 246-260 WAC to FLOATATION SYSTEMS

There are challenges in applying many of the water recreation facilities code requirements to FLOATATION SYSTEMS due to the unique nature of these systems which differ from conventional swimming pools and spas. These include:

1. FLOAT WATER is saturated with Epsom salt and the total dissolved solids concentration is extremely high because of it. The concentrated salts change the physical and chemical characteristics of the water.
2. Primary disinfectants (chlorine or bromine) are required by Chapter 246-260 WAC for the purpose of inactivating recreational water illness pathogens. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has informed the DEPARTMENT that chemical disinfectants, including but not limited to chlorine and bromine (which are registered for use in swimming pools and spas) and hydrogen peroxide, are not allowed in FLOATATION SYSTEMS according to the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). However, the EPA has also stated that disinfection devices have different product labeling requirements, and devices such as UV lamps, ozonators, and advanced oxidation devices may be used in FLOATATION SYSTEMS if the manufacturer of such devices states in writing that the device will function as intended in the proposed FLOATATION SYSTEM environment.
3. Conventional pool water test kits used to evaluate water conditions may not provide accurate measurements of disinfectants, pH, alkalinity, and calcium hardness in FLOAT WATER due to a high concentration of Epsom salt. Other testing equipment may be required to measure water parameters in FLOATATION SYSTEMS.

4. A necessary feature of floating is to provide a very quiet environment. Therefore, the recirculation system is turned off while a bather is in the system. This creates a challenge to the requirement for continuous water treatment stipulated in Chapter 246-260 WAC.
5. Most FLOATATION SYSTEMS are designed as enclosed spaces without active ventilation. Some modifications may be required to prevent the accumulation of potentially harmful airborne chemicals arising from TREATMENT METHODS and other sources. The need for a quiet atmosphere adds to the challenge of providing more active ventilation.
6. FLOATATION SYSTEMS are seldom drained and refilled due to the cost associated with starting a new batch of FLOAT WATER. Currently, one pound of Epsom salt costs about one dollar. Frequent draining and refilling of FLOATATION SYSTEMS is cost-prohibitive.
7. Floating in the dark creates concerns for a safe exit from the TANK, especially at unexpected times.

The Application Process

NOTE: All requirements listed in this guidance document provide a general standard that the DEPARTMENT expects each FLOATATION SYSTEM facility to meet on a case-by-case basis. The DEPARTMENT or LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER may require fewer or more items if it is deemed reasonable or necessary depending on a particular case. Applicants should consult their LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER for specific requirements in their county.

1. Before the construction of a FLOATATION SYSTEM facility begins, the owner is responsible for sending a complete construction review (plan review) application package to the DEPARTMENT or LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER. The application package shall contain all the information necessary to demonstrate that the proposed facility meets the requirements in the "Construction Guidelines" and "Operation Guidelines" sections of this guidance. The DEPARTMENT or LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER will review the application for approval or denial.
2. When construction is complete, a construction report signed and stamped by an engineer or an architect currently licensed in the state of Washington (if required) shall be sent to the DEPARTMENT or LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER. The owner will notify the DEPARTMENT or LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER of the completion of construction and schedule an inspection(s) as required by the DEPARTMENT or LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER.
3. Once the DEPARTMENT or LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER finds that the facility has been constructed according to the plans, the owner may apply for an operating permit(s). An operating permit(s) must be obtained before opening the facility to the public.
4. During the entire period of operation, the owner is responsible for ensuring that the facility is operated in accordance with the requirements in the "Operation Guidelines" of this guidance and other requirements specified by the LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER. Each LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER will have their own inspection schedules, enforcement procedures, and other licensing requirements. The owner should consult their LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER for more details.

Applicability of Chapter 246-260 WAC to this Guidance

Each section in this guidance is accompanied by a section number(s) from Chapter 246-260 WAC. These section numbers indicate which parent sections were used to write the sections in this guidance.

1. Some parent sections were taken almost verbatim (**Verbatim**).
2. Some parent sections were modified (moderate to extensive) to suit the characteristics of FLOATATION SYSTEMS (**Modified**).
3. Some parent sections were completely revised to only reflect and meet the intent of the parent sections (**Intent**).

I. Construction Guidelines

- A. **Construction permit:** Prior to construction, alteration, or modification of a FLOATATION SYSTEM facility, the owner shall obtain a construction permit. In order to obtain a construction permit, the owner shall submit a completed application package to the DEPARTMENT or LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER for review and approval. **The application package shall include (WAC 246-260-021(1) (Verbatim)):**
1. A completed construction permit application form obtained from the DEPARTMENT or LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER. The form includes a written statement by the owner that states **the owner understands and accepts the potential health risk and responsibilities associated with allowing bathers to bathe in FLOAT WATER that is treated by unproven FLOAT WATER TREATMENT METHODS. The owner must also agree to close a FLOATATION SYSTEM to the public if the water quality does not meet the bacteriological standards provided in the Operation Guidelines of this document or the DEPARTMENT or LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER determines that the FLOATATION SYSTEM is not safe for bathing (WAC 246-260-021(1)(a) (Modified) and WAC 246-260-111(1),(2), and (4) (Modified) and WAC 246-260-131(10) (Modified)).**
 2. A document obtained from the device manufacturer stating that the device(s) used to treat FLOAT WATER work(s) effectively and safely (WAC 246-260-031(17) (Intent) and WAC 246-260-111(1), (2), and (3) (Intent)).
 3. Three sets of plans and specifications prepared and stamped by an engineer or an architect currently licensed in the state of Washington that are drawn to scale with adequate details including items a through d listed below. (NOTE: If the proposed FLOATATION SYSTEM is a pre-manufactured type, a Washington State licensed engineer or architect's stamp is not required. However, engineered plans for the FLOATATION SYSTEM shall be required from the manufacturer with their engineer's stamp and signature. Plans for the rest of the facility may be prepared in a professional manner by a competent draftsman.) (WAC 246-260-021(1) and (2) (Modified))
 - a. FLOATATION SYSTEM drawing and design:
 - i. The dimensions and volumes of the TANK and RESERVOIR (if used), inlets, outlets, and water line.
 - ii. Materials used.
 - iii. Handrails and stairs.
 - iv. Pipe size, piping schematics, and equipment configuration.
 - v. Design flow rate and turnover rate.
 - vi. Equipment schedule (specification sheets).
 - vii. Electrical plan (pump operation, treatment device interlock, and alarm systems).
 - b. Equipment room plan (if present)
 - i. Equipment and piping plans.
 - ii. Materials used.
 - iii. Lighting and ventilation.
 - c. FLOAT TANK ROOM plans
 - i. Materials used.

- ii. Shower.
 - iii. Toilet (if provided).
 - iv. Lighting and ventilation.
 - d. Site plan showing the entire facility
 - i. Materials used.
 - ii. Public restrooms.
 - iii. Entrances and exits.
 - iv. All doors and windows (meeting barrier requirements).
 - v. Location of an emergency phone.
 - vi. Location of a hose bibb.
 - vii. Lighting and ventilation.
- 4. All operation plans as applicable and specified in item D of the “Operation Guidelines” in this guidance ([WAC 246-260-131 \(Modified\)](#)).
- 5. Source of potable water and method of adding water to the TANK(s) ([WAC 246-260-031\(15\) \(Modified\)](#)).
- 6. Method of waste water disposal and written verification from the wastewater utility acknowledging and agreeing to receive magnesium sulfate-saturated water in an amount equal to the volume of the TANK(s). If there are multiple TANKs, a rotational or diluted disposal arrangement with the wastewater utility may also be required and documented on the verification of acceptance of the wastewater ([WAC 246-260-031\(21\)\(i\) \(Modified\)](#)).
- 7. User advisory statement prepared by the owner according to item B-2 of the “Operation Guidelines” in this guidance. (**No section provided in WAC 246-260** that directly relates to this requirement. However, it is important that the general public be informed about a TREATMENT METHOD that is not widely established.)
- 8. A letter from an approved laboratory certified by the Washington State Department of Ecology stating that the laboratory is willing to test FLOAT WATER samples according to item B-1 and B-4 of the “Operation Guidelines” in this guidance ([WAC 246-260-111\(2\), \(5\), and \(8\) \(Modified\)](#)).
- B. **Barriers:** An operation plan or physical barriers must be provided to exclude unauthorized access to FLOATION SYSTEMS, especially to keep unsupervised children out of the TANK(s) in order to prevent unintended drowning. Specific plans or physical barriers will be evaluated by the DEPARTMENT or LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER depending on the specific circumstances at the facility on a case-by-case basis ([WAC 246-260-031\(4\) \(Intent\)](#)).
- C. **Pumps:** Pumps must be adequately sized to achieve four volumetric turnovers before each bather and at the end of the business day ([WAC 246-260-031\(9\) \(Modified\)](#)).
- D. **Equipment and chemical storage rooms:** Equipment, equipment rooms, and chemical storage rooms (if provided) shall meet the following requirements ([WAC 246-260-031\(14\) \(Modified\)](#)):
 - 1. Sufficient space shall be provided to maintain all equipment and for inspections by the DEPARTMENT or LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER.
 - 2. The owner shall provide a separate chemical storage area or room that conforms to the manufacturer's recommendations for each chemical used.

3. The equipment and equipment/chemical storage rooms must be inaccessible to the public when unattended by the operator.
 4. These rooms must have flooring that is non-slip and chemical resistant, in both design and materials.
- E. **Filters:** Filters must be adequately sized to achieve four volumetric turnovers before each bather and at the end of the business day, and must be designed properly to remove all unwanted debris from the water ([WAC 246-260-031\(16\) \(Modified\)](#)).
- F. **Flow meters:** A flow meter with a proper range for the design flow rate must be installed according to the flow meter manufacturer's specification for each FLOATATION SYSTEM in order to accurately measure the flow rate of the recirculation system ([WAC 246-260-031\(16\)\(ii\) \(Modified\)](#)).

G. FLOAT WATER TREATMENT METHODS:

1. **Background:** The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has informed the DEPARTMENT that (a) currently, there is no disinfectant chemical (including chlorine and bromine products) that are registered for use in FLOATATION SYSTEMs, and (b) off-label use would be a violation of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). Therefore, application of any chemical disinfectants in a FLOATATION SYSTEM is not allowed in Washington State until such chemicals are properly registered with the EPA and Washington State Department of Agriculture. However, the EPA has also informed the DEPARTMENT that devices are regulated differently from chemicals, and devices such as UV lamps, ozonators, and advanced oxidation devices may be used in FLOATATION SYSTEMs if the manufacturer provides a statement in writing that the device will function as intended in the proposed FLOATATION SYSTEM environment.
2. **Options:** The owner must choose a TREATMENT METHOD from the list below and the manufacturer of the device must provide a written statement of its performance, efficaciousness, and safety when the device is applied to FLOAT WATER ([WAC 246-260-031\(17\)\(a\) \(Intent\)](#) and [WAC 246-260-111\(3\) \(Intent\)](#)).
 - a. UV device.
 - b. Ozonator.
 - c. Advanced oxidation device.
 - d. Any combination of the above devices.
 - e. Any other TREATMENT METHOD approved by the DEPARTMENT or LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER.
3. **Requirements:**
 - a. The TREATMENT METHOD must maintain water quality for bacteriological standards as specified in item B-1 of the "Operation Guidelines" in this guidance ([WAC 246-260-111\(1\), \(2\), and \(5\) \(Modified\)](#)).
 - b. TREATMENT METHOD devices must be electrically interlocked with the pump so that whenever the pump is turned off, the devices are also turned off ([WAC 246-260-031\(18\) \(Intent\)](#)).
 - c. When an ozonator is used, the following equipment is required ([WAC 246-260-031\(17\)\(j\) \(Modified\)](#)):
 - i. A calibrated ozone detector (hand-held types are acceptable) capable of providing an accurate reading of atmospheric concentrations of ozone in the range of 0.0 to 0.1 ppm within six inches above the FLOAT WATER, where the bather's face usually is.

- ii. When an ozonator using the corona discharge method is present, a calibrated ozone detector that is hardwired (non-battery-operated) must be provided adjacent to the ozonator, according to the manufacturer's recommendation, to detect any ozone gas leak. The ozone detector must trigger an audible alarm when it detects atmospheric ozone concentrations of 0.1 ppm or higher.
- H. **Ventilation:** Air quality must be maintained according to the local building code and as specified below ([WAC 246-260-031\(19\) \(Modified\)](#)):
 - 1. Adequate air removal must be provided to create a negative pressure in the FLOAT TANK ROOM(s) as opposed to COMMON AREAS in order to prevent excess moisture build-up in FLOAT TANK ROOM(s).
 - 2. At least a passive ventilation must be provided within TANK(s) to prevent build-up of potentially harmful airborne chemicals.
- I. **FLOAT TANK ROOMS:** The owner must provide the following ([WAC 246-260-031\(3\) \(Modified\)](#)):
 - 1. Flooring design and materials that are impervious, non-slip, and chemical resistant.
 - 2. Easily cleanable surfaces.
- J. **Restrooms, showers, and plumbing fixtures:** The owner shall provide these personal hygiene facilities and plumbing fixtures according to the local building code, and must include ([WAC 246-260-031\(21\) \(Modified\)](#)):
 - 1. At least one toilet, hand sink, and hand wash supplies in each facility, or within 50 feet of the facility entrance.
 - 2. A shower in each FLOAT TANK ROOM with hot water (not to exceed 120° Fahrenheit) and soap.
 - 3. A hose bibb provided in the facility for the addition of potable water to TANK(s) and for cleaning the facility.
- K. **Lighting:** The owner shall provide adequate overhead lighting for safety including emergency evacuation, cleaning, and maintenance as follows (light intensity measured on the floor) ([WAC 246-260-031\(23\) \(Modified\)](#)):
 - 1. At a minimum, capable of producing 20 foot candles or more in each FLOAT TANK ROOM.
 - 2. 20 foot candles or more in the equipment room and chemical storage room.

II. Operation Guidelines

- A. **General cleanliness:** The owner must maintain the facility and keep the equipment clean and in good repair ([WAC 246-260-111\(4\)\(b\) \(Modified\)](#) and [WAC 246-260-131\(10\) \(Modified\)](#)).
- B. **Water quality standards, user advisory, treatment, and sample collection:**
 - 1. **Bacteriological standards:** The owner must maintain FLOAT WATER quality according to the following criteria. For laboratory testing purposes, items (a and b) or (a and c) in the following list must be performed ([WAC 246-260-111\(2\) \(Modified\)](#)).
 - a. Heterotrophic plate counts may not exceed two hundred bacteria per milliliter.
 - b. Total coliform may not exceed an average of one coliform per sample of one hundred milliliters when using the membrane filter test.
 - c. Total coliform may not exceed 2.2 bacteria per sample of one hundred milliliters of water when using the most probable number (MPN) method.

2. **User advisory statement:** The owner must provide a user advisory to all bathers in writing that describes the following points clearly. (No section provided in WAC 246-260 that directly relates to this requirement. However, it is important that the general public be informed about a TREATMENT METHOD that is not widely established.)
 - a. Currently there is no chemical disinfectant for FLOATATION SYSTEMS that is registered with the United States Environmental Protection Agency.
 - b. FLOAT WATER is treated for health and safety as approved by the DEPARTMENT and LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER.
 - c. It is not certain whether the TREATMENT METHOD is or is not effective.
 - d. FLOAT WATER quality is monitored by periodic bacteriological testing.
3. **Treatment:** FLOAT WATER shall be treated with a minimum of four volumetric turnovers before each bather and four volumetric turnovers at the end of an operating day in order to achieve adequate filtration and a thorough and even application of the TREATMENT METHOD. Only one bather is allowed in the TANK at a time due to the fact that FLOATATION SYSTEMS are not continuously recirculated and treated (WAC 246-260-051(4) (Modified)).

Important Note: Recirculation systems must not be turned on while the bather is in the TANK to minimize a suction entrapment hazard. The mechanism to turn the recirculation systems on and off must be inaccessible to the public, and must be carefully operated by a trained staff member, according to the pump operation plan, to prevent injury.

4. **Sample collection:** Bacteriological sampling of FLOAT WATER (WAC 246-260-111(1), (2), and (5) (Modified)) and WAC 246-260-131(11) (Modified)).
 - a. The owner must take a FLOAT WATER sample from each TANK once a month for the first six months of opening the business. The sample must be tested at a laboratory approved by the DEPARTMENT or LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER to ensure that the bacteriological standards are met. Upon successive compliance with the bacteriological standards for six months, testing frequency may be reduced to every six months thereafter.
 - b. The owner shall abide by the sampling procedures specified by the laboratory.
 - c. The owner shall take samples that are representative of the usual condition of the FLOAT WATER. In order to ensure this, the owner must take samples of FLOAT WATER that has been in use for at least ten sessions.
 - d. A copy of the results of all tests must be shared with the DEPARTMENT for record keeping and analyses of the effectiveness of TREATMENT METHODS. This will assist the DEPARTMENT in making future recommendations and decisions.
 - e. Another copy of the results shall be shared with LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER for monitoring, corrective actions as a response to the violation of the bacteriological standards, and other licensing requirements.
 - f. The results of all tests shall be shared with the DEPARTMENT and LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER within 48 hours of obtaining the results and must accompany the following information:
 - i. Facility contact information.
 - ii. The date the sample was taken.

- iii. Which TANK the sample was taken from (a unique identifier such as an assigned number or name).
 - iv. The TANK volume and the specific gravity (density) of the FLOAT WATER.
 - v. The name of the person who collected the sample.
 - vi. The total number of sessions that have taken place since the last drainage.
 - vii. The type of TREATMENT METHOD(s) used.
 - viii. All additional information provided by the laboratory.
- g. The owner shall close the FLOATATION SYSTEM to the public immediately after obtaining test results indicating a violation of bacteriological standards specified in this subsection. The owner shall contact the LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER to discuss options for mitigation prior to re-opening. The DEPARTMENT shall be notified of the mitigation for data tracking and analysis purpose.

C. **Monitoring, recording, recordkeeping:** The owner shall measure and record the following items as specified below and keep the records on site for at least three years ([WAC 246-260-111\(8\) \(Modified\)](#) and [WAC 246-260-121\(3\) \(Modified\)](#) and [WAC 246-260-121\(4\) \(Verbatim\)](#)):

1. At the end of every recirculation cycle:
 - a. Atmospheric ozone concentration in ppm within 6 inches above the FLOAT WATER (if an ozonator is in use).
 - i. If the atmospheric ozone concentration as described above exceeds 0.05 ppm, the FLOATATION SYSTEM must be closed to the public, and the emergency response plan must be followed.
2. Daily for each FLOATATION SYSTEM:
 - a. Specific gravity results.
 - b. Solution temperature (see definition of FLOAT WATER for a proper temperature range for FLOATATION SYSTEMs).
 - c. Flow rate of the recirculation system while the pump is running.
3. As these events occur:
 - a. Any contamination incidents and remediation taken.
 - b. Any maintenance performed (including draining and refilling).
 - c. Ozone leak incidents detected by an ozone meter.

D. **Operation plans:** The owner shall have written operation plans for the following. The DEPARTMENT and LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER must be notified before the owner makes changes to these plans ([WAC 246-260-131\(1\) \(Modified\)](#)).

1. **Pump operation plan:** provides the procedures regarding turning on and turning off the recirculation pump for each FLOATATION SYSTEM in the facility in order to prevent accidental operation of the pump when bathers are in the TANK.
2. **Contamination response plan:** provides details on how contamination events are responded to in a FLOATATION SYSTEM with feces, vomit, blood, sewage, or hazardous or unknown material (including

immediately closing the TANK to the public, draining the TANK, cleaning and sanitizing the TANK surfaces and other affected areas until free of the hazardous material).

3. **Emergency response plan:** The owner shall have a written emergency response plan and periodically review the plan in order to effectively respond to emergencies such as injury, sudden illness, fire, UV lamp breakage, toxic gas leakage, and natural disasters. The owner shall provide the following on site at all times.
 - a. A telephone within the facility.
 - b. A fully stocked standard sixteen-unit first-aid kit.
 - c. A blanket reserved for emergency use.
 4. **FLOAT WATER treatment plan:** explains how FLOAT WATER remains clean and safe for the bathers. The following information must be included in this plan.
 - a. Devices that treat the FLOAT WATER and how they are maintained. These include but are not limited to UV lamps, ozonators, advanced oxidation devices, and filters.
 - b. Routine maintenance and calibration of TREATMENT METHODS and testing devices.
 - c. The duration of recirculation and the number of volumetric turnovers between bathers and the design flow rate.
 - d. Any chemicals or physical means used to control pH, to oxidize the FLOAT WATER, or any other purpose not directly related to the TREATMENT METHOD.
 - e. Routine cleaning inside the TANK between bathers.
 - f. The method and frequency of complete drainage of each TANK and RESERVIOR, cleaning procedures, and refilling with fresh potable water and Epsom salt.
 5. **Bacteriological testing plan:** includes the following information.
 - a. The contact information for the laboratory chosen.
 - b. Sampling protocol specified by the laboratory.
 - c. How samples are collected and what equipment is used to collect samples.
 - d. When samples are collected.
 - e. Who collects the samples.
 - f. How the results of tests will be shared with the DEPARTMENT and LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER.
 - g. How the owner will respond to test results that do not meet the bacteriological standard.
- E. **User agreement/acknowledgement:** The owner shall provide a page in writing to bathers with the following rules, and have them agree and sign the page before first-time use at the facility ([WAC 246-260-131\(5\)](#) (Modified)).
1. Prohibiting use by anyone with a communicable disease (including communicable skin or respiratory disease) or anyone who has been ill with vomiting or diarrhea within the last two weeks.
 2. Requiring everyone to have a cleansing shower before and after the floating session.
 3. Advising patrons that anyone with seizure, heart, or circulatory problems to consult their physician before use.

4. Prohibiting use under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

F. **Required personnel:** A FLOATATION SYSTEM facility must have an operator on site during all hours of operation who is adequately trained to operate the facility and manage other staff according to the operation plans ([WAC 246-260-131\(6\) \(Modified\)](#)).

Glossary of Terms

“CABIN” means a small room designed to house a FLOAT WATER vessel not to exceed 18 inches in depth.

“COMMON AREAS” means areas outside of the FLOAT TANK ROOM for activities such as customer reception, waiting areas, restrooms or retail areas.

“DEPARTMENT” means the Washington State Department of Health.

“FLOAT TANK ROOM” means the room immediately surrounding the TANK or next to the CABIN with the intended use of changing clothes and showering before and after each float.

“FLOATATION SYSTEM” is the unit of system necessary for sensory deprivation whether it be a POD, CABIN, or other designs, including the FLOAT WATER treatment components in an equipment room or the FLOAT TANK ROOM, but not including the FLOAT TANK ROOM or other surrounding structures.

“FLOAT WATER” means potable water with the addition of Epsom salt to achieve a specific gravity of approximately 1.23 – 1.3 and a temperature range of approximately 92°F to 96°F (33.3°C to 35.6°C)* or as approved by the DEPARTMENT or LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER.

“LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER” means the health officer of the city, county, or city-county department or district, or a representative authorized by the local health officer.

“POD” means a pre-manufactured or site manufactured vessel holding approximately 150 to 200 gallons of water and dissolved magnesium sulfate not to exceed 18 inches in depth.

“RESERVOIR” means a remote vessel where FLOAT WATER is moved to for treatment. Ultimately, this RESERVOIR is equivalent to the volume to be discarded when replacing the FLOAT WATER.

“TANK” means the vessel holding approximately 150 to 200 gallons of water and dissolved magnesium sulfate with a maximum depth of 18 inches in which a bather floats.

“TREATMENT METHOD” means a method proposed by the owner to reduce disease causing microorganisms that escape through the filtration system in order to bring the FLOAT WATER to a safe level. These methods include devices such as UV lamps, ozonators, advanced oxidation systems, and salt chlorine generators.

“UV” means ultraviolet light.

Terms referenced from the Floatation Tank Association’s document, *“North American Float Tank Standard Version 2, January, 2017.”*