

## Electrically Non-Conductive/Insulated Reaching Pole

Lifesaving Society Standard Approved by the Ontario Board of Directors, May 5, 2022

### Standard

Every owner and every operator of a public pool other than an owner or operator of a wave action pool, and every owner and operator of a public spa that has an inner horizontal dimension greater than three metres, shall: ensure that there is at least one electrically insulated or non-conducting reaching pole at least 3.65 metres long provided in a place conveniently located for emergency use.

### Definitions

**Insulated:** protected by interposing material that prevents the loss of heat or the intrusion of sound or covered in non-conducting material to prevent the passage of electricity.

**Non-conducting:** denoting a substance that does not conduct heat or electricity.

**Non-conductive tape:** a barrier used to protect against transfer of any electrical current passing through a conductor to people or components potentially coming into contact with it.

### Background/Rationale

Reaching poles are commonly required by public pool regulation and used in rescue situations in pools and on waterfronts. To ensure the safety of bathers and rescuers, devices like reaching poles are required to be composed of a material that is not conductive to electrical energy from sources like underwater lights. Commonly, this is done by either ensuring the reaching pole is composed of a non-conductive material like fiberglass, or by completely wrapping it in an insulated material such as non-conductive tape.

## Implementation

The Lifesaving Society recommends operators install reaching poles as required by regulation. These reaching poles can be made of non-conductive materials such as fiberglass or insulated using non-conductive tape.

Steps should be taken to ensure reaching poles that are insulated with non-conductive tape are completely wrapped with the tape, and that the tape is overlapping on the reaching pole, and that weekly inspections of these reaching poles are completed and logged.

## Disclaimer

Lifesaving Society Safety Standards are developed using Coroners' recommendations, the latest evidence-based research, and reflect the aquatics industry's best practices at the time the publication was approved.

The purpose of these standards is to encourage swimming pool, waterpark and waterfront owners, managers, operators and regulators to adopt these standards, in order to prevent drownings in aquatic environments.

Lifesaving Society Safety Standards do not replace or supersede local, provincial/ territorial legislation or regulations, but they are considered the standard to which aquatic facility operators should work towards, in order to enhance safety within their operations and to prevent drowning.

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