



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

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Division of Public Health

February 13, 2020

MEMORANDUM

TO: Registered Environmental Health Specialists, Program Supervisors, and Managers

FROM: Alice Isley, Program Manager
Pools, Tattoos, and State Institutions

SUBJECT: Guidance regarding electrical safety during pool inspections

As part of the permitting and inspection of swimming pools by the local health department (LHD), environmental health specialists (EHS) are required to enter the equipment room and visually inspect the pump/motor. It is always best to avoid touching any pool equipment in the equipment room however, field verification of the Drain Safety Data Sheet requires the EHS to come into close proximity of the pump/motor to verify the horsepower and model number of the equipment.

Before review of the pump / motor can begin a visual inspection of the copper bonding wire should be done to ensure it is intact, attached and undamaged. The electrical power supply wire for the motor should not be wrapped in electrical tape or connected with wire nuts. Every time the bonding wire is reconnected to the motor an electrical inspection is required by law. The reconnection must be done by a licensed electrician.

If an EHS sees any problems with the bonding wire, they should immediately leave the equipment room and inform the pool operator they cannot finish the inspection because a potentially dangerous condition exists.

A pool permit cannot be issued under these circumstances. If the pool has a valid permit, the conditions found should immediately be reported to building inspections for that jurisdiction. The inspection should not be completed until the electrical inspection takes place. If a data safety sheet shows a new pump has been installed, verify through building inspections that an electrical inspection has been completed prior to scheduling the inspection.

This guidance should be used moving forward. Contact your Environmental Health Regional Specialist if you have any further questions.

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