

**Mission:**

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



**Ron DeSantis**  
Governor

**Scott A. Rivkees, MD**  
State Surgeon General

**Vision:** To be the **Healthiest State** in the Nation

September 29, 2020

Certified Number: 9590 9402 4839 9032 0578 39

Mr. James Ramsey, Owner  
Superior Float Tanks  
431 West 25<sup>th</sup> Street  
Norfolk, Virginia 23517

RE: Swimming Pool/Bathing Place Statewide Variance Request, Application #3385  
Superior Float Tanks Epsom Salt Pod/Tank Special Purpose Pools

Dear Mr. Ramsey:

The Advisory Review Board for Swimming Pools and Bathing Places reviewed your application for variance on November 13, 2019. When a variance is requested, the Advisory Review Board considers whether the hardship was caused intentionally, whether a reasonable alternative exists, and whether the health and safety of pool patrons are at risk.

The operation and design construction of the float rooms and float tanks as submitted are in violation of the requirements of Florida Administrative Code (FAC) Chapter 64E-9, and the Florida Building Code (FBC) Chapter 4, section 454.1 set forth as follows:

FAC/FBC Chapter	Requirement
64E-9.004(5)	Recirculation system must operate any time pool is open
454.1.2.1 (a)	Water line tile requirement; floor and wall color must be white or light pastel
454.1.2.2.4	The minimum water depth shall be 3 feet
454.1.2.3.5	Pool rules sign
454.1.2.5	Access shall consist of ladders, stairs, recessed treads or swimouts
454.1.3.1.2	Clear deck width, deck slope
454.1.3.2	Overhead obstruction clearance of 4 feet from water surface
454.1.4.2.2	Lighting requirements for indoor pools
454.1.5.5	Equipment enclosure must have minimum 3 x 6-foot opening
454.1.5.7	Equipment area lighting must provide 30-foot-candle
454.1.6.1	Unisex restrooms must include a urinal
454.1.6.5.1	NSF/ANSI Standard 50-certified recirculation filter is required
454.1.6.5.10.5	Main drain must be connected to a collector tank

- 454.1.6.5.11 Automatic makeup water control
- 454.1.6.5.14 Heater must be plumbed with a bypass and influent & effluent valves
- 454.1.6.5.16 Automatic feeders for disinfection and pH control required
- 454.1.6.5.16 NSF/ANSI Standard 50-certified disinfectant feeder is required
- 454.1.6.5.16.4.2 Ozone generating equipment shall meet NSF/ANSI Standard 50
- 454.1.6.5.16.4.2 NSF/ANSI Standard 50-certified Ozone generator is required
- 454.1.6.5.16.4.4 Air flow meter required for ozone system
- 454.1.6.5.16.6 (3) UV validation requirements by USEPA method
- 454.1.6.5.16.6 (3) USEPA method to validate UV light disinfection is required
- 454.1.6.5.3.2.5 6-inch water line tile required for skimmer pools
- 454.1.6.5.6 Plastic pipe used in the recirculation system shall be imprinted with the manufacturer's name and the NSF-pw logo for potable water applications.

The Board recommended to approve of the variance application request for a statewide variance for the manufacturer Superior Float Tanks. The variance, as approved applies for the following products and equipment as named in the application:

- PRODUCT Open Floataround; Dimensions: Exterior diameter: 96"W x 18"H
- PRODUCT Serenity Open Float Pool by Floataway; Dimensions: Exterior diameter: 120"W
- PRODUCT Quest Float Suites (Sloped/Domed with changed Door placement)  
Interior: 94"L x 52"W x 88"H; Exterior: ~99"L x ~57"W x 90"H
- PRODUCT Quest Float Suite Deluxe  
Interior: 94"L x 78"W x 88"H; Exterior: ~99"L x ~80"W x 90"H
- PRODUCT Revolution Float Orb Pod:  
Exterior: 108"L x 68"W x 16-28"H wall and ~50" H lid
- EQUIPMENT
  - Cl/Br Feeder: Pentair Rainbow™ Model 320, or Stenner brand feeder
  - Pump: Iwaki MX400-CV6 (CMD-441) or Pentair 011772 Whisperflow, (45 gpm ea)
  - Filter: Pall polyloc bag filter in FSI X100 vessel (45 gpm), or Pentair CC100 filter (37.5 gpm)
  - Flowmeter: FloVis saline
  - Inline heater: Hydroquip C2300 titanium
  - Piping, tees and valves: Schedule 40 NSF- pw
  - Surface Skimmer(s): 1 or 2 Balboa model 31990, each flow rated at 22 gpm CMP return jet inlets with adjustable orifice (January 7, 2015 Eng. Report)

I concur with the Advisory Review Board recommendation to approve the variance application as previously specified, with the following provisos:

1. **Before an operation permit can be granted** by the Department of Health (DOH), **the owner shall provide to the DOH** office in the county where the pool is located and the DOH Bureau of Environmental Health either: the UL certificate of compliance for Standard # 1563, Standard for Electrical Spas, OR evidence of the final electrical inspection for the special purpose pool(s); this will be an approved electrical inspection to show compliance with the Florida Building Code grounding and bonding requirements of FBC Chapter 4, section 454.1.10.4 for public pools, OR other evidence acceptable to the jurisdictional building department official. The inspection shall be conducted by the local building department electrical inspector or by a Florida state-licensed electrician. Email digital copy of approved inspection report to the Bureau of Environmental Health Water Programs email: PoolInspectRequest@FLHealth.Gov.

2. **The owner will ensure** that the recirculation treatment system provides complete water treatment for at least three (3) full water volume turnovers between each patron's float session manually or by electronic controls as follows:

<b>Special Purpose Pool (w/ 2 skimmers)</b>	<b>Volume</b>	<b>Time: 3 Turnovers</b>
Floataround and Open Floataround at 11" deep	317 US Gallons	27.5 minutes
Open Serenity at 11" deep	434 USG	37.5 minutes
Quest Float Suites at 10" deep ( <b>1 skimmer</b> )	175 USG	24 Minutes
Quest Float Suite Deluxe at 10" deep	250 USG	20 minutes
Revolution Float Orb Pod at 10" deep	165 USG	20 minutes

Each pool shall be equipped with a timer to ensure the turnover requirement is met.

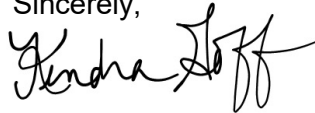
3. Fecal indicator bacteria testing shall be initiated by owner **within seven (7) days** of opening the float facility to the public. The pool owner shall use a DOH-certified water laboratory to test for and enumerate E. coli bacteria in a 100-mL water sample collected from each special purpose pool. Samples shall be collected twice, once per week for two (2) consecutive weeks after several client's float sessions on that day. **Within one (1) day of receipt** of lab test results the pool owner shall email DOH digital scanned (or photographed) copies of the lab testing report and this shall include the owner's pool water chemistry test results for halogen (chlorine or bromine) residual and pH taken at the time of water sample collection. Email info to the Bureau of Environmental Health Water Programs email: PoolInspectRequest@FLHealth.gov
4. The applicable standards for suction outlet drain covers and equipment area safety features required in section 514.0315, Florida Statutes, have been met with the existing anti-entrapment devices for daily use of this special purpose public pool by the manufacturer. To remain in compliance, the one (1) or two (2) Superior Float Tank Surface Skimmer drain anti-entrapment covers must be maintained fully functional over the operational life of the special purpose pool(s) by the pool owner.
5. The **pool owner must provide** entrance/exit access for a step riser above 10" outside of the special purpose pool, with a support handrail or grab bar within reach of the float room door entrance/exit.
6. At least 4 feet of wet deck area **must be maintained** as available for patron egress in front of the float room entrance/exit opening by the facility owner or operator.
7. The **owner must provide** a code-compliant pool rules sign with posted inside the float device room. Font may be reduced to ½ inch from the code requirement. The sign shall include the following language as written in FBC sections 454.1.2.3.5- 1., 5., 7., and 454.1.8.13- 1., 3.: *No food or beverages in pool or on pool wet deck; ... Shower before entering.; ... Do not swallow the pool water; ... Maximum water temperature: 104°F (40°C); ... Pregnant women, small children, people with health problems and people using alcohol, narcotics or other drugs that causes drowsiness should not use a float tank without first consulting a doctor.*
8. The **use of hydrogen peroxide for residual disinfection of water is prohibited**. The **halogen feeder shall be maintained in good operating order**. The halogen feeder installed in accordance with swimming pool code requirements for the special purpose pool(s) precludes the need for either an ultraviolet light system or an ozone generating system to be certified to

NSF or USEPA criteria. The DEL AOP 50 Ozone and UV device(s) provided by manufacturer shall be considered only as an optional supplemental oxidizer system.

9. A 'change list' documenting any operational and equipment corrections and any DOH-approved or Building Official-approved equipment replacements made to the float room(s) shall be provided to the DOH Bureau of Environmental Health office at the email address listed in proviso #3 above **within 7 days** of completion. This document shall provide the make and model numbers of any equipment installed on the float room(s) that is not listed in this variance.
10. Applicant has submitted documents and laboratory tests proving a slip resistant floor is in place in accordance with the FBC definition at section 454.1. Tank floors are manufactured with diamond-shapes that are upward extruded/embossed in plastic for flooring texture. Tanks sold by Superior Float Tanks and made by FloatAway also have an approved, code-compliant slip resistant floor made with upward extruded/embossed capital letters 'F' on the floor.
11. Any changes from the representations made in the variance application and subsequent documents submitted for this variance approval by the manufacturer or the owner to any dimensions, components, water treatment systems, or to any equipment shall be approved in advance by the DOH Bureau of Environmental Health, or the existing variance for that model is no longer valid. This does not apply to for like-for-like repairs.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please call August Ursin at 850-901-6517.

Sincerely,



Kendra F. Goff, PhD, DABT, CPM, CEHP  
State Toxicologist & Chief

KFG/jt

cc: Stefica Depovic, DOH-Hernando County  
Joya McCarty, DOH-Leon County