

27 August 2020

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Lauren Hudson
Parks and Recreation
5706666
Lauren.hudson@huttcity.govt.nz

Dear [REDACTED],

Request for Information – Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987

We refer to your official information request dated 11 August 2020 for information regarding cleaning at Huia pool.

Please find your questions answered below.

1. Was a risk assessment carried out before the practice of applying cleaner to the tiles and hosing them down while people are swimming was begun?

This is a common practise within all of our Aquatic Facilities that has been performed for many years. This is listed as a permanent controlled hazard, however I have asked Huia Pool Management to perform a new risk assessment for the practise, to cover performing this cleaning duty.

2. What was the outcome of that assessment?

See above.

3. Does pool management know how much chemical is going into the pool when this cleaning is done?

Yes, Pool Management is aware of how much is going into the pool when cleaning is performed. It is 300ml of chemical solution to 10L of water.

4. What is the chemical used to clean the tiles?

There are two chemicals that we use to clean floors, walls and showers in the facility. These are:

1. Electrolytic Sodium Hypochlorite 0.96% solution.

This is a form of Chlorine and we use it to treat our pools. It is generated on site in our plant filtration rooms. It is not classified as a dangerous good under NZ 5433:2012. It is used to clean floors and walls.

2. Bathroom Cleaner Shower Shine Maxkleen

Used to clean showers and tiled surfaces on poolside and in changing rooms. Listed with a toxicity rating of 0 (= minimum) under the Chemwatch Hazard Ratings.

5. Does it pose any risk to human health if ingested and/or if there is direct skin contact (i.e. by people walking in it with bare feet as they get into the pool)?

No, this does not pose any risk to human health; it is heavily diluted when being used for cleaning purposes. If undiluted could possibly be mildly irritating to the skin. However these products are not used in this way in our facilities.

6. How much would it cost to have one lifeguard do the twice weekly tile cleaning in the evening once the pool is shut?

Given the size of the facility to get all tiles surfaces cleaned in the evening it would take two lifeguards over 5 evenings, starting at 10.30pm at night.

\$24,960 per annum.

7. If pool management are not willing to discontinue the practice of the twice-weekly cleaning while people are swimming, please advise why not.

After investigating this incident, it was found that our cleaning regime had not been followed as expected. As per our facility duties schedule tiled surfaces on the poolside concourse should be cleaned between 5am-5.30am for the main pool Monday – Friday.

Considering the size of Huia Pool and volume of people that use the facility, especially since Naenae Pools closure we need to maintain facility cleanliness on a regular schedule. Pool Management have worked out the most appropriate times for these to be performed, based on peak/off peak times and pool hirers. This is reviewed on a regular basis.

In the current conditions with the COVID-19 Pandemic cleaning and hygiene regimes are also heightened, in line with government regulations for pools to operate through Alert Levels 1 and 2.

If you have any issues with our response or wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact me on 04 5706666.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

Lauren Hudson
Aquatic Facilities Manager
Hutt City Council