



LIFESAVING SOCIETY®
SOCIÉTÉ DE SAUVETAGE

The Lifeguarding Experts
Les experts en surveillance aquatique

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Safety Standards for Canadian Swimming Pools and Waterfronts Swimming Pool Standard

Rope Swing Installation Standard

Standard

When installing a rope swing, every owner and every operator shall ensure that:

1. The rope swing be installed over a landing zone where the minimum depth of water is not less than:
 - 2.5m (8.2ft) where the bather starts from a launch point that is not greater than 1 metre in elevation above the water surface with a foot first entry into the water.
 - 3.2m (10.5ft) where the bather starts from a launch point that is not greater than 1 metre in elevation above the water surface where a head first entry into the water is permitted.
 - 3.8m (12.5ft) where the bather starts from a launching point that is greater than 1 metre up to a maximum 3 metres in elevation above the water surface where any type of entry is permitted.
2. A sign of rope swing rules, using universal symbols and simple language, be posted on a vertical surface adjacent to the rope swing in a conspicuous easy-to-read location. Rules should include: user requirements (e.g. swimming ability), release point, bather entry options (foot first restrictions if stipulated), applicable facility specific rules and any other restrictions as indicated by the manufacturer or local safety authorities.

Definitions

Landing Zone: a dedicated area where the bather enters the water after releasing or dismounting a rope swing ride or apparatus

Launch Point: a predetermined safe location where a rider engages with a ride or apparatus.

Release Point: a predetermined safe location where a rider disengages from a ride or apparatus.

Rope Swing: a rope connected to a structure over water that is designed to swing bathers from a launch point out over a designated water landing zone, where the bather releases and enters the water.

Rationale

A rope swing is a relatively modest play feature commonly offered at swimming facilities. Behind the apparent simplicity of a rope swing is critical safety and engineering installation factors. The marketplace lacks clear instructions for safely installing and using rope swings. To ensure the safety of bathers, the Lifesaving Society provides this guidance on the installation of rope swings.

Implementation

In addition to the criteria specified by this standard, pool owners and operators must ensure that installation of a rope swing is safe by careful evaluation and implementation of the following:

1. Structural, Design and Operational Requirements

Engineering Certification: Prior to the installation of a rope swing, the materials, configuration, and the proposed structural location used to support the rope swing should be certified by a licensed structural engineer.

Safe Location: The rope swing must be positioned to avoid conflicts with other activities, both in and around the pool. Effective use of delineators such as lane ropes and other markers is advised.

Trajectory: The design of the rope swing must account for the maximum extension of the swing, including the travel arc, rider momentum, and all potential release points, to ensure users do not hit pool walls, decks, or other structures.

2. Maintenance

Inspection: A comprehensive, written preventive maintenance plan must be in place and outlined in the Aquatic Safety Plan.

Safety Checks: Regular inspections by a maintenance specialist or materials expert are needed to check for structural wear to the rope, hardware and structural supports, including but not limited to: the platform and/or launching point, ancillary equipment, ceiling connection system(s), and for potential damage due to wear such as rope fraying, rust, mould, and rot. All regular safety inspections should be documented and retained on site.

References

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Approval

- Approved by the Lifesaving Society Canada Board of Directors on 18 September 2017.
- Revised and approved by the Lifesaving Society Canada Board of Directors on 14 September 2026

Disclaimer

Lifesaving Society Canada's National 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 Canada's National Safety Standards do not replace or supersede local, provincial/territorial or federal 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.