

# QUALIFIED SWIMMING POOL WATER TREATMENT OPERATOR COURSES AND CERTIFICATIONS

*for Operation of NYS Swimming Pools and Recreational Aquatic Spray Grounds*

## Fact Sheet – January 2026

(Go to [health.ny.gov](https://health.ny.gov) to view most current certification list)

A qualified swimming pool water treatment operator is required to maintain pools larger than 3,000 square feet in surface area, or pools disinfected using gas chlorine and all recreational aquatic spray ground facilities.

Qualified swimming pool water treatment operator certifications shall be valid for the time period specified by the certifying agency and must be maintained current.

The following are adequate courses of instruction regarding the safe and effective operation and maintenance of pool treatment equipment as specified in Section 6-1.2(l)(2) of [Subpart 6-1](#) and Section 6-3.2(e) of [Subpart 6-3](#) of the New York State Sanitary Code:

Provider	Certification Title
American Swimming Pool and Spa Association	Licensed Aquatic Facility Technician (LAFT) Certificates indicating completion of an <b>online or hybrid</b> LAFT course are <b>not acceptable</b> .
City of New York Parks & Recreation	Swimming Pool Operations Certification is <b>only accepted for</b> swimming pools and recreational aquatic spray grounds operated by the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation.
National Recreation and Park Association	Aquatic Facility Operator (AFO)
Pool & Hot Tub Alliance	Certified Pool & Spa Operator Certification
Starfish Aquatics Institute	AquaTech
Swimming Pool and Spa Association	Pool Operator's Certificate – Certificate must state Valid in the State of New York.