



**LIFESAVING SOCIETY®**

*The Lifeguarding Experts*

## **LIFEGUARD CHAIRS/STANDS**

### **NL POSITION STATEMENT**

*Updated July 2012*

#### **STATEMENT:**

**The need for lifeguard chairs or stands must be based on factors such as facility design, bather load, patron age and activity. The important outcome is that the pool is under complete and vigilant surveillance at all times. Whether that is best done from the pool deck, a lifeguard chair/stand or a combination is a matter of best judgement from an experienced lifeguard, supervisor and/or pool manager at that facility.**

#### **STATEMENT RATIONALE:**

The increased height of surveillance provided by lifeguard chairs or stands is valuable in some circumstances, however, the emergence of the leisure-based facility and the evolution of customer service in aquatics have changed the behaviour of lifeguards at deck level. These changes have fundamentally altered lifeguarding practices to not only enhance patron interaction and preventative communication, but also to allow for more deck movement and a potentially higher level of vigilance and supervision. In addition, deck lifeguards are often more accessible in case of emergency than those in a lifeguard chair.

In some circumstances, the use of a lifeguard chair/stand may be necessary. For example, in a multi-pool facility with a leisure pool of a non-rectangular design and a high bather load, a lifeguard chair may be deemed appropriate. Depending on supervisor judgement, there could be advantage to an 'overseeing' lifeguard in an elevated chair in addition to several mobile lifeguards on deck.

By contrast, a 6 lane by 25 metre pool may be effectively guarded by vigilant mobile deck lifeguards ensuring there are no blind spots. Eliminating blind spots includes the deck lifeguard being close to pool edge as moving away from the edge creates a blind spot at the pool wall. The mobile deck lifeguard represents the more modern approach and allows for movement to avoid glare, boredom, etc. The deck lifeguard is also more patron-friendly and better able to provide preventative action than the lifeguard in an elevated chair or stand.

If a portable lifeguard chair is used, it must be available and accessible when required and must be stable and non-slip. Staff inservice training should include procedures for the optimum and safe use of a lifeguard chair if it is determined that its use is required.

#### **REFERENCE:**

Alert: Lifeguarding in Action (page 14-16, 162-163)

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