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Safeguarding 0 to 4 year old children within the teaching of swimming, including any associated professional photography – Code of practice



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Foreword

This PAS was sponsored by Water Babies, The Amateur Swimming Association (ASA) and Splash About International Ltd. Its development was facilitated by BSI Standards Limited and it was published under licence from The British Standards Institution. This PAS came into effect on 31 September 2015.

Acknowledgement is given to the technical author Steve Franks, from Water Babies, and Jon Glenn (ASA) and Bernadette Spofforth (Splash About International Ltd) who constituted the technical drafting panel.

In addition, acknowledgement is given to the following organizations/individuals that were involved in the development of this PAS as members of the steering group:

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- The British Society of Underwater Photographers
- Chartered Institute for the Management of Sport and Physical Activity (CIMSPA)
- Marriott Hotels
- NSPCC/Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU)
- Perkins Slade
- Royal Life Saving Society UK
- The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents
- Splash About International Ltd
- Swimming Nature
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- Water Babies

Acknowledgement is also given to the members of a wider review panel who were consulted in the development of this PAS.

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This PAS is not to be regarded as a British Standard. It will be withdrawn upon publication of its content in, or as, a British Standard.

The PAS process enables a code of practice to be rapidly developed in order to fulfil an immediate need in industry. A PAS can be considered for further development as a British Standard, or constitute part of the UK input into the development of a European or International Standard.

Use of this document

As a code of practice, this PAS takes the form of guidance and recommendations. It should not be quoted as if it were a specification and particular care should be taken to ensure that claims of compliance are not misleading.

Any user claiming compliance with this PAS is expected to be able to justify any course of action that deviates from its recommendations.

Use of this document

It has been assumed in the preparation of this PAS that the execution of its provisions will be entrusted to appropriately qualified and experienced people, for whose use it has been produced.

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Presentational conventions

The provisions of this PAS are presented in roman (i.e. upright) type. Its recommendations are expressed in sentences in which the principal auxiliary verb is "should".

Commentary, explanation and general informative material is presented in italic type, and does not constitute a normative element.

The word "should" is used to express recommendations of this standard. The word "may" is used in the text to express permissibility, e.g. as an alternative to the primary recommendation of the clause. The word "can" is used to express possibility, e.g. a consequence of an action or an event.

Notes are provided throughout the text of this standard. Notes give references and additional information that are important but do not form part of the recommendations.

Contractual and legal considerations

This publication does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.

Compliance with a PAS cannot confer immunity from legal obligations.



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Introduction

There is a clearly defined need to promote the underpinning skills, knowledge and competencies required to ensure that the management of swimming schools who specialize in teaching babies and toddlers to swim (0–4 years specifically), are complying in full with current good industry practice and standards. At the same time, it is important that the management of such schools adopt adequate safeguarding measures that address health and safety, poor practice and minimizing the risk of abuse specific to recognized teaching pre-fundamental aged children.

Additionally, those specialist swimming schools that engage in the photography of pre-fundamental aged children as part of their service offering and/or programme might also seek to comply with industry good practice in terms of the technical competencies required of those managing the photo shoot, including accredited qualifications for photographers and approved codes of practice for the installation and use of portable equipment in and around an aquatic environment.



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1 Scope

This PAS gives recommendations for all providers of the teaching, and/or associated photography, of 0 – 4 year old children at the pre-fundamental stages of swimming.

It covers all aspects of operating, managing and development of a commercial swimming business or programme in this specialist area and clearly addresses the safeguarding of the end user.

This PAS does not cover the safeguarding of children over the age of 4 years of age. Nor does it cover photography that is separate to the teaching of swimming, or the safety/suitability of buoyancy/toy equipment other than that which is used for the teaching and/or photography of children aged 0 – 4 years.

2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

Standards publications

BS EN 13138-1, *Buoyant aids for swimming instruction — Safety requirements and test methods for buoyant aids to be worn*

BS EN 13138-2, *Buoyant aids for swimming instruction — Safety requirements and test methods for buoyant aids to be held*

BS EN 13138-3, *Buoyant aids for swimming instruction — Safety requirements and test methods for swim seats to be worn*

BS EN 13451-1, *Swimming pool equipment — General safety requirements and test methods*

BS EN 15288-2, *Swimming pools — Safety requirements for design*

Other publications

[N1] HSG179, *Managing health and safety in swimming pools*

[N2] STA policy, *Baby swimming policy*

[N3] ASA policy, *Wavepower 2012/15*

[N4] Pool Water Treatment Advisory Group, *Swimming pool water treatment and quality standards for pools and spas*