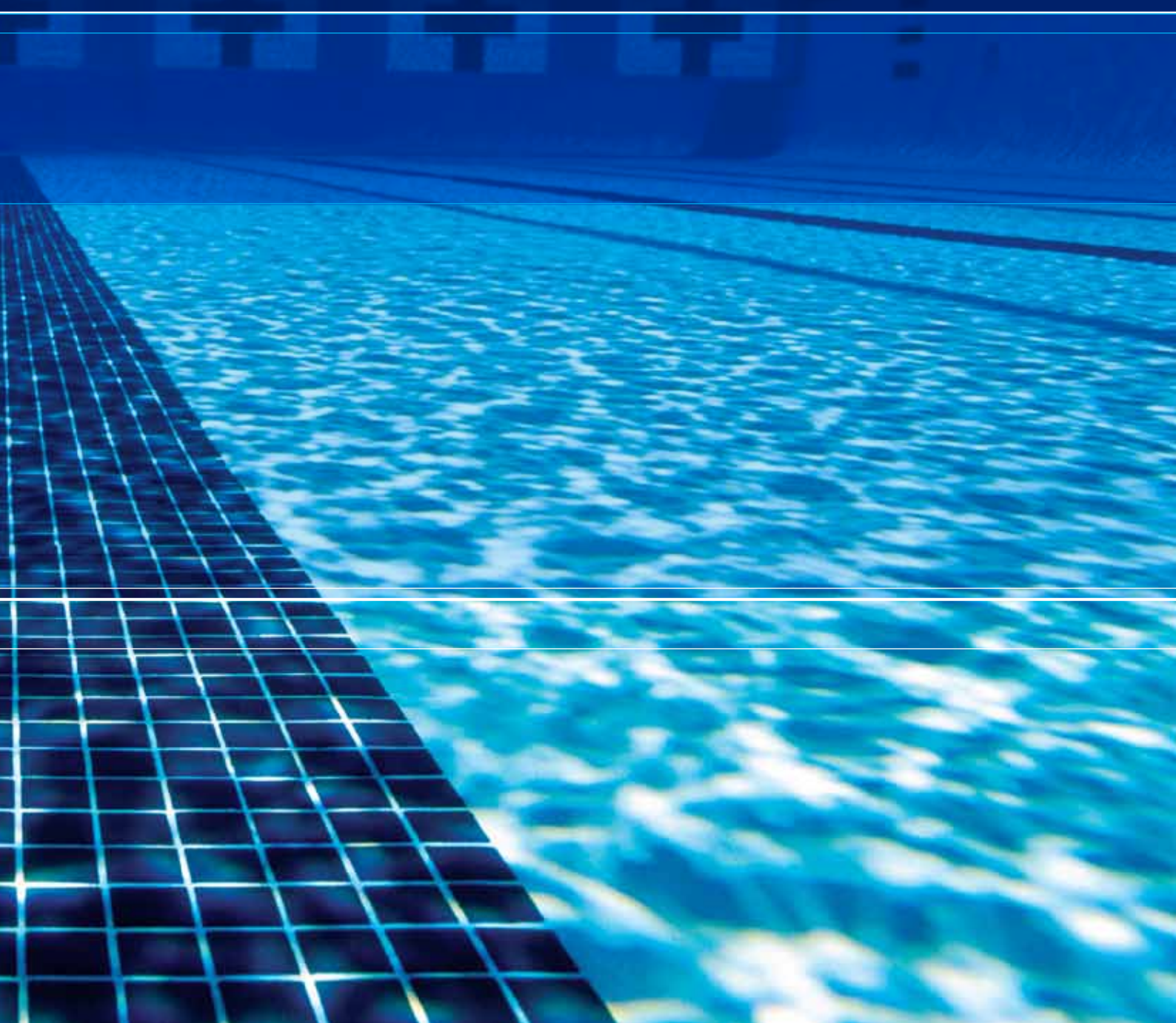


State of the Industry

2010

A report from Royal Life Saving on the state of the Aquatics Industry in Australia in 2010.



State of the Industry

About Royal Life Saving

Royal Life Saving Society – Australia works to prevent drowning and facilitate healthy, active lifestyles by equipping all Australians with water safety skills.

There is no one reason Australians drown, so there is no one simple solution. For that reason, our approach needs to reflect the complexity of the range of issues that result in drowning deaths.

To make sure we reach all Australians, wherever they are and wherever they live, we tackle these goals using an all encompassing approach, designed to meet our stakeholders' diverse needs, beliefs and values.

Royal Life Saving is driven by:

- Innovative, reliable, evidence-based health promotion and advocacy;
- Strong and effective partnerships;
- Quality programs, products and services;
- Continuing as a committed national organisation.

For the past 115 years, Royal Life Saving has worked to harness the strengths of the communities we work with to reduce drowning and turn everyday people into everyday community lifesavers.

As a dynamic, not-for-profit organisation, our tangible areas of activity include:

- Advocacy and awareness-raising
- Education
- Training
- Health Promotion
- Aquatic Risk Management
- Community Development
- Research
- Lifesaving Sport
- Leadership and Participation
- International partnerships.

Our guiding values are safety, quality, integrity and a humanitarian tradition. To ensure we stay in tune with the needs of the diverse communities that make up Australia, we maintain an office in every State and Territory capital city, as well as a network of regional offices.

Vietnamese rock fishermen, remote Indigenous communities, Arabic-speaking youths and children in Bangladesh are just some of the diverse groups who have benefited from our dedication.

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1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2010 State of the Industry report continues Royal Life Saving Society – Australia's long standing commitment to improving risk management and safety outcomes across the Australian Aquatic Industry. Monitoring compliance, highlighting best practice and partnering with the operators of aquatic facilities to improve standards are critical components of this commitment.

The 2010 State of the Industry report analyses the results of 428 Aquatic Facility Safety Assessments (AFSA), covering 352 facilities and conducted in the three years to March 2010. The AFSA is intended to assess performance against a possible 227 individual measures of risk management and safety compliance.

As in the 2008 State of the Industry report, this report seeks to identify patterns and trends in compliance and non-compliance, and make recommendations that provide guidance to industry groups, facility owners, facility operators and insurers.

The report identifies an overall improvement in the mean safety score and level of compliance across the three years to March 2010, with the period 1st April, 2008 to 31st March 2009 reporting the strongest results. The following recommendations are made with consideration to the results presented in this report:

1. It is recommended that a policy of regular external auditing via the AFSA be adopted by operators as part of a facility's risk management strategy.

First time compliance rates are a cause of concern with analysis of these facilities showing significantly lower levels of compliance. Facilities who had an annual assessment reported a mean compliance more than seventeen percent higher than first time facilities. Currently the AFSA reaches approximately 35 percent of industry meaning that the 65 percent of facilities that are yet to participate in the AFSA may be those most needing an increased focus on risk management and safety compliance.

These results reinforce Royal Life Saving's recommendation that a policy of regular external auditing via the AFSA be adopted by operators as part of a facility's risk management strategy. The importance of this policy must be emphasized to those facilities yet to undertake such an assessment.

2. It is recommended that Royal Life Saving engage in consultation with facility operators to identify further strategies that may improve the use of signage at aquatic facilities.

Although a number of resources are available to supplement the recommendations of the GSPO, signage continues to be an area of concern for the aquatics industry with signage related items consistently reporting ten percent lower than that of all items for the three year period assessed.

3. It is recommended that changes to the AFSA be implemented to establish a detailed classification of aquatic facilities.

Further information should be sought regarding the operating conditions of aquatic facilities across Australia to establish a classification of aquatic facilities. A detailed classification of aquatic facilities will provide opportunities for the aquatics industry and Royal Life Saving to identify challenges isolated to specific operating conditions and provide services targeted to address these challenges. It will also enable identification of those facilities who are demonstrating leadership in aquatic risk management and whose initiatives can be adapted to benefit those facilities confronted with similar challenges.

4. It is recommended that a representative sample be established to assess the accuracy of the results of the AFSA as a measure of the state of the industry.

A representative sample would comprise a number of facilities from a range of classifications to provide an indication as to how those facilities who have undertaken an AFSA compare with the remainder of the industry.

In releasing the 2010 State of the Industry report, Royal Life Saving seeks to continue its industry engagement activities and build partnerships aimed at improving safety compliance. Studies such as this provide industry with an essential profile to gauge or benchmark individual performance, as well as providing Royal Life Saving, industry groups and Government with a basis for future policy development.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

The Guidelines for Safe Pool Operation (GSPO) was first published by Royal Life Saving in 1991 and is widely considered the standard for safety in commercial and public swimming pools across Australia. An ongoing review process has ensured the GSPO remains up to date with current legislation and practices through the contribution of expert personnel and key industry stakeholders. The Aquatic Facility Safety Assessment (AFSA) is a tool utilized by Royal Life Saving and aquatic facility operators to assess the application of the Guidelines for Safe Pool Operation. The results of AFSAs conducted in the three years to March, 2010 have been used to produce the 2010 State of the Industry report by providing a measure of the performance of the Australian aquatics industry.

The 2010 State of the Industry report will address a number of key areas of interest to the aquatics industry that are reflected in the data obtained by means of the AFSAs conducted in the period from April 2007 through to March 2010. The report is divided into two parts to assess the following objectives:-

Part A

1. To provide a measure of the current state of the industry compared with previous years.
2. To identify specific areas of concern from the results of the AFSAs conducted over the last three years.

Part B

1. To assess the value of a policy of regular external auditing via the AFSA.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 The Aquatic Facility Safety Assessment

There are twelve sections in the Aquatic Facility Safety Assessment and each section is comprised of a number of questions directly related to the application of the Guidelines for Safe Pool Operation to an individual aquatic facility. Depending on the varied infrastructure at each aquatic facility, different sections and questions are activated or deactivated where they apply.

The sections in the AFSA are:

1. Administration (21 questions)
2. First Aid (8 questions)
3. Technical Operations (40 questions)
4. Facility Design (63 questions)
5. Spa Pools (13 questions)
6. Dive Pools (12 questions)
7. Water Slides (17 questions)
8. Wave Pools (10 questions)
9. Rivers (8 questions)
10. Water Features (9 questions)
11. Supervision (17 questions)
12. Programs (9 questions)

The questions in the AFSA are given a score on a sliding scale between zero to five with a score of zero meaning the aquatic facility was unable to demonstrate any compliance with the question and a score of three or above is determined as showing compliance. Depending on the content of the question, some questions are assessed as either zero or five. These are questions where it is thought that full compliance is essential or require a yes or no response.

The overall score (safety score) is expressed as a percentage, with the total score achieved divided by the possible score (depending on which questions are activated) then multiplied by one hundred. It should be noted that the AFSA is a compliance assessment and as such is ideally looking for a facility to have a safety score of one hundred percent or very close to it. The safety score may be a misleading indicator of success in a compliance assessment as a score of eighty percent is often interpreted as a high score by the facility management but it may actually mean full compliance has not been achieved in one fifth of the items in the safety assessment.

Aquatic Safety Assessors must meet stringent criteria to be eligible to conduct an AFSA as well as participating in an extensive training process to ensure consistency in the assessment provided. Potential assessors are required to have considerable experience in the aquatic industry as well as holding qualifications in pool lifeguarding, first aid, pool operations and a recognised qualification in either Occupational Health and Safety auditing or risk management. Having met these criteria, potential assessors then must complete a comprehensive training program to ensure a thorough knowledge of the Guidelines for Safe Pool Operation, risk management, signage, pool plant operations and the key aspects of law as it relates to the aquatic industry in their State or Territory.

Following the completion of the training course, potential assessors are required to undertake a number of supervised assessments with a highly experienced Aquatic Safety Assessor. Royal Life Saving must be satisfied that the standard of assessment is of a suitably high quality prior to the appointment of an assessor.

The AFSA is conducted by Royal Life Saving at the invitation of the facility operator. Therefore it may be assumed that those facilities already have an awareness of the GSPO. It is also important to point out that the AFSA is provided at a cost to the operator which may encourage compliance at the time of assessment.

3.2 The 'Population'

Between the 1st April, 2007 and the 31st March, 2010 a total of 352 facilities have participated in 428 assessments from over one thousand estimated aquatic facilities across Australia. This equates to less than 35 percent of the aquatics industry. The location of each facility can be defined by the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) which provides five different geographical classifications:-

1. Major City
2. Inner Regional
3. Outer Regional
4. Remote
5. Very Remote

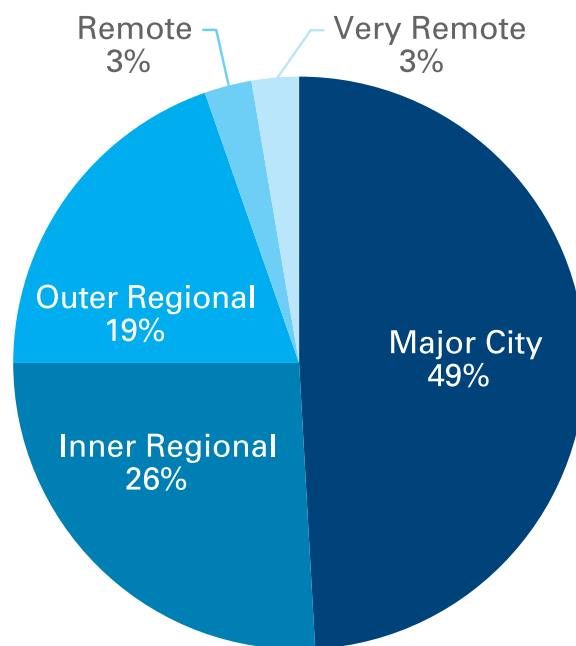


Fig. 1 Geographical Classification –AFSA Facilities

Figure 1 shows the distribution of aquatic facilities who have participated in an AFSA based on their geographical location. Urban areas are those classified as either major city or inner regional and make up 75 percent of facilities assessed. Rural or remote facilities account for 25 percent of assessments despite 35 percent of Australia's aquatic facilities being in rural and remote areas.

Further classification of the population is restricted due to limitations in the data collection tool at this time.

4.0 PART A

This section provides a quantitative assessment of the state of the industry based upon a comparison of the results of AFSA's conducted over a three year period from 2008 to 2010.

4.1 Methodology

The data was collated from the results of AFSA's conducted between 1st April, 2008 and 31st March, 2010. Random samples of one hundred facilities were selected for the twelve month periods of 1st April, 2008 to 31st March, 2009 (2009) and 1st April, 2009 to 31st March, 2010 (2010). The period assessed was selected to correspond with the data presented in the 2008 State of the Industry report which reflected a period from the 1st April, 2007 to 31st March, 2008 (2008). The 2008 data represented the baseline year and provided a point of reference for comparison of the current performance of the aquatics industry.

In October, 2009 a version of the AFSA was released that incorporated a weighted system of scoring. In order to ensure the data selected was able to provide a cross section of the industry, the scoring of those weighted assessments was adapted to ensure consistency with the rest of the dataset. This was achieved by dividing each individual question score by the maximum number of points available for that question and multiplying by five as the maximum score for each item prior to the weighted assessment. This process was completed prior to the collation of a random sample.

4.2 Results

The overall results showed a wide range in the final safety scores with the majority of results in the higher range. The range of scores was as follows:

	2008	2009	2010
30-39%	3	4	7
40-49%	4	6	1
50-59%	4	3	2
60-69%	7	5	8
70-79%	23	9	16
80-89%	20	20	20
90-100%	39	53	46

Fig. 2 AFSA Safety Score Distribution (%)

In 2009 and 2010 nearly fifty percent (49%) of all facilities assessed scored in the range of ninety percent or greater with nearly 82 percent achieving a score of seventy percent or higher. Although there has been an overall improvement in results it should be highlighted that nine percent of facilities represented in the 2009 and 2010 data scored less than fifty percent increasing from seven percent in 2008.

4.2.1 Mean & Median

The mean and median are useful measures of the performance of the facilities that comprise the sample in the AFSA and can be seen in Figure 3.

The mean is commonly referred to as the average score and may be applied to simplistically represent the safety score of the industry as a whole. If we were to examine the performance of the industry based on the mean we would see an overall increase in performance in 2010 when compared with 2008. The mean, however peaks in 2009 somewhat diminishing the positive overall improvement and needs to be examined further in the context of events during the three year period of assessment.

	2008	2009	2010
Mean	80.4	82.9	82.0
Median	83.8	89.9	87.5

Fig. 3 Safety Score Mean and Median (%)

In 2009, the NSW Department of Education and Training (DET) implemented new guidelines for schools participating in unstructured aquatic activities. These guidelines encourage schools to nominate facilities for aquatic activities that have demonstrated a commitment to safety through assessment of forty key criteria that comprise part of the AFSA.

The use of aquatic facilities by schools is a significant revenue stream and therefore the implementation of the NSW DET guidelines has generated an increased level of interest in the AFSA in NSW. This interest has led to increased numbers of facilities undergoing an AFSA with a varied level of understanding of the GSPO and compliance as measured via the AFSA. It has been assumed that the increased number of facilities assessed, many for the first time, has also led to an increased representation of NSW facilities in our sample and the greater range of reported results. Although this bias affects the accuracy of the information presented as a representation of the industry at a national level, it does give valuable insight into what may be an emerging trend with similar requirements to be implemented across other States and Territories.

The median score is the middle score of all of the results, in other words the score which has fifty percent of the results above it and fifty percent of the results below it and for our purposes may be more relevant as a benchmark for the performance of the industry as it excludes the distribution of scores in the lower range of the sample. In 2010 the median score was 87.5 percent, an increase of approximately 3.7 percent on 2008. Again, the median score peaked at 89.9 percent in 2009 and therefore we cannot discern a specific pattern of improvement from the period assessed.

4.3 Compliance vs. Non-Compliance

Depending on the score achieved during the AFSA, each item is assessed as being compliant or non-compliant. Questions that are assessed with scores of zero, one, and two are deemed to be non-compliant and questions that result in scores of three, four and five are deemed as being compliant with the requirements of the assessment.

4.3.1 Qualification Items

Qualification items are specific items in the AFSA that Royal Life Saving deems to require compliance for the safe operation of a commercial aquatic facility. They include key questions in the Administration, Technical Operation, Facility Design and Supervision sections of the assessment such as Question 11.2 relating to a sufficient number of lifeguards supervising the pool area.

Figure 4 demonstrates the variance between the median results of Qualification items and that of all assessments. Despite the significance of Qualification items to facility operations, these items consistently score lower than non-qualification items assessed.

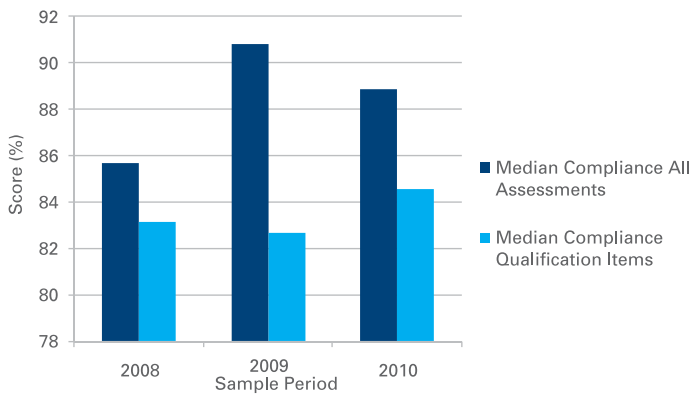


Fig. 4 Median Compliance Qualification Items Vs Median Compliance All Assessments

4.3.2 Section Results

Each section of the AFSA was evaluated independently to identify specific areas on which the industry can focus to deliver an overall improvement in the level of compliance. The data represents a mean compliance of the facilities that comprise the sample and does not represent an individual facility's results.

The following data may be used by individual facilities to compare their performance in each section of the AFSA against the industry in general.

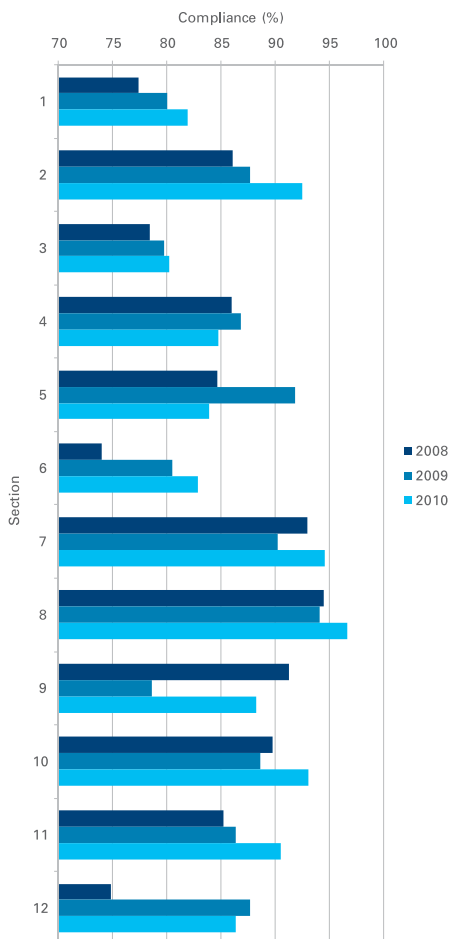


Fig. 5 Mean Percentage Compliance, Section by Section

Figure 5 represents the mean percentage compliance of the sample in each section of the AFSA for 2008, 2009 and 2010 respectively. We can see from this representation that there have been improvements in the level of compliance in most sections of the AFSA with decreases in Sections Four, Five, Nine and Twelve. It should be highlighted that this does not necessarily reflect a change in compliance of individual facilities. The following five sections are activated in every AFSA and therefore may be more likely to display a relevant trend:-

- Section 1 – Administration
- Section 2 – First Aid
- Section 3 – Technical Operations
- Section 4 – Facility Design
- Section 11 – General Supervision

If we assess these five core areas we notice that with the exception of Section 4 – Facility Design there is a clear improvement in the level of compliance each year. Section 4 – Facility Design is considered the most difficult for operators to improve their level of compliance. It is important to note that both Section 1 - Administration and Section 3 - Technical Operations continue to sit below the overall assessment mean.

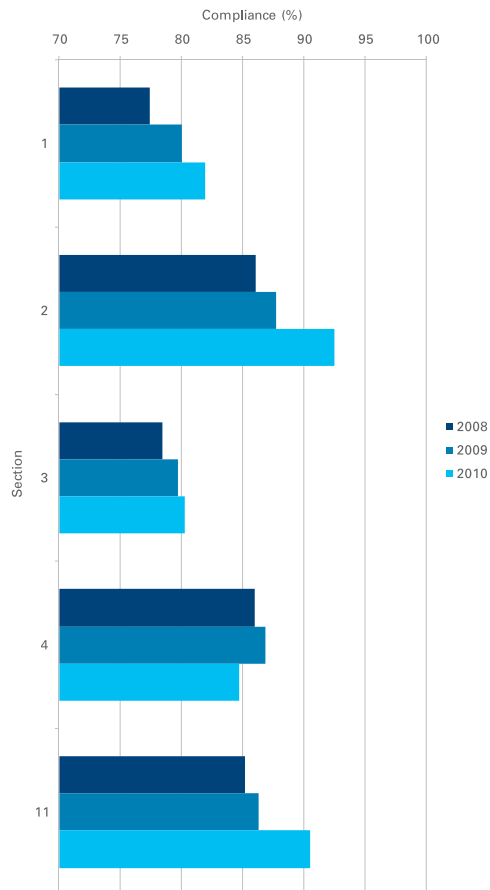


Fig. 6 Mean Percentage Compliance of Core Sections

Section 1 - Administration is the most easily influenced component of the AFSA as it relates to areas of facility operation such as record keeping, policies, procedures and staff qualifications. It is important to draw attention to the importance of efficient and accurate administration in line with a shifting social attitude to accountability for participation in high risk activities such as aquatic based activity and the need to demonstrate responsible management of the many aspects of an aquatic facility.

Section 3 – Technical Operations looks at items relating to the storage and use of chemicals. The chemicals involved in maintaining an aquatic facility are often classified as Dangerous Goods or Hazardous Substances and as such present a risk to health and safety. The incorrect use or storage of these chemicals may have serious consequences and as a result Royal Life Saving believes that this area is a high priority in terms of safety to both facility operators and the public. Signage relating to the safe storage and handling of Hazardous Substances comprise a sizeable component of this section and are later identified as having some bearing on the overall level of compliance of aquatic facilities.

Section 4 – Facility Design is the only core section of the AFSA that has shown a decrease in mean compliance in 2010. This decrease does not necessarily represent a decrease in compliance of individual facilities but rather shows that those facilities assessed in 2010 have reported lower levels of compliance than those assessed in previous years.

A number of items addressed in Section 4 – Facility Design are areas that may not be altered without significant redevelopment however those questions that have consistently reported the lowest results relate primarily to signage. As signage does not require significant alteration to infrastructure it is more easily addressed than other items of Section 4 – Facility Design such as concourse width.

Further investigation has identified that signage items across all sections have consistently reported a compliance ten percent lower than that of all items for the three year period assessed with the following questions from both Sections Three and Four of the AFSA consistently demonstrating the lowest scores:-

Question 3.25 “Is signage displayed in plant rooms and chemical handling areas promoting the use of the required Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)?”
Mean (2010) = 3.1

Question 3.26 “Are all pipes, valves and pumps, controlling water and chemical feeds, clearly labeled?”
Mean (2010) = 3.4

Question 3.27 “Do pipe markers have the correct colour?”
Mean (2010) = 2.4

Question 4.11 “Are there sufficient depth markers?”
Mean (2010) = 3.4

Question 4.12 “Are depth markers visible from within the pool?”
Mean (2010) = 3.2

Question 4.13 “Are depth markers clearly visible from the concourse?”
Mean (2010) = 3.8

Question 4.14 “Is there sufficient signage identifying deep water / shallow water, particularly at pool entry points?”
Mean (2010) = 2.7

Question 4.15 “Is deep water / shallow water warning signage compliant with the National Aquatic & Recreation Signage Manual?”
Mean (2010) = 2.6

Question 4.16 “Is all ‘Do Not Dive’ signage compliant with the National Aquatic & Recreation Signage Manual?” Mean (2010) = 3.0

Question 4.17 “In water less than 1.8 metres in depth, is ‘Do Not Dive’ signage displayed?”
Mean (2010) = 3.1

Of the ten items listed, all are considered Qualification items with the exception of Questions 3.26 and 3.27 and it would be reasonable to assert that signage has contributed significantly to the lower compliance in Qualification items compared with overall compliance.

Although signage does not necessarily increase the level of safety, the results of the AFSA for 2009 and 2010 provide further support for aquatic facilities to develop comprehensive signage strategies as part of an overall risk management plan in line with best practice and relevant State and Territory legislation.

5.0 PART B

Royal Life Saving recommends that an external audit via the AFSA is conducted annually to ensure that safety standards are maintained on an ongoing basis, to gain external and non-biased assistance in identifying hazards and safety issues and to ensure access to updated information and advice on safety standards being adopted in aquatic facilities. This section will gauge the benefits of this policy to aquatic facilities who comply with the recommendation for the conduct of an annual AFSA.

5.1 Methodology

In order to assess the benefit of periodic external auditing the results of the AFSA conducted during the three year period of 1st April, 2007 to 31st March, 2010 was utilised and organised into groups based on the following criteria:

1. Group A – facilities that conducted their first assessment during the period of 1st April, 2009 to 31st March, 2010.
2. Group B – facilities that had completed their second assessment during the period of 1st April, 2009 to 31st March, 2010.
3. Group C - facilities that had completed their third assessment during the period of 1st April, 2009 to 31st March, 2010.

Group A comprised 65 facilities from both urban and rural locations. Group B comprised 55 facilities with eighty percent of facilities from urban locations. Group C comprised fifteen facilities from urban locations only.

5.2 Results

The overall results of those facilities that had conducted more than one AFSA during the period demonstrated better results across all measures of assessment compared with the Group A results. Group B reported 76 percent of AFSA's resulting in a safety score of 80 percent or higher. Of the fifteen facilities that comprised Group C, 97.7 percent of AFSA's resulted in a safety score of 80 percent or higher.

5.2.1 Mean & Median

As we can see from Figure 7, the frequency of auditing has a direct positive impact on the results of the AFSA. The variation in results is quite significant with the Group B mean almost eleven percent above that of Group A and the Group C mean increased by almost seven percent again.

More than 88 percent of AFSAs conducted in Group B and C scored above the Group A mean safety score of 76.9 percent.

	Group A	Group B	Group C
Mean	76.9	87.7	94.4
Median	80.3	93.6	96.4

Fig. 7 Safety Score Mean and Median (%)

5.3 Compliance v Non-Compliance

Figure 8 demonstrates the mean compliance of Group C compared with all assessments for the period of 2008 to 2010. Not only does Group C display a significantly higher level of compliance it also demonstrates a continued increase for the entire reporting period resulting in a reported compliance score thirteen percent higher than the peak reported in 2009 for all assessments.

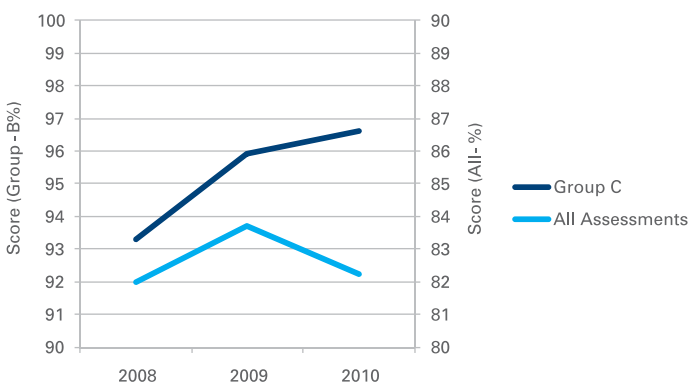


Fig. 8 Mean Compliance - Group C Vs All Assessments

5.3.1 Qualification Items

Group B and C both demonstrate notably higher levels of compliance in Qualification items compared with Group A. Figure 9 also shows that compliance in Qualification items still displays a lower mean than compliance for all assessments.

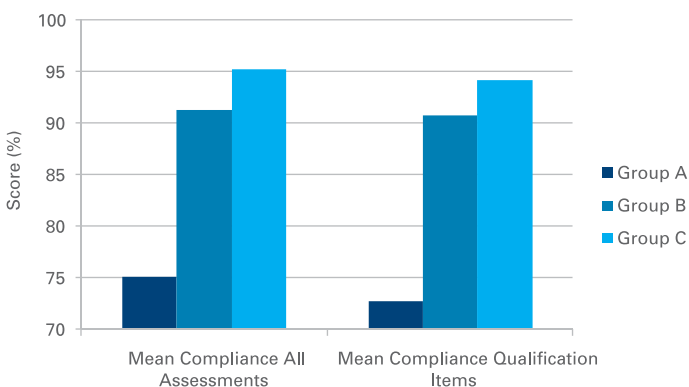


Fig. 9 Mean Compliance Qualification Items Vs. All Items

It is interesting to observe that the lowest scoring Qualification items were consistent across each group and again were predominantly depth signage related items.

These items included:-

Question 4.14 "Is there sufficient signage identifying deep water, shallow water, particularly at pool entry points?"

Question 4.15 "Is deep water / shallow water warning signage compliant with the National Aquatic & Recreation Signage Manual?"

Question 4.55 Can the depth signage be seen from within the pool?

Question 4.56 Can the depth signage be seen from the pool concourse?

Question 12.3 Are emergency procedures practiced with lesson groups?

5.3.2 Section Results

It is encouraging to observe the level of compliance of Group B and C in comparison with the mean compliance of Group A as shown in Figure 10. In most sections, the mean compliance of Group B and C exceeded that of Group A. Section 6 – Dive Pools demonstrates the most significant discrepancy with Group C scoring significantly below the Group A and B mean however this may be the result of a single facility in Group C activating this section of the AFSA.

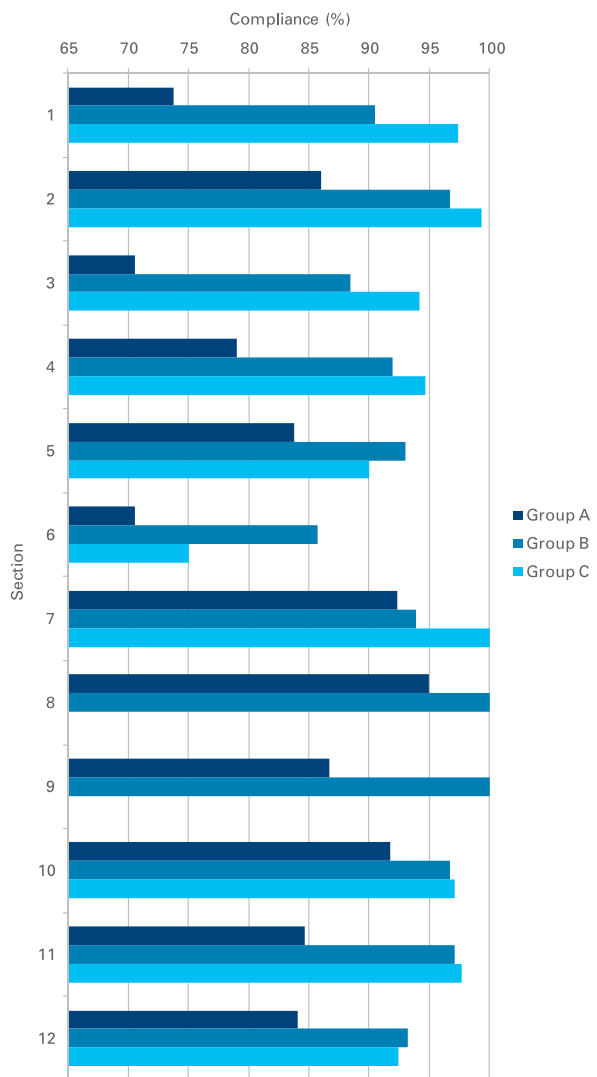


Fig. 10 Mean Percentage Compliance, Section by Section

When comparing the core sections of the AFSA as shown in Figure 11 we observe a trend of improvement in the level of compliance relative to the frequency of the AFSA. What is most encouraging is the dramatic improvement in both Section 1 – Administration and Section 3 – Technical Operations that have previously been identified as areas requiring further attention.

The results show that there is a sizeable benefit derived from implementation of the Safety Improvement Plan (SIP) provided as part of the AFSA. From Figure 12 we observe a disparity not only between a facility's second audit but a further differentiation when audited a third time reinforcing the assertion that annual external auditing facilitates improvement in risk management and safety standards as determined by the GSPO. It should be noted that no facility in Group C activated Section 8 – Wave Pools and Section 9 – Rivers of the AFSA.

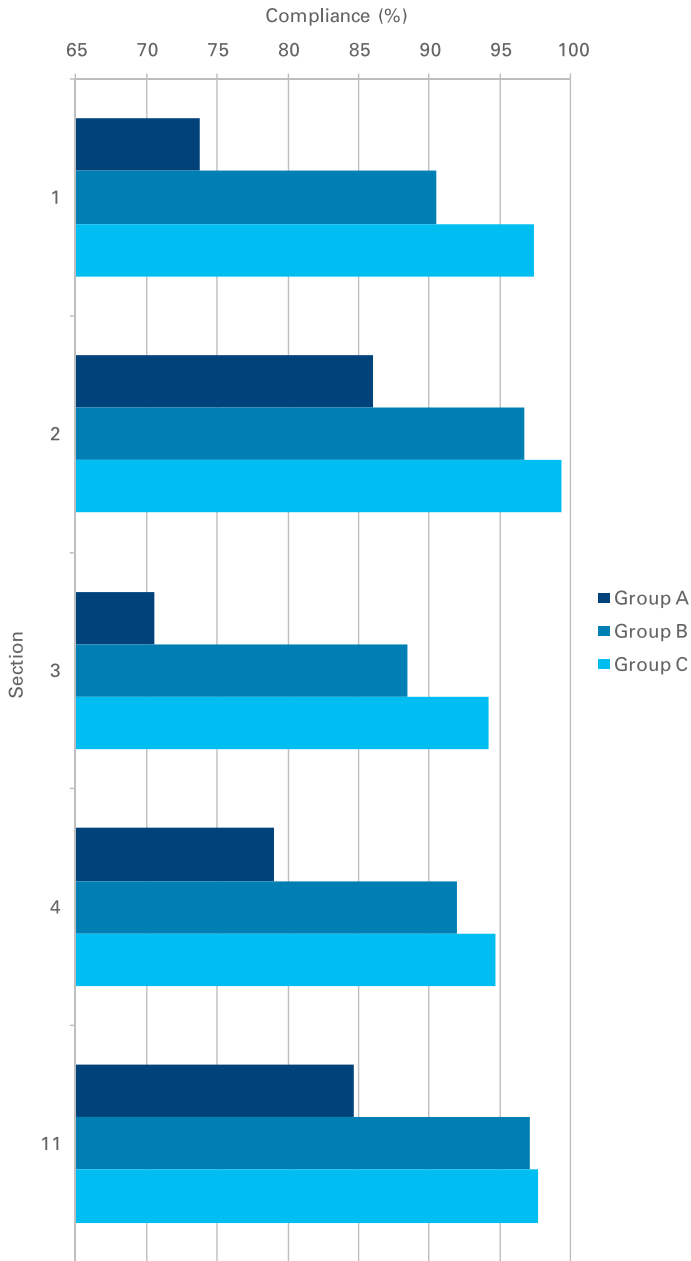


Fig. 11 Mean Percentage Compliance of Core Sections

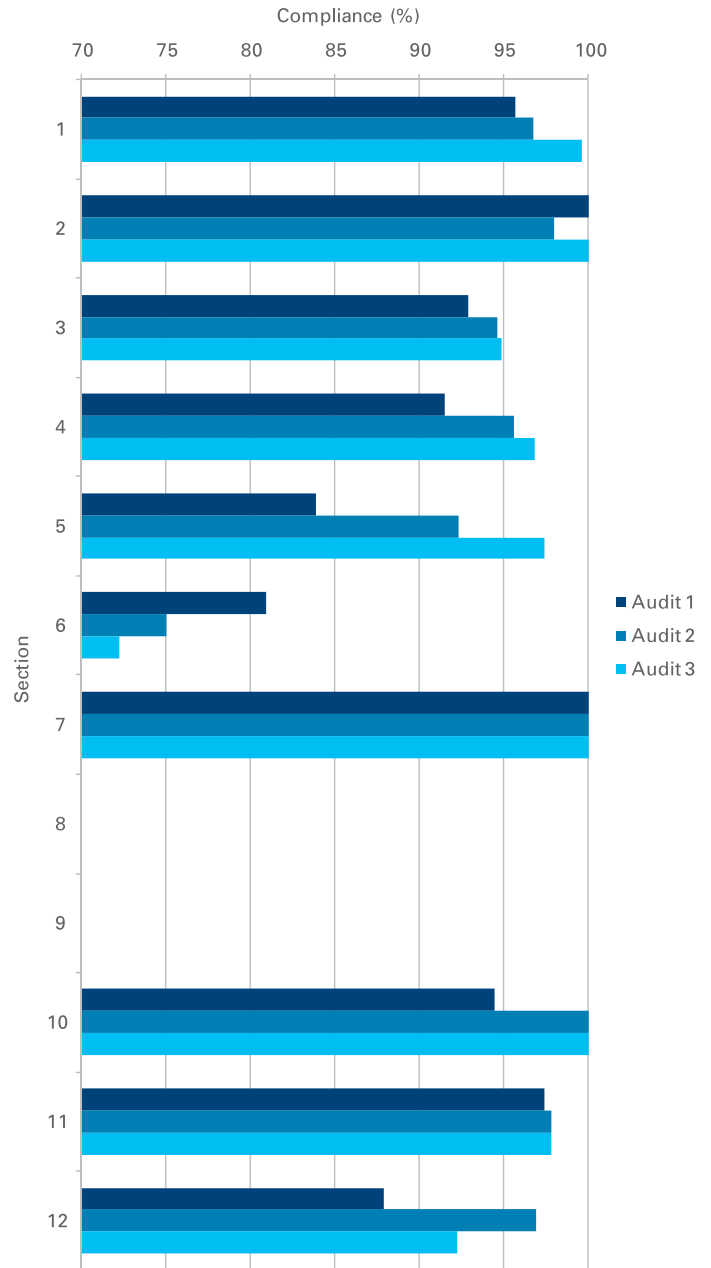


Fig. 12 Mean Percentage Compliance of Sections – Group C

Although the AFSA is not an absolute measure of the level of safety of an aquatic facility, it does provide some measure of the facility's level of safety and risk management relevant to what is considered industry best practice.

6.0 DISCUSSION

The GSPO represents the collective opinion of the aquatics industry across Australia as well as expert personnel from a number of groups through its development process. It is widely considered a minimum standards document however it may be suggested that there is a significant number of facilities that either do not have an awareness of the GSPO or are unable to adequately interpret and implement the recommendations as evidenced in the trend of increasing ranges of scores demonstrated since the implementation of the automated assessment tool. The following recommendations are made with consideration to the results presented in this report:-

1. It is recommended that a policy of regular external auditing via the AFSA be adopted by operators as part of a facility's risk management strategy.

The results show those facilities who have participated on an annual basis are more likely to meet all of the AFSA criteria. These facilities equate to less than two percent of the aquatics industry. It is important that operators recognise the contribution of the Safety Improvement Plan to continual improvement and the role of the AFSA as part of their broader risk management strategy.

2. It is recommended that Royal Life Saving engage in consultation with facility operators to identify further strategies that may improve the use of signage at aquatic facilities.

It has been identified that signage items consistently report lower results in the AFSA and therefore it stands to reason that improvements in the implementation of compliant signage at aquatic facilities will have the most significant impact on the level of compliance reported in the AFSA. A number of resources are available to assist operators and to supplement the recommendations of the GSPO however the process for determination of what signage is appropriate for each facility through detailed risk assessment may warrant further support.

3. It is recommended that changes to the AFSA be implemented to establish a detailed classification of aquatic facilities.

It must be highlighted that presently the AFSA does not collect any data relating to the conditions under which a facility operates. The term 'condition' refers to a range of factors including the geographical location of the facility, the period during which the facility operates, who owns and operates the facility and whether the facility is indoor, outdoor or both as the basic descriptors by which to define an aquatic facility. Further investigation needs to address the lack of information available about the facilities being assessed to determine whether the data obtained via the AFSA provides a diverse sample of the types of operating conditions that exist within the industry and if these conditions influence the outcomes of the AFSA.

4. It is recommended that a representative sample be established to assess the accuracy of the results of the AFSA as a measure of the state of the industry.

A representative sample would consist of a group of facilities randomly selected from a range of areas, management models, operating periods and age to assert that the facilities represented in this report are representative of the entire industry. Consideration would need to be given to the cost of undertaking an assessment and eliminating the role this plays in motivating compliance.

7.0 CONCLUSION

The results of the Aquatic Facility Safety Assessment over the three years to March, 2010 has demonstrated a steady overall improvement in the level of compliance with the Guidelines for Safe Pool Operation but unfortunately the news is not all positive.

While there is a demonstrated improvement in the mean and median we also see a growing range of scores which indicates that although an increasing number of facilities are demonstrating high levels of compliance there are a handful of facilities that are demonstrating lower standards of compliance than ever before. If nothing else this reinforces the notion that facilities that are yet to participate in the AFSA are those most needing it.

Those facilities who have demonstrated a commitment to an annual auditing process should be commended for their significant improvements. Their improving compliance illustrates the benefit of regular external assessments and how it assists facilities to achieve industry best practice. The use of the AFSA should be seen as an important tool for operators in improving the standard of risk management and safety within their facility.

It has also been highlighted that further information should be sought regarding the operating conditions of aquatic facilities across Australia to establish a more accurate context for the interpretation of the results of AFSA. This will provide opportunities for the aquatics industry and Royal Life Saving to identify challenges isolated to specific operating conditions and provide services targeted to address these challenges. It will also enable identification of those facilities who are demonstrating leadership in aquatic risk management and whose initiatives can be adapted to benefit those facilities confronted with similar challenges.

In releasing the 2010 State of the Industry report, Royal Life Saving seeks to continue its industry engagement activities and build partnerships aimed at improving safety compliance. Studies such as this provide industry with an essential profile to gauge or benchmark individual performance, as well as providing Royal Life Saving, industry groups and Government with a basis for future policy development.

8.0 APPENDICES

8.1 Section Compliance

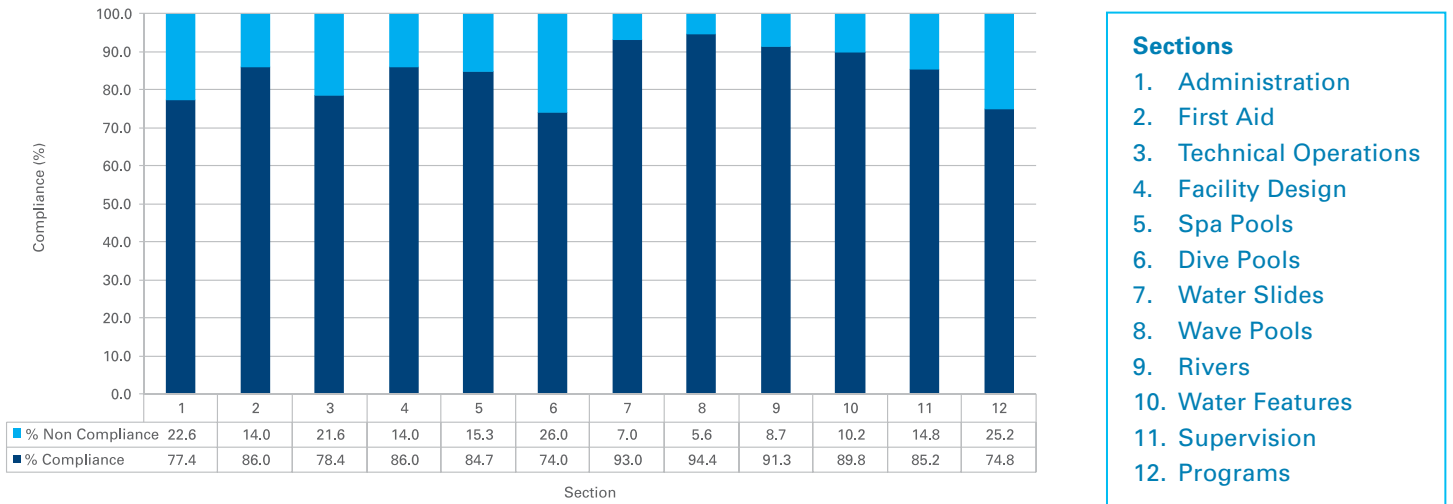


Fig. 13 Percentage Compliance of Sections – 2008

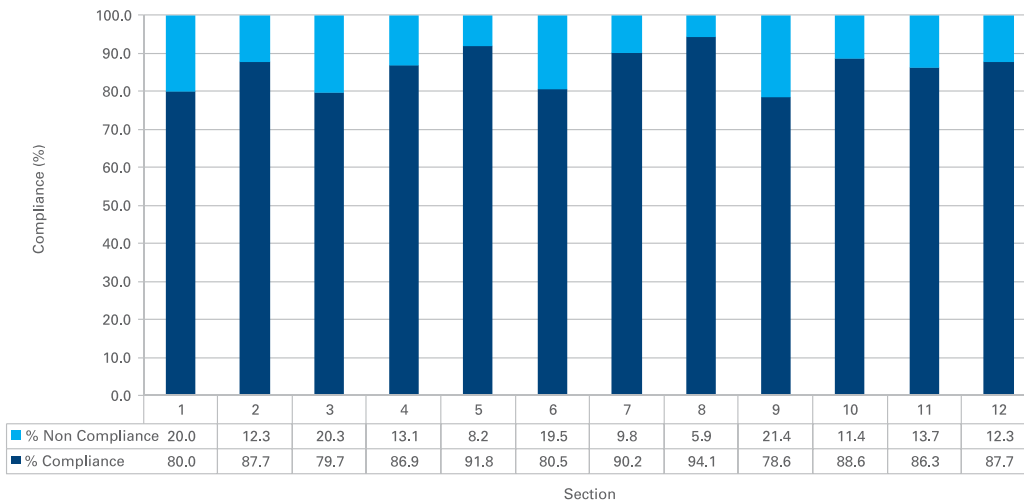


Fig. 14 Percentage Compliance of Sections – 2009

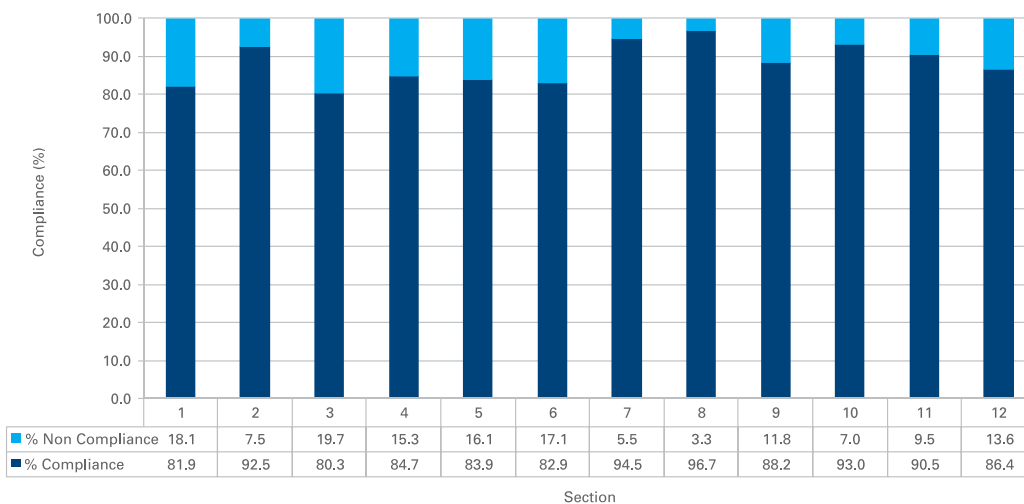


Fig. 15 Percentage Compliance of Sections – 2010

8.2 Question Mean Results

SECTION 1 - ADMINISTRATION

Question	2008	2009	2010
1.1	4.3	4.2	4.5
1.2	3.2	4.0	3.9
1.3	3.9	3.9	4.1
1.4	3.7	3.8	3.9
1.5	2.7	3.4	2.8
1.6	3.2	3.6	3.6
1.7	3.3	3.8	4.3
1.8	4.5	4.1	4.2
1.9	3.3	3.7	3.4
1.10	3.3	3.8	3.5
1.11	4.5	4.5	4.6
1.12	4.6	4.1	4.6
1.13	3.7	3.6	4.0
1.14	4.1	4.0	4.4
1.15	3.8	4.0	4.4
1.16	3.1	3.3	3.3
1.17	3.3	3.9	3.6
1.18	4.1	4.0	4.1
1.19	4.6	4.5	4.8
1.20	4.2	4.1	4.4
1.21	4.5	4.2	4.5
Section Mean	3.8	3.9	4.0

SECTION 2 - FIRST AID

Question	2008	2009	2010
2.1	3.9	4.0	4.1
2.2	3.8	4.0	4.4
2.3	4.2	4.1	4.4
2.4	4.0	4.2	4.4
2.5	4.6	4.6	4.9
2.6	3.9	4.3	4.9
2.7	4.6	4.4	4.8
2.8	4.0	4.5	4.7
Section Mean	4.2	4.3	4.5

SECTION 3 - TECHNICAL OPERATIONS

Question	2008	2009	2010
3.1	4.2	4.1	4.0
3.2	4.5	4.6	4.8
3.3	4.9	5.0	4.9
3.4	4.6	4.6	4.5
3.5	4.3	4.5	4.5
3.6	4.3	4.1	4.3
3.7	4.4	4.4	4.5
3.8	4.4	4.3	4.1
3.9	2.9	3.8	3.4
3.10	3.7	3.5	4.0
3.11	3.5	3.8	3.5

3.12	3.9	3.8	3.7
3.13	4.1	4.0	4.2
3.14	4.4	4.5	4.4
3.15	3.9	4.0	4.0
3.16	4.0	4.0	4.2
3.17	2.3	3.3	2.0
3.18	1.7	2.8	1.4
3.19	3.7	3.8	4.0
3.20	3.8	4.0	4.2
3.21	3.3	3.7	4.1
3.22	4.0	4.2	4.2
3.23	3.7	3.9	4.0
3.24	4.1	4.2	4.1
3.25	3.1	2.9	3.1
3.26	3.1	3.4	3.4
3.27	3.0	2.7	2.4
3.28	3.5	3.8	3.8
3.29	4.0	4.3	4.2
3.30	4.5	3.7	3.4
3.31	4.5	5.0	5.0
3.32	3.6	5.0	5.0
3.33	3.9	2.1	4.0
3.34	3.8	3.8	3.3
3.35	4.3	1.7	4.2
3.36	2.5	3.3	5.0
3.37	4.2	2.5	5.0
3.38	4.6	4.5	4.8
3.39	3.8	3.3	4.2
3.40	3.9	3.6	3.3
Section Mean	3.9	4.0	4.0

SECTION 4 - FACILITY DESIGN

Question	2008	2009	2010
4.1	4.2	4.1	4.0
4.2	4.9	4.8	4.7
4.3	4.9	4.9	4.9
4.4	4.0	4.2	3.7
4.5	3.2	2.8	3.9
4.6	4.7	4.5	4.7
4.7	4.9	4.8	4.8
4.8	3.6	3.7	4.1
4.9	4.9	4.8	4.7
4.1	3.2	3.6	3.5
4.11	3.6	3.6	3.4
4.12	2.9	3.2	3.2
4.13	3.4	3.7	3.8
4.14	2.5	2.8	2.7
4.15	2.7	3.0	2.6
4.16	3.8	3.7	3.0
4.17	3.7	3.6	3.1
4.18	2.5	2.7	3.1
4.19	4.6	4.6	4.6

4.20	4.5	4.8	4.5
4.21	4.6	4.7	4.5
4.22	4.8	4.5	4.7
4.23	4.9	5.0	4.9
4.24	5.0	5.0	4.7
4.25	4.5	4.4	4.1
4.26	4.7	4.3	4.3
4.27	4.2	4.2	4.3
4.28	5.0	5.0	4.8
4.29	4.9	4.6	4.5
4.30	4.8	4.6	4.6
4.31	4.7	4.9	4.7
4.32	3.6	3.2	3.1
4.33	4.9	4.9	4.7
4.34	4.6	4.4	4.6
4.35	4.9	5.0	4.8
4.36	4.5	4.7	4.3
4.37	4.3	4.9	4.2
4.38	4.3	4.5	4.7
4.39	3.2	4.0	4.2
4.40	4.9	4.8	4.6
4.41	5.0	4.9	4.9
4.42	4.3	4.3	4.4
4.43	4.9	4.8	4.5
4.44	4.0	4.6	4.5
4.45	4.2	4.4	4.2
4.46	3.6	3.6	3.4
4.47	4.9	5.0	4.4
4.48	3.2	3.9	3.4
4.49	5.0	5.0	3.8
4.50	5.0	5.0	4.7
4.51	4.8	4.7	4.5
4.52	4.2	4.5	3.9
4.53	4.7	5.0	4.5
4.54	4.0	0.0	0.0
4.55	3.1	2.8	1.1
4.56	3.4	3.0	2.1
4.57	4.0	5.0	2.5
4.58	4.0	0.0	0.0
4.59	5.0	5.0	3.9
4.60	5.0	5.0	4.0
4.61	4.4	4.8	4.0
4.62	3.9	3.7	3.8
4.63	3.9	4.1	4.1
Section Mean	4.3	4.3	4.2

SECTION 5 – SPA POOLS

Question	2008	2009	2010
5.1	4.1	4.8	4.1
5.2	4.5	4.8	3.8
5.3	4.5	4.8	4.8
5.4	4.8	4.6	4.8

5.5	4.8	5.0	5.0
5.6	4.8	4.5	4.7
5.7	4.2	4.1	3.8
5.8	3.1	3.9	2.6
5.9	3.8	5.0	4.6
5.10	4.4	5.0	4.3
5.11	3.8	4.3	3.0
5.12	3.9	4.5	3.2
5.13	4.1	4.5	4.3
Section Mean	4.2	4.6	4.1

SECTION 6 – DIVE POOLS

Question	2008	2009	2010
6.1	5.0	5.0	5.0
6.2	5.0	5.0	3.8
6.3	2.7	1.9	4.2
6.4	4.5	5.0	5.0
6.5	0.6	2.0	2.9
6.6	4.1	5.0	5.0
6.7	3.6	4.4	4.3
6.8	4.5	5.0	4.6
6.9	4.0	5.0	3.8
6.10	3.5	3.6	3.8
6.11	2.3	2.5	1.9
6.12	4.1	4.0	4.8
Section Mean	3.7	4.1	4.1

SECTION 7 – WATER SLIDES

Question	2008	2009	2010
7.1	5.0	4.3	4.2
7.2	5.0	4.3	4.4
7.3	5.0	5.0	4.7
7.4	3.6	3.1	4.2
7.5	5.0	4.4	4.8
7.6	5.0	5.0	5.0
7.7	1.9	3.2	4.2
7.8	4.4	5.0	4.8
7.9	4.6	4.9	4.5
7.10	5.0	5.0	4.8
7.11	4.9	5.0	4.8
7.12	5.0	4.2	3.6
7.13	5.0	4.4	4.0
7.14	5.0	4.7	4.7
7.15	5.0	4.2	4.7
7.16	4.7	4.7	4.7
7.17	5.0	5.0	4.3
Section Mean	4.6	4.5	4.5

SECTION 8 – WAVE POOLS

Question	2008	2009	2010
8.1	5.0	5.0	5.0
8.2	5.0	5.0	5.0
8.3	5.0	5.0	5.0
8.4	0.0	2.5	5.0
8.5	5.0	5.0	5.0
8.6	4.5	4.5	4.0
8.7	5.0	5.0	5.0
8.8	5.0	5.0	5.0
8.9	5.0	3.8	5.0
8.10	5.0	5.0	5.0
Section Mean	4.7	4.6	4.9

SECTION 9 – RIVERS

Question	2008	2009	2010
9.1	5.0	5.0	3.9
9.2	5.0	3.5	4.0
9.3	5.0	5.0	3.9
9.4	5.0	5.0	4.2
9.5	3.3	2.5	4.2
9.6	5.0	5.0	5.0
9.7	5.0	2.5	3.3
9.8	3.3	5.0	2.2
Section Mean	4.6	4.1	3.8

SECTION 10 – WATER FEATURES

Question	2008	2009	2010
10.1	5.0	5.0	4.5
10.2	4.1	4.1	4.4
10.3	5.0	5.0	5.0
10.4	5.0	4.7	5.0
10.5	4.7	4.6	5.0
10.6	4.9	4.1	4.7
10.7	4.3	4.2	4.4
10.8	3.2	3.5	3.1
10.9	3.5	3.9	4.3
Section Mean	4.5	4.4	4.5

SECTION 11 - SUPERVISION

Question	2008	2009	2010
11.1	4.2	4.0	4.1
11.2	4.8	4.4	4.4
11.3	4.6	4.2	4.6
11.4	3.8	4.1	3.8
11.5	4.6	4.6	4.6
11.6	4.6	4.6	4.6
11.7	3.6	3.7	3.8
11.8	4.3	4.3	4.6
11.9	4.5	4.4	4.4
11.10	4.6	4.7	4.3
11.11	4.5	4.5	4.6
11.12	3.5	3.8	4.3
11.13	4.3	4.6	4.9
11.14	2.9	3.5	4.3
11.15	4.2	4.3	4.7
11.16	4.5	4.9	4.8
11.17	4.1	4.0	4.1
Section Mean	4.2	4.3	4.4

SECTION 12 - PROGRAMS

Question	2008	2009	2010
12.1	3.4	3.9	4.2
12.2	4.2	4.7	4.9
12.3	2.2	2.6	1.9
12.4	4.4	4.9	4.8
12.5	4.4	4.9	4.8
12.6	3.8	4.9	4.7
12.7	3.9	4.7	4.7
12.8	4.1	4.8	4.6
12.9	2.3	3.9	3.4
Section Mean	3.7	4.4	4.3



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