MEMO REGARDING NEW YORK POOL RETAIL STORES AS ESSENTIAL
May 12, 2020

Per Empire State Development guidelines, if the function of your business is listed (in the above guidance), you do not need to request any special designation or approval to operate. It is the position of the Northeast Spa and Pool Association that pool retail stores are essential for the following reasons:

- The State listing hardware, appliance, and home improvement stores as essential retail.
- Pool service and maintenance being classified by the State as an essential service to prevent public health hazards from developing in untreated water. The NY Department of Health and other county organizations, including the Departments of Health in Suffolk and Nassau Counties, have declared the treatment and maintenance of pool water to be an essential operation to protect the health and safety of NY residents.
- Pool stores sell essential sanitizers and chemical disinfectants that prevent the spread of bacteria in pool water and prevent mosquitoes.
- Pool retail stores are part of the supply chain for pool service companies, which the ESD has deemed as essential.

Pool Retail Stores that continue to operate need to follow ESD Guidance for essential businesses including:

- Cleaning and disinfecting high-touch areas routinely in accordance with CDC guidelines, particularly in spaces accessible to staff, customers, etc.;
- Arranging for contactless pay options, pickup, or delivery of goods wherever possible;
- Requiring regular hand washing, coughing and sneezing etiquette, and proper tissue usage and disposal;
- Placing conspicuous signage at entrances and throughout the store alerting staff and customers to the required 6 feet of distance;
- Requiring workers and customers to wear cloth face coverings and requiring workers to wear gloves.
- Limit staff to only those necessary and offer work from home options wherever possible.
- Require workplace distancing is followed by staff.

References for business to be familiar with:

Guidance for Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19 (CDC)
ESD Guidance on Essential Businesses
FAQs on Essential Businesses

This information is being provided to you as a member of the Northeast Spa and Pool association and is intended for your use to make decisions about your individual business during the restrictions put in place as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak. If you have concerns about your specific business operation you should consult your attorney. This is not intended to be legal advice.