**From:** nyarasha@gmail.com on behalf of Karen Wickert

**To:** DPH-Testimony, Reg (DPH)

**Cc:** comment@floatboston.com

**Subject:** 105 CMR 435.000: Minimum Standards for Swimming Pools

**Date:** Tuesday, September 19, 2017 5:02:49 PM

Hello,

I'm writing to express my opinions about the Pool Code (105CMR435) in Massachusetts.

Float tanks, such as those offered at Float in Somerville, MA, are currently covered under this code because of one mention of a "special purpose pool".

Unfortunately, which the Code covers the maintenance and expectations for swimming pools and hot tubs, it does not include relevant or appropriate guidelines for float tank maintenance.

This means all float tank operators must submit an extensive variance request to make sure they can operate legally. Practically, this means that Boards of Health in municipalities are unwilling to work with potential float centers. (Somerville's in 2013 was an exception.)

Current standards from the Float Tank Association are being dismissed - please adopt their recommendations as possible.

Rules which haven't been supported by research or risk reviews that are currently being considered could impact public health - for example, certain sanitizers are fine in pools but toxic in small and enclosed spaces such as float tanks.

In addition, these new regulations would make float tanks prohibitively expensive for users. This would affect all users of these services, which works to benefit the mental health and physical health of people in Somerville and beyond.

I am all for public health and protection of users of float tank and pool services, while maintaining access to the services I and others enjoy.

Please adopt common sense, measurable expectations which allow float centers to open in Massachusetts without excessive and unnecessary requirements.

Thank you,

Karen Wickert

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