

# STA International Swimming Pool Technical Operator



## Course Overview and Assessment

### Introduction

This unregulated course trains learners in swimming pool technical operations. This course is aimed at people who operate swimming pool plant and are responsible for a swimming pools technical operations.

In order to attend the course, learners must:

- Be 18 years old at the time of the assessment
- Have access and authorisation from a suitable venue with appropriate equipment to complete the tasks listed in the practical assignment.

On successful completion of the course, learners will be issued with a STA International Swimming Pool Technical Operator Certificate.

This course is valid for 3 years. In order to revalidate their certificate learners will need to attend a new course\* before the 3-year expiry date.

### Course Overview

The recommended guided learning hours for this course is a minimum of 18 hours which includes direct teaching and assessing but excludes breaks. The course may be run over 3 days but can also be delivered over a period of weeks, with the minimum of each training session being 2 hours. The theoretical multiple-choice assessment takes place at the end of the final day.

There is a maximum of 16 learners to 1 tutor.

### Equipment requirements

- STA International Swimming Pool Technical Operator E-Manual. Each learner is required to have their own copy of the manual
- Water testing equipment:
  - Photometer, comparator, TDS meter - ratio 1:6 (1 to every 6 learners on the course)
  - Sufficient number of tablets and test tubes for the number of learners on the course.
- STA International Swimming Pool Technical Operator PowerPoint and supporting resources.

### Assessment Information

Certification is achieved by successful completion of a multiple-choice assessment and post course practical assignment.

## Multiple-choice assessment

The multiple-choice assessment is to be completed independently by each learner under exam conditions, with the tutor acting as the invigilator. The assessment consists of 20 questions. Learners must achieve a minimum of 15/20 to pass the theory assessment. This is completed on the final day of the course.

## Post course practical assignment

### 1. Water testing –

Learners must do a full set of water tests demonstrating how to use suitable equipment correctly and how to sample and test for:

- Free chlorine/total bromine (if bromine is used as the primary disinfectant)
- Combined chlorine
- pH
- Total bromine
- Alkalinity
- Calcium Hardness
- Total Dissolved solids
- Sulphates.

Learners must demonstrate how to record and store test results.

Continual assessment will take place throughout the course by question and answer on the syllabus content to show the necessary understanding and theoretical ability to underpin competence.

Assessment can be carried out by a competent manager signing this sheet or the course tutor (a video submission is acceptable for the tutor to assess).

### 2. Schematic drawing –

Learners must draw a schematic diagram of their pool and its associated water treatment system. This should indicate clearly (using arrows to indicate the direction of flow) each of the main components, including:

- Filters
- Pumps
- Strainers
- Automatic dosing units
- Monitoring equipment
- Main valves.

### 3. Backwash –

This should be of a chosen pool, in accordance with normal operating procedures. Learners must carry out a full backwash procedure (including removal and cleaning of pre-pump strainers). It should include an explanation from the learner of why and when this must be carried out.

Continual assessment will take place throughout the course by question and answer on the syllabus content to show the necessary understanding and theoretical ability to underpin competence.

Assessment can be carried out by a competent manager signing this sheet or the course tutor (a video submission is acceptable for the tutor to assess).

#### 4. Risk Assessment –

Making a risk assessment for one pool chemical. This should refer to a chemical stored in the plant room of a chosen swimming pool. It should include identifying the requirements for storage, handling and use of the chemical.

#### Assessment Summary

All assessment elements must be completed and performed independently by the learner without prompting by the tutor or manager. Learners must achieve a minimum of 15/20 to pass the multiple-choice assessment. To pass the post course practical assignment, learners must satisfactorily complete the practical elements and be signed off as competent. The course tutor assumes responsibility for determining successful completion of the course.

Learners who do not meet the minimum requirements to pass have the opportunity to attempt another multiple-choice test with a different set of questions or re-attempt a practical element.

Resits can take place at the end of the course, time permitting, or up to a further 28 days after the last day of the course.

#### Tutor Assessor requirements

All tutors / assessors must have the skills, knowledge and experience to be able to teach / assess and demonstrate the subject.

Each tutor must be approved by STA and PWTAG and provide evidence of:

1. A relevant vocational pool plant operations qualification and/or experience
2. Attend a STA pool plant tutors course or experience of delivering for another PWTAG approved training provider
3. STA membership
4. PWTAG membership
5. Maintaining their technical competence within the subject area.