

CAT Controller Courier # 35

August 2009

To All CAT Customers,

A lot of manufactures make the mistake of creating new products and telling their customers what they need. CAT wants to move forward by creating newer and better products, but wants to create them for what you may "want". So I pose the question on behalf of CAT Controllers, "What products do you want?". CAT Controllers would like to know what new products or old products related to the entire commercial pool industry would be beneficial to you and your customers. Please email Troy McGinty at mtmcginty@chemauto.com with a list of products they you would be interested in as a commercial pool service company or commercial pool builder. The list can consist of old products that you would like to be made better or new products that you would like to see in the near future. I am talking about everything from pumps and filters to skimmers and skimmer baskets. Please help CAT do more for you!

What is pH?

Some of you are sitting there reading this saying, "Really Troy?" ...Yes "really", I know that "most" of us all know what pH is, but some of us may not know specifics about it and learning the specifics may help some better understand water chemistry as a whole. pH (Potens Hydrogen) is defined as minus the decimal logarithm of the hydrogen ion activity in an aqueous solution. By virtue of its logarithmic nature, pH is a dimensionless quantity.(Wikipedia 2009 - <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PH>) In layman's terms pH is the power/activity of the hydrogen ion in water. pH is measured on a logarithmic scale of 0 to 14. Pure water usually has a pH of around 7 (at 77 degrees) depending on the temperature of the water at the time it may vary. A pH less than 7 is acidic and more than 7 is base/alkaline. The average human tear is said to contain a pH of between 7.0 and 7.6 depending on the person, air temperature, environment of where the test was completed, etc. When discussing pH in the pool industry we all know of that magic number 7.5pH. This is the number where bather comfort and the activity of HOCL and -OCL work the best together. By keeping the pH in between that 7.0 and 7.6 range we should not irritate the eyes and/or the skin of our bathers. On the disinfectant side; by keeping our pH between 7.0 and 7.6 we also maintain good effective chlorine. (See Chart Below - by NSPF)

As we all know HOCL, with the "H" is the more active of the free available chlorine. pH is by far the most important factor in our water. Without the proper pH all other water chemistry becomes out of balance and safe/comfortable water becomes unattainable. Make sure you have the proper pH so you have the proper amount of Hydrogen Ions available for chlorine activity and bather comfort. If you have any further questions on this subject please feel free to contact me at mtmcginty@chemauto.com. I hope this brief explanation of pH and its relationship helps you to attain better and safer water.

Written By:

M. Troy McGinty
CAT Controllers, Inc.

Some General/Helpful Pool Maintenance Tips

We are three-quarters through our summer outdoor pool season. I have a few things we may want to do to make sure that our Pool and our Controllers are running properly.

- 1) Check all water chemistry and rebalance. Don't just check your chlorine and pH. Perform a complete saturation index check. You should also check on your Cyanuric Acid levels as well, especially if you are using stabilized chlorine. Because we are mostly talking about outdoor pools we want to also check our phosphate levels to make sure we are not making it any easier for Algae to grow. Once your pool is properly balanced to where you like to keep your chemical levels you should move onto to step two.
- 2) If you are not cleaning your sensors regularly, at least once a month, then be sure to clean your sensors in all of your controllers.
- 3) Do a "Hard Reset" at your controllers. Reset everything back to factory default settings.
- 4) Reference your manual pH and chlorine test kit readings; calibrate your pH and set your pH set point at the controller, make sure that you have a good ORP at your particular chlorine level and set your ORP set point at the controller. Make sure all other special controller configuration settings are fine tuned to where you would like to keep them as well.
- 5) Make sure that your flow sensor is cleaned and that all flow cell sample line connections are not clogged or corroded.
- 6) Make sure all pool return eye inlets are facing the same direction and pointing minimally either in the up position or in the down position depending on your type of water circulation system.
- 7) If you have sand filters be sure to check for any sand channeling. If you have DE Filters be sure to check all grids for any holes and replace your DE, and if you have cartridge filters be sure that they are acid washed thoroughly.

- 8) Remove all skimmer baskets and hair/lint strainers and commence a thorough cleaning of all.
- 9) Check your chemical feed pump tubes for leaks in liquid chlorine and muriatic acid applications. Check your solenoid valves for calcium build up, corrosion, and proper operation.
- 10) Complete a bucket test to discover if the pool has acquired/sprung any leaks since opening day.

These are 10 quick and easy steps you can take mid season to help your pools run safer and smoother. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at 800-657-2287.

Written By:

M. Troy McGinty
CAT Controllers, Inc.

VGB ACT IS STILL HERE

The Virginia Graeme Baker Act is still in effect and the CPSC is enforcing this mandate! Please remember to get your pools up to code ASAP! In an effort to provide increased profit for your business, CAT Controllers has lowered the Hayward Stratum VRS price for our dealers. Please contact your CAT sales representative to find out your NEW Stratum Price

CAT 2000 1 Stop Shop PROMO!

CAT Controllers is offering its annual 1 Stop Shop Promo! Purchase a CAT 2000 Professional Package, 1 Variable Output Stenner Pump/15 Gallon Vat Combo, 1 Variable Output Stenner Pump/30 Gallon Vat Combo all for \$2000.00 CALL RIGHT NOW 1-800-657-2287 !!