



Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services
Licensure and Regulatory Services
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FACT SHEET

Applying to Become a Montgomery County Certified Swimming Pool Operator

Any person who is responsible for supervising, controlling, conducting, or managing the operation of a public swimming pool must possess a current Montgomery County Certified Swimming Pool Operator's License.

Initial/First Time Certification:

An applicant must pass the Montgomery County Swimming Pool Operator's exam **OR** possess a current operator's card from the State of Maryland or another Maryland jurisdiction. In addition, all applicants must present:

1. A government-issued ID (such as a driver's license) with birth date indicating the applicant is at least 17 years old; **AND**,
2. A letter from the employer (on company letterhead or equivalent) indicating a minimum experience of 1040 hours* (two seasons) as a lifeguard or as a pool operator in another jurisdiction; **OR**,
3. A letter from the employer (on company letterhead or equivalent) indicating a minimum experience of 520 hours* (one season) as a lifeguard or as a pool operator in another jurisdiction along with an original course certificate (dated within 3 years) indicating that a 14 hour approved operator's course was completed.

*Montgomery County may approve equivalent experience on a case-by-case basis.

License Recertification

1. An applicant must pass the Montgomery County Swimming Pool Operator's exam **or** complete an approved operator's course within 6 months before or 6 months after the exam expiration date, which is indicated on the Montgomery County CSPO card.
2. A renewed CSPO card will have a new exam expiration date that is three (3) years from the date listed on the old Montgomery County CSPO card.
3. If an approved course is **not** completed within the specified time frame or a Montgomery County CSPO card is **not** obtained within three (3) years of the course or exam completion date, the Montgomery County Swimming Pool Operator's exam must be retaken.