SPATA Standards – Domestic Hydrotherapy Pools

1. A domestic Hydrotherapy pool is likely to be quite small and as it will virtually always be indoors, the size of the pool obviously dictates the building size and cost. The Standards are based on a purely Hydrotherapy pool and not a hotter standard swimming pool.

2. It is important to define the number of users at any one time and the surface area of the pool will also be dictated on the capabilities, or otherwise, of the user(s).

3. Design Criteria
   a. Turnover is a maximum of 2 hours depending on the number of users and frequency of use.
   b. Filtration by sand and cartridge in series
   c. Filtration rate sand should be a maximum of 30m³/m²/hr
   d. Filtration rate cartridge maximum should be 2.45m³/m²/hr
   e. Backwash rate should be carefully checked and should conform to manufacturers’ instructions.
   f. It is recommended that the circulation system be operating 24 hours per day. However, in view of running costs and energy usage, a minimum run of 12 hours may be considered after the operator/client is made well aware of possible ramifications.

4. Consideration should be given to the use of a two speed pump to enable the correct backwash rate and a lower filtration rate, coupled with running cost savings.

5. Water treatment should be Ozone or UV in combination with a disinfectant and applying the water Standards for spas due to the high temperature.

6. The water temperature will be approximately 35°C (95°F). Due to the high temperature of the water, it is more than likely that the pool hall temperature will be less than the water. It is therefore essential that the correct environmental control system must be in place.

7. Notwithstanding the above temperature it is important that:
   a. The actual temperature required is specified either by the end user, or the designer, at the planning stage.
   b. The internal surface to be used is capable of withstanding that temperature according to the manufacturer. Standard liners should not be used above 29°C (84.2°F), and heavy duty liners not above 32.2°C (90°F); additionally some other finishes, GRP etc should be checked before specification.

8. Access to the pool should be by steps, designed to DDA requirements, or as required by the user. Consideration should be given to the use of a hoist, or ramp depending on the disability concerned.

9. The area around the pool should be commensurate with the needs of the user. Suitable drainage should be in place especially at the access point.