

## APPENDIX G

# SWIMMING POOLS, SPAS AND HOT TUBS

### SECTION AG101 GENERAL

**AG101.1 General.** The provisions of this section shall control the design and construction of swimming pools, spas and hot tubs installed in or on the lot of a one- and two-family dwelling.

### SECTION AG102 DEFINITIONS

**AG102.1 General.** For the purposes of these requirements, the terms used shall be defined as follows and as set forth in Chapter 2.

**ABOVE-GROUND/ON-GROUND POOL.** See “Swimming pool.”

**BARRIER.** A fence, wall, building wall or combination thereof which completely surrounds the swimming pool and obstructs access to the swimming pool.

**HOT TUB.** See “Swimming pool.”

**IN-GROUND POOL.** See “Swimming pool.”

**RESIDENTIAL.** That which is situated on the premises of a detached one- or two-family dwelling or a one-family townhouse not more than three stories in height.

**SPA, NONPORTABLE.** See “Swimming pool.”

**SPA, PORTABLE.** A nonpermanent structure intended for recreational bathing, in which all controls, water-heating and water-circulating equipment are an integral part of the product.

**SWIMMING POOL.** Any structure intended for swimming or recreational bathing that contains water over 24 inches (610 mm) deep. This includes in-ground, aboveground and on-ground swimming pools, hot tubs, spas and fixed-in-place wading pools.

**SWIMMING POOL, INDOOR.** A swimming pool which is totally contained within a structure and surrounded on all four sides by walls of said structure.

**SWIMMING POOL, OUTDOOR.** Any swimming pool which is not an indoor pool.

### SECTION AG103 SWIMMING POOLS

**AG103.1 In-ground pools.** In-ground pools shall be designed and constructed in conformance with ANSI/NSPI-5 as listed in Section AG108.

**AG103.2 Above-ground and on-ground pools.** Above-ground and on-ground pools shall be designed and constructed in conformance with ANSI/NSPI-4 as listed in Section AG108.

### SECTION AG104 SPAS AND HOT TUBS

**AG104.1 Permanently installed spas and hot tubs.** Permanently installed spas and hot tubs shall be designed and constructed in conformance with ANSI/NSPI-3 as listed in Section AG108.

**AG104.2 Portable spas and hot tubs.** Portable spas and hot tubs shall be designed and constructed in conformance with ANSI/NSPI-6 as listed in Section AG108.

### SECTION AG105 BARRIER REQUIREMENTS

**AG105.1 Application.** The provisions of this chapter shall control the design of barriers for residential swimming pools, spas and hot tubs. These design controls are intended to provide protection against potential drownings and near-drownings by restricting access to swimming pools, spas and hot tubs.

The swimming pool barrier detail requirements of this section apply to all new swimming pools installed on or after May 4, 1990, and to all additions, alterations, repairs or replacements made to existing swimming pool barriers. All swimming pools installed prior to May 4, 1990 shall be completely enclosed as required in this section on or before May 4, 1991, except as provided in Section AG105.5.

**AG105.2 Outdoor swimming pool.** It is the responsibility of the property owner and any other person in responsible charge of a swimming pool to ensure that the required swimming pool barrier, including all gates, doors, locks, latches and other portions of the barrier, is maintained safe and in good working order at all times. No person shall alter or remove any portion of a swimming pool barrier except to repair, reconstruct or replace the barrier in compliance with the provisions of this section. All barriers shall be installed, inspected and approved prior to plastering or filling with water. An outdoor swimming pool, including an in-ground, above-ground or on-ground pool, hot tub or spa shall be provided with a barrier which shall comply with the following:

1. The top of the barrier shall be at least 5 feet (1524 mm) above grade measured on the side of the barrier which faces away from the swimming pool. The maximum vertical clearance between grade and the bottom of the barrier shall be 2 inches (51 mm) measured on the side of the barrier which faces away from the swimming pool. The maximum clearance at the bottom of the barrier may be increased to 4 inches (102 mm) when grade is a solid, nonremovable surface. Where the top of the pool structure is above grade, such as an above-ground pool, the barrier may be at ground level, such as the pool structure, or mounted on top of the pool structure. Where the barrier is mounted on top of the pool structure, the maximum vertical clearance between the top of the pool

structure and the bottom of the barrier shall be 4 inches (102 mm).

2. Openings in the barrier shall not allow passage of a 4-inch-diameter (102 mm) sphere.
3. Solid barriers which do not have openings, such as a masonry or stone wall, shall not contain indentations or protrusions except for normal construction tolerances and tooled masonry joints.
4. Where the barrier is composed of horizontal and vertical members and the distance between the tops of the horizontal members is less than 45 inches (1143 mm), the horizontal members shall be located on the swimming pool side of the fence. Spacing between vertical members shall not exceed 1.75 inches (44 mm) in width. Where there are decorative cutouts within vertical members, spacing within the cutouts shall not exceed 1.75 inches (44 mm) in width.
5. Where the barrier is composed of horizontal and vertical members and the distance between the tops of the horizontal members is 45 inches (1143 mm) or more, spacing between vertical members shall not exceed 4 inches (102 mm). Where there are decorative cutouts within vertical members, spacing within the cutouts shall not exceed 1.75 inches (44 mm) in width.
6. Maximum mesh size for chain link fences shall be a 2.25-inch (57 mm) square and provided with slats fastened at the top or the bottom which reduce the openings to not more than 1.75 inches (44 mm). The mesh shall not be less than 11 gage.
7. Where the barrier is composed of diagonal members, such as a lattice fence, the maximum opening formed by the diagonal members shall not be more than 1.75 inches (44 mm).
8. Access gates shall comply with the requirements of Section AG105.2, Items 1 through 7, and shall be equipped to accommodate a locking device. Pedestrian access gates shall open outward away from the pool and shall be self-closing and have a self-latching device. Gates other than pedestrian access gates need not be self-closing or self-latching and shall be equipped with a padlock or similar locking device. Where the release mechanism of the self-latching device is located less than 54 inches (1372 mm) from the bottom of the gate, the release mechanism and openings shall comply with the following:
  - 8.1. The release mechanism shall be located on the pool side of the gate at least 3 inches (76 mm) below the top of the gate, and
  - 8.2. The gate and barrier shall have no opening greater than 0.5 inch (12.7 mm) within 18 inches (457 mm) of the release mechanism.
9. Where a wall of a dwelling serves as part of the barrier one of the following conditions shall be met:
  - 9.1. The pool shall be equipped with a key operated powered safety cover in compliance with ASTM F1346. The keyed pool cover switch shall be located not less than 54 inches (1372 mm) above

the floor or adjacent ground level and where the entire pool cover can be visually inspected; or

- 9.2 All doors leading from the dwelling unit or guest room directly into a yard with a swimming pool shall swing away from the pool, shall be self-closing and self-latching and shall be equipped with a locking device. The release mechanism for the latch or a secondary locking device shall be located not less than 54 inches (1372 mm) above the floor. A locking latch which uses a key, electronic opener or integral combination lock may be located at any height on the door. Sliding doors shall not form any part of a required barrier unless the self-closing and self-latching mechanism is specifically approved.
 

Windows used for emergency escape or rescue which face into a yard with a swimming pool shall be equipped with a latching device located not less than 54 inches (1372 mm) above the floor. All other operable dwelling unit windows facing into a yard with a swimming pool shall be equipped with a screwed-in-place wire mesh screen, a keyed lock that prevents opening the window more than 4 inches (102 mm) or a latching device not less than 54 inches (1372 mm) above the floor.
10. Where an above-ground pool structure is used as a barrier or where the barrier is mounted on top of the pool structure, and the means of access is a ladder or steps, then:
  - 10.1. The ladder or steps shall be capable of being secured in an inaccessible position with a lock or latch located 54 inches (1372 mm) above the adjacent ground level, or
  - 10.2. The ladder or steps shall be surrounded by a barrier which meets the requirements of Section AG105.2, Items 1 through 9. When the ladder or steps are secured, locked or removed, any opening created shall not allow the passage of a 4-inch-diameter (102 mm) sphere.
11. Where there are natural barriers between properties, such as lakes and solid rock vertical cliffs not less than 10 feet (3050 mm) in height and a slope of not less than one horizontal to 10 vertical, fence barriers shall not be required between properties where the natural barriers exist. To ensure proper natural barriers are maintained, barrier fences shall project a minimum of 24 inches (610 mm) into lakes to where there is at least a 24 inch (610 mm) depth from the lake surface to the top of the submerged horizontal member or to the lake bottom when there is no submerged horizontal member. There shall be no horizontal member less than 45 inches (1143 mm) above the lake surface. Where the solid rock cliff extends above the property, the intersecting barriers, with the solid rock cliff, shall not allow passage of a 4-inch-diameter (102 mm) sphere.

**AG105.3 Indoor swimming pool.** All walls surrounding an indoor swimming pool shall comply with Section AG105.2, Item 9.

**AG105.4 Prohibited locations.** Barriers shall be located not less than 45 inches (1143 mm), measured horizontally from permanent structures, equipment or similar objects from being used to climb the barriers.

**AG105.5 Barrier exceptions.** Spas or hot tubs with a safety cover which complies with ASTM F 1346, as listed in Section AG107, shall be exempt from the provisions of this section:

1. Portable spas and hot tubs with a safety cover which complies with ASTM F 1346, as listed in Section AG108, shall be exempt from the provisions of this section.
2. For spas and hot tubs, a hard safety cover that is latched or locked may be used, provided the spa or hot tub is not more than 8 feet (2.44 m) in width at any point.
3. Existing swimming pools located on one-family dwelling property on or before May 4, 1990 need not be retroactively fitted with a barrier between the dwelling and the pool, provided all occupants of the dwelling are at least six years of age or older. All other portions of the swimming pool barrier separating properties shall be installed and maintained as required by Section AG105.2.
  - 3.1 This exception does not eliminate an owner's responsibility for providing a temporary barrier or otherwise physically restricting visiting children's direct access from the dwelling to the swimming pool.
  - 3.2 This exception shall expire and the required permanent barrier shall be retroactively installed between the dwelling and the swimming pool whenever:
    - 3.2.1 One or more children under six years of age become occupants of the property;
    - 3.2.2 There is a change of use or character to the primary building occupancy on the property; or
    - 3.2.3 A new pool or spa is being installed on the same property, including spa additions to the existing swimming pool.

## SECTION AG106 ENTRAPMENT PROTECTION FOR SWIMMING POOL AND SPA SUCTION OUTLETS

**AG106.1 Suction entrapment avoidance.** Pools, spas, hot tubs, catch basins and other similar bather accessible bodies of water associated with swimming pool construction shall be designed to produce circulation throughout the body of water and provide means to protect against user suction entrapment.

**AG106.2 Surface skimming or perimeter overflow system.** To avoid suction entrapment, fully submerged suction outlets (main drains) shall not be required in swimming pools, wading pools, spas, hot tubs and catch basins. A surface skimming or perimeter overflow system shall be permitted in lieu of fully submerged suction outlet fittings and shall provide 100 percent of the required system flow.

**AG106.3 Fully submerged suction outlets (main drains).** Fully submerged manufactured suction outlets (main drains) for use in swimming pools, wading pools, hot tubs and catch basins shall be listed by a nationally recognized testing laboratory in accordance with ASME/ANSI A112.19.9M.

**Exception:** Custom-designed suction outlet fittings certified by a licensed professional engineer that conform to ASME/ANSI A112.19.8M.

**AG106.4 Methods of entrapment avoidance.** Entrapment avoidance of fully submerged suction outlets can be achieved by one of the following methods:

**AG106.4.1 Dual drains.** A minimum of two suction outlets shall be provided for each pump or pumps in the suction outlet system, separated by a minimum of 3 feet (914 mm) measured from center to center of the suction pipes or located on two different planes; i.e. one on the bottom and one on the vertical wall, or one each on two separate vertical walls. These suction outlets shall be plumbed such that water is drawn through them simultaneously through a common line to the system. Each suction outlet fitting shall be rated for the maximum system flow.

**AG106.4.2 Channel drain system.** One or more channel gates shall be acceptable as protection against suction entrapment if they are 3 inches (76 mm) or greater in width and 31 inches (787 mm) or greater in length and fastened to prevent removal as specified in ASME/ANSI A112.19.8M.

**AG106.4.3 Gravity flow system.** A gravity flow system shall be acceptable as protection against suction entrapment if it has one or more submerged suction outlet(s) with approved cover/grates in any combination fed by gravity into a collection tank vented to the atmosphere. However, a modulating float valve allowing direct suction is not permitted.

**AG106.4.4 Combination inlet/outlet fixtures for swim jets.** Combination inlet/outlet fixtures shall be acceptable as protection against suction entrapment for a swim jet system not related to the filtration system if they are manufactured and have their own dedicated pump(s) and the suction outlet and the return are located in a single fitting.

**AG106.4.5 Venturi debris removal systems.** Venturi debris removal systems shall be acceptable as protection against suction entrapment if they are intended to remove debris through a single, floor-mounted suction outlet where low pressure is created by the entrainment of water within a deck-mounted canister that is not directly or indirectly connected to a pump's suction. The single-action outlet shall have an approved cover/gate.

**AG106.5 Shallow water suction outlets.** Where all suction fittings are located less than 24 inches (609 mm) below normal operating water level, one of the following shall be required:

1. Gravity flow system.
2. One additional drain.
3. Vent system to atmosphere.
4. Suction vacuum release device tested and approved for the purpose by a nationally recognized testing laboratory in accordance with ASME A112.19.17.

**AG106.6 Wall vacuum fittings.** Where provided, the vacuum cleaner fitting(s) shall be located in an accessible position(s) at least 6 inches (152 mm) and no greater than 18 inches (457 mm) below the water level and shall comply with IAPMO SPS 4.

**SECTION AG107  
ABBREVIATIONS**

**AG107.1 General.**

ANSI—American National Standards Institute  
25 West 43rd Street, New York, NY 10036

ASTM—ASTM International  
100 Barr Harbor Drive, West Conshohocken, PA 19428

NSPI—National Spa and Pool Institute  
2111 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22314

**SECTION AG108  
STANDARDS**

**AG108.1 General.**

**IAPMO**

IAPMO SPS-4-2000, Special Use Suction Fittings for Swimming Pools, Spas and Hot Tubs (for suction side automatic swimming pool cleaners) . . . . . AG106.6

**ANSI/NSPI**

ANSI/NSPI-3-99, Standard for Permanently Installed Residential Spas . . . . . AG104.1

ANSI/NSPI-4-99, Standard for Above-ground/On-ground Residential Swimming Pools . . . . . AG103.2

ANSI/NSPI-5-99, Standard for Residential In-ground Swimming Pools . . . . . AG103.1

ANSI/NSPI-6-99, Standard for Residential Portable Spas . . . . . AG104.2

ANSI/ASME A112.19.8M-1987, Suction Fittings for Use in Swimming Pools, Wading Pools, Spas, Hot Tubs and Whirlpool Bathing Appliances . . . . . AG106.2

**ASTM**

ASTM F 1346-91 (1996), Performance Specification for Safety Covers and Labeling Requirements for All Covers for Swimming Pools, Spas and Hot Tubs . . . . . AG105.2, AG105.5

**ASME**

ASME A112.19.17, Manufacturers Safety Vacuum Release Systems (SVRS) for Residential and Commercial Swimming Pool, Spa, Hot Tub and Wading Pool . . . . . AG106.3