



Safe Pools, Spas and Hot Tubs Save Lives

Reminder to parents that these “layers” are backups to the primary means of accident prevention: **Responsible Adult Supervision.**



1. Barrier Requirements (fencing)

Purpose: To isolate the swimming pool by way of a minimum four foot high enclosure.
Types: a. Chain link; b. Wooden picket (if non climbable); c. Ornamental; d. Portable fencing; e. Natural Barrier (edge of lake or other natural body of water); f. Natural topography (mountains or natural rock formations), if permitted by local codes.

2. Automatic Power Safety Cover

Purpose: A pool cover that is placed over the water area, and is opened and closed with a motorized mechanism activated by a control switch.
Types: Shall be listed and labelled in accordance with ASTM F1346.

3. Manual Safety Covers

Purpose: An impenetrable covering that completely covers the pool, spa, or hot tub, blocking access to water.
Types: Shall be listed and labelled in accordance with ASTM F1346.

4. Door Exit Alarms

Purpose: An alarm that produces an audible warning when a child opens a door, screen or window.
Types: The alarm shall be listed and labelled as a water hazard entrance alarm in accordance with UL 2017.

5. Self-Closing/Self Latching Devices for Doors and Latching Devices for windows

Purpose: An approved means of protection, such as, self-closing doors with self-latching devices can be used to comply with Section 305.4 of the 2018 ISPSC, provided that the degree of protection afforded is not less than the protection afforded by item 3 & 4 above.

Types: A latch release mechanism that is not less than 54" (1372mm) above the floor.

6. Fence Gate Closer & Latch:

Purpose: To close and latch fence gates securely, making a pool, spa, or hot tub inaccessible to a child.
Types: Self latching and be located on the vessel side of the gate at least three inches (76mm) below the top of the gate.

7. Fence Gate Alarms:

Purpose: Produces an audible warning when a fence gate is opened.

8. Infrared Detectors:

Purpose: Wireless detection alarm that sounds when the area around the pool perimeter is entered.
Type: a. Light-beam b. Body energy.

9. Pool Alarms:

Purpose: An alarm placed in the pool that sounds upon detection of accidental or unauthorized entrance into the water. While the alarm provides an immediate warning, it does not substitute for the fences, door alarms and safety covers required by this code.
Type: a. Surface water (wave motion); b. Pressure wave (acoustic); c. Electronic monitoring system.

10. Child Alarms:

Purpose: An alarm clipped on the child that sounds when the child exceeds a certain distance or becomes submerged in water.
Types: Clip on transmitter with a in-home receiver.

11. Rope & Float Line

A rope & float line should be placed across the pool, alerting swimmers to the separation of the deep end from the shallow end of the pool. See Section 811.1 of the 2018 ISPSC for specific details.

12. Life Ring, Shepard's Hook

Always keep basic lifesaving equipment by the pool and know how to use it. These can be used to pull someone in trouble to safety.

13. Posted Emergency Information

Post all CPR, other emergency information and warning signs, as well as the emergency phone number "911" (or other emergency medical service number), near the pool, spa, or hot tub.

14. Outside Telephone

Keep a cordless or poolside telephone within easy reach of the pool area for emergency calls. It also means parents don't have to leave children unattended while they answer the phone.

15. Anti-Entrapment Drain Covers and Fittings

All pool and hot tub drains (suction outlets) must have a cover or grate that meets industry standards for suction fittings marked with "VGB 2008" indicating compliance with ANSI/APSP-16 2011. A cover protects people from entrapment, including suction. Without the cover, some part of a person's body (especially a limb) may be trapped, causing injury or drowning. If a cover is broken, loose or missing, the pool should be closed immediately until the drain cover is replaced or repaired by a professional. No one should be allowed to play with a drain cover or near a drain.

Outlet Configuration

Pools and spas with drains should have more than one drain (suction outlet), spaced a minimum of 3 feet apart; one or more un-blockable drains or no main drain.

Vacuum Release or Vented System

Pools and spas with a single drain, other than an un-blockable outlet must have one of the following: A safety vacuum release system (SVRS); an engineered vent system; a gravity drainage system; or other safety features that comply with consensus standards (ANSI/APSP/ICC 7-2013).

Pool Cleaner Fittings

Pool and spas with wall vacuum fittings must have self-closing, self-latching covers located at least 6 inches and not greater than 18 inches below the minimum operating water level, or as an attachment to the skimmer.



INTERNATIONAL SWIMMING POOL AND SPA CODE® (ISPSC®)

Assuring Public Health and Safety in the Aquatic World through Building Science





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Now in its fourth edition, the *International Swimming Pool and Spa Code* (ISPSC) meets or exceeds the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act's federal requirements.

The ISPSC is coordinated with Pool & Hot Tub Alliance (formerly the Association of Pool and Spa Professionals) standards and works in regulatory harmony with the easy-to-reference family of International Codes® for constructing residential and commercial buildings, America's largest and most commonly adopted building and safety codes. It covers all design and construction aspects of public and residential pools and spas, including water quality safety, barriers, entrapment prevention, materials, finishes, dimensions and slopes, exits and entries, circulation, sanitization, signage and depth markers and energy efficiency. It also covers ancillary components such as suction fittings, filters, pumps, motors, heaters, diving equipment, ladders and steps.

Why is the ISPSC needed now?

There are significant advantages to using a nationally promulgated code, such as the ISPSC.

There is no other Code or Standard that addresses all design and construction aspects of residential and public pools and spas. While most states and local jurisdictions have some form of an existing public pool code, most lack a comprehensive code or laws that address the design, construction and safety of residential pools, which is where most pool related injuries occur.

Many jurisdictions lack even barrier or suction-fitting requirements in residential pools. Some jurisdictions are unaware that a comprehensive swimming pool and spa code exists, despite significant advantages to state and local jurisdictions:

- The ISPSC is developed and correlated with the family of International Codes making life easier for regulators, designers and contractors who use the International Codes every day.
- ISPSC-approved pools and spas are designed to reduce child drowning or near drowning incidents by introducing or enhancing existing barrier requirements, compliant designs and slopes and compliant exits and entries in residential pools and spas. ISPSC compliance ensures pools and in-ground spas are constructed with proper materials.
- Entrapment incidents are eliminated by requiring compliance with the provisions in the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act and the ANSI/APSP/ICC 7-13 Entrapment Avoidance Standard.
- Electrical incidents in and around pools and spas are eliminated by requiring compliance with the *National Electrical Code*®.
- ISPSC compliance reduces both energy and water consumption in pools and spas.
- ISPSC adoption and enforcement help bring states into compliance with the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act.

Who uses the ISPSC now?

The ISPSC is in its fourth edition. It is adopted mandatory statewide in 13 states and adopted at the local level in 19 states.

As various states and local jurisdictions continue to update to the latest editions of the International Codes, state and local adoptions of the ISPSC will continue to grow.

The Model Aquatic Health Code (MAHC) is best suited to complement the ISPSC by addressing maintenance and operation of public pools and spas. The MAHC is not a substitute for adoption of the ISPSC because it does not cover all aspects of design and construction of public pools.

How is the ISPSC developed?

The ISPSC is derived from, and fully supported by the ANSI/APSP national consensus standards that have been developed under the essential requirements of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). These standards achieve final determination by a balanced panel of recognized experts including representatives of public health departments, independent testing facilities, the National Safety Council and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. The ISPSC covers all aspects of design and construction of public (commercial) pools, spas and aquatic recreation facilities by incorporating language from the APSP-1, APSP-2 and APSP-9 Standards and incorporating best practices from locally adopted codes. Further, it separates public pools into several discreet and necessary categories (including semi-public, distinguishing between large municipal and hotel or condominium pools, for example) as well as spas (inground, portable and swim).

The ICC develops construction and safety codes utilizing the governmental consensus process. This system of code development has provided the citizens of the U.S. one of the highest levels of safety in the world for more than 80 years. The ICC governmental consensus process meets the principles defined by the OMB Circular A-119, Federal Participation in the Development and Use of Voluntary Consensus Standards and in Conformity Assessment Activities (1998), codified by Public Law 104-113 National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995.

The ISPSC extends ICC's vision for America's built environment

When the ICC was established in 1994, the nation's three largest building code organizations responded to the nationwide call for one set of correlated, easy-to-reference building and safety codes. They merged to better serve the diverse universe of stake holders in the built environment: federal, state and local governments, engineers, architects, building contractors, plumbers, building owners and managers, building officials and inspectors, fire service personnel, home owners and community developers.

The newly formed Council recognized the need for accreditation services as well as training and certification of building officials, fire officials and contractors. They foresaw the need to develop a world class product evaluation service to make sure the materials and methods used in the built environment meet criteria for safety, integrity and best practices.

Most importantly, ICC enhanced its unique Governmental Consensus Process that includes the public input of industry, builders, consumers and regulators, but reserves the final say to the governmental public servants who provide building regulation. That is because ICC produces model codes that are adopted as enforceable public policy. ICC members believe those who carry out the public policy should have that final vote when ICC updates its codes every three years.

And today, ICC is a 64,000-member-driven nonprofit with more than 380 chapters spread throughout the country and around the world. The size of the membership has met and exceeded the vision of its three legacy organizations as the world's pre-eminent model code organization. ICC is meeting the needs of a growing, changing America.

The ISPSC and the *International Green Construction Code*® are the newest members of ICC's 15 codes for construction and safety. Together, with ICC's new Solar Certification Services, they speak to the needs of 21st century communities, as well as the growing need for sustainability in how we build commercial and residential structures.