SWIMMING POOL & SPA

ICC INTERNATIONAL CODE COUNCIL®

Building Confidence, Building Community.

The 2021 International Swimming Pool and Spa Code®

Why It Should Be In Your Future

FACTS

- The International Code Council (ICC) updates its construction and public safety codes every three years through a governmental consensus process.
- The International Swimming Pool and Spa Code® (ISPSC®) is in use or adopted in 30 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Approximately 223 million people, or 67% of the U.S. population, live in areas that have adopted the ISPSC.
- The ISPSC is fully correlated with the other 14 International Codes® (I-Codes®). The ISPSC has over 36 code sections that reference sections of code in other members of the International Code Family and in total there are over 38 ISPSC cross-references among the suite of 15 I-Codes.
- The ISPSC is an integral component of the 15 model codes that make up the I-Codes, a complete set of comprehensive, coordinated building safety and fire prevention codes.
- 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.
- The Model Aquatic Health Code (MAHC) could easily compliment the ISPSC by addressing maintenance and operation of public pools and spas; the MAHC is not a complete substitute for adoption of the ISPSC because it does not cover all aspects of design and construction of public pools.
- The ISPSC is derived from, and fully supported by the ANSI/PHTA and ANSI/APSP national consensus standards which 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.

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- The ISPSC provides Virginia Graeme Baker Act compliance by reference to PHTA-7.
- The American Hotel & Lodging Association (AHLA) and its member organizations support the adoption of the latest edition of the ISPSC.

CORRELATION

- The ISPSC has 6 correlated sections with the International Building code® (IBC®); 7 in the International Plumbing Code® (IPC®); 2 in the International Mechanical Code® (IMC®); 2 in the International Fuel Gas Code® (IFGC®); 2 in the International Energy Conservation Code® (IECC®) 1 in the International Fire Code® (IFC®); and 18 in the International Residential Code® (IRC®); all of which avoids conflict and over lapping requirements. Correlated cross-references impact life safety issues related to:
  - protection of water supply systems
  - electrical requirements
  - required toilet facilities
  - structural design and installation of decks
  - pool and deck lighting
  - installation in flood hazard areas
- The ISPSC contains barrier, decking and light provisions correlating with the IBC.
- Accessibility within public pools and spas are correlated with the International Building Code to assist the designer.

BENEFITS

- The ISPSC has taken a bold step forward in energy conservation by referencing the ANSI/APSP-14, Standard for Portable Electric Spa Energy Efficiency and the ANSI/APSP-15, Standard for Residential Swimming Pool and Spa Energy Efficiency. These standards meet or exceed all of the requirements of California's Title 24 energy initiatives for pools and portable spas. Energy savings results in lower electric bills.
- The ISPSC requires portable spas be certified to latest industry standards eliminating the need to inspect inaccessible components.
- The ISPSC is the only comprehensive model swimming pool and spa code available that establishes a fair playing field for the pool industry while adequately protecting the public's health, safety, and welfare. It is important that the provisions in the code don't unnecessarily increase construction cost; do not restrict the use of new materials, products or methods of construction; and do not give preferential treatment to specific types of classes of materials, products or methods of construction.
- The ISPSC is available in print and electronic form. There is also a free online view only version.
- The ISPSC is a single document that addresses the entire built environment of a pool, spa, and aquatic facility. As a result, it will expedite and simplify the construction of pools, spas, and aquatic facilities resulting in cost savings.

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