

CHAPTER 3

GENERAL COMPLIANCE

SECTION 301 GENERAL

301.1 Scope. The provisions of this chapter shall govern the general design and construction of public and *residential aquatic vessels* and all related piping, equipment, and materials. Provisions that are unique to a specific type of *aquatic vessel* are located in Chapters 4 through 10.

301.1.1 Application of Chapters 4 through 10. Where differences occur between the provisions of this chapter and the provisions of Chapters 4 through 10, the provisions of Chapter 4 through 10 shall apply.

SECTION 302 ELECTRICAL, PLUMBING, MECHANICAL AND FUEL GAS REQUIREMENTS

302.1 Electrical. Electrical requirements for aquatic facilities shall be in accordance with NFPA 70 or the *International Residential Code*, as applicable in accordance with Section 102.7.1.

Exception: Internal wiring for *portable residential spas* and *portable residential exercise spas*.

302.2 Water service and drainage. Piping and fittings used for water service, makeup and drainage piping for *aquatic vessels* shall comply with the *International Plumbing Code*. Fittings shall be approved for installation with the piping installed.

302.3 Pipe, fittings and components. Pipe, fittings and components shall be *listed* and *labeled* in accordance with NSF 50 or NSF 14. Plastic jets, fittings, and outlets used in public *spas* shall be *listed* and *labeled* in accordance with NSF 50.

Exception: *Portable residential spas* and *portable residential exercise spas* *listed* and *labeled* in accordance with UL 1563 or CSA C22.2 No. 218.1.

302.4 Concealed piping inspection. Piping, including process piping, that is installed in trenches, shall be inspected prior to backfilling.

302.5 Backflow protection. Water supplies for *aquatic vessels* shall be protected against backflow in accordance with the *International Plumbing Code* or the *International Residential Code*, as applicable in accordance with Section 102.7.1.

302.6 Wastewater discharge. Where wastewater from *aquatic vessels*, backwash from *filters* and water from deck drains discharge to the building drainage system, such installation shall be in accordance with the *International Plumbing Code* or the *International Residential Code*, as applicable in accordance with Section 102.7.1.

302.7 Tests. Tests on piping systems constructed of plastic piping shall not use compressed air for the test.

302.8 Maintenance. *Aquatic vessels* shall be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition, and in good repair.

302.8.1 Manuals. An operating and maintenance manual in accordance with industry-accepted standards shall be provided for each piece of equipment requiring maintenance.

SECTION 303 ENERGY

303.1 General. The energy requirements for pools and inground permanently installed *spas* shall be as specified in Sections 303.2 through 303.4 and APSP 15. The energy requirements for *residential* portable electric *spas* shall be in accordance with APSP 14.

303.2 Heaters. Heaters shall be equipped with an external on-off switch to allow the heater to be shutoff without adjusting the thermostat setting. Such switch shall be provided with ready access. Gas-fired heaters shall not be equipped with continuous pilot burners.

Exception: *Portable residential spas* and *portable residential exercise spas*.

303.3 Time switches. Time switches or other control methods that can automatically turn off and on heaters and pumps according to a preset schedule shall be installed with or on all heaters and pumps. Heaters, pumps and motors that have built-in timers shall be deemed in compliance with this requirement.

Exceptions:

1. Where public health standards require 24-hour pump operation.
2. Pumps that operate waste-heat recovery pool heating systems.
3. *Portable residential spas* and *portable residential exercise spas*.

303.4 Covers. Heated pools and inground permanently installed *spas* shall be provided with a vapor retardant *cover*.

Exception: Where more than 70 percent of the energy for heating, computed over an operating season, is from site-recovered energy such as from a heat pump or solar energy source.

SECTION 304 FLOOD HAZARD AREAS

304.1 General. The provisions of Section 304 shall control the design and construction of *aquatic vessels* installed in flood hazard areas.

304.2 Determination of impacts based on location. *Aquatic vessels* located in flood hazard areas indicated within the

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International Building Code or the *International Residential Code* shall comply with Section 304.2.1 or 304.2.2.

Exception: *Aquatic vessels* located in riverine flood hazard areas that are outside of designated floodways and *aquatic vessels* located in flood hazard areas where the source of flooding is tides, storm surges or coastal storms.

304.2.1 Aquatic vessels located in designated floodways. Where *aquatic vessels* are located in designated floodways, documentation shall be submitted to the *code official* that demonstrates that the construction of the aquatic vessel will not increase the design flood elevation at any point within the jurisdiction.

304.2.2 Aquatic vessels located where floodways have not been designated. Where *aquatic vessels* are located where design flood elevations are specified but floodways have not been designated, the applicant shall provide a floodway analysis that demonstrates that the proposed *aquatic vessel* and any associated grading and filling, will not increase the design flood elevation more than 1 foot (305 mm) at any point within the jurisdiction.

304.3 Aquatic vessels in flood hazard areas subject to high-velocity wave action. *Aquatic vessels* installed in flood hazard areas subject to high-velocity wave action (coastal high hazard areas) shall be designed and constructed in accordance with ASCE 24.

304.4 Protection of equipment. Equipment shall be elevated to or above the design flood elevation or be anchored to prevent flotation and protected to prevent water from entering or accumulating within the components during conditions of flooding.

304.5 GFCI protection. Electrical equipment installed below the design flood elevation shall be supplied by branch circuits that have ground-fault circuit interrupter protection for personnel.

SECTION 305 BARRIER REQUIREMENTS

305.1 General. The provisions of this section shall apply to the design of *barriers* for *aquatic vessels*. These design controls are intended to provide protection against the potential drowning and near drowning by restricting access to such vessels. These requirements provide an integrated level of protection against potential drowning through the use of physical barriers and warning devices.

Exceptions:

1. *Spas* and hot tubs with a lockable safety cover that complies with ASTM F 1346.
2. Swimming pools with a *powered safety cover* that complies with ASTM F 1346.

305.2 Outdoor swimming pools and spas. All outdoor *aquatic vessels* and indoor swimming pools shall be surrounded by a *barrier* that complies with Sections 305.2.1 through 305.7.

305.2.1 Barrier height and clearances. Barrier heights and clearances shall be in accordance with all of the following:

1. The top of the *barrier* shall be not less than 48 inches (1219 mm) above grade where measured on the side of the *barrier* that faces away from the *aquatic vessel*. Such height shall exist around the entire perimeter of the vessel and for a distance of 3 feet (914 mm) where measured horizontally from the required *barrier*.
2. The vertical clearance between grade and the bottom of the *barrier* shall not exceed 2 inches (51 mm) for grade surfaces that are not solid, such as grass or gravel, where measured on the side of the barrier that faces away from the vessel.
3. The vertical clearance between a surface below the barrier to a solid surface, such as concrete, and the bottom of the required *barrier* shall not exceed 4 inches (102 mm) where measured on the side of the required barrier that faces away from the vessel.
4. Where the top of the vessel structure is above grade, the *barrier* shall be installed on grade or shall be mounted on top of the vessel structure. Where the *barrier* is mounted on the top of the vessel, the vertical clearance between the top of the vessel and the bottom of the *barrier* shall not exceed 4 inches (102 mm).

305.2.2 Openings. Openings in the *barrier* shall not allow passage of a 4 inch (102 mm) diameter sphere.

305.2.3 Solid barrier surfaces. Solid *barriers* that do not have openings shall not contain indentations or protrusions that form handholds and footholds, except for normal construction tolerances and tooled masonry joints.

305.2.4 Mesh restraining barrier/fence. Mesh fences, other than chain link fences in accordance with Section 305.2.7, shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and shall comply with the following:

1. The bottom of the mesh restraining fence shall be not more than 1 inch (25 mm) above the deck or installed surface or grade.
2. The maximum vertical clearance from the bottom of the mesh fence and the solid surface shall not permit the fence to be lifted more than 4 inches (102 mm) from grade or decking.
3. The fence shall be designed and constructed so that it does not allow passage of a 4-inch (102 mm) sphere under any mesh panel. The maximum vertical clearance from the bottom of the mesh fence and the solid surface shall not be more than 4 inches (102 mm) from grade or decking.
4. An attachment device shall attach each barrier section at a height not lower than 45 inches (1143 mm) above grade. Common attachment devices include, but are not limited to, devices that provide the secu-

rity equal to or greater than that of a hook-and-eye-type latch incorporating a spring-actuated retaining lever such as a safety gate hook.

5. Where a hinged gate is used with a mesh *barrier*, the gate shall comply with Section 305.3.
6. Patio deck sleeves such as vertical post receptacles which are placed inside the patio surface shall be of a nonconductive material.
7. Mesh fences shall not be used on top of on ground *residential pools*.

305.2.5 Closely spaced horizontal members. 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 *aquatic vessel* 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.

305.2.6 Widely spaced horizontal members. 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.

305.2.7 Chain link dimensions. The maximum opening formed by a chain link fence shall be not more than 1.75 inches (44 mm). Where the fence is provided with slats fastened at the top and bottom which reduces the openings, such openings shall be not more than 1.75 inches (44 mm).

305.2.8 Diagonal members. Where the *barrier* is composed of diagonal members, the maximum opening formed by the diagonal members shall be not more than 1.75 inches (44 mm). The angle of diagonal members shall not be greater than 45 degrees (0.79 rad) from vertical.

305.2.9 Clear zone. There shall be a clear zone of not less than 36 inches (914 mm) around the exterior of the *barrier* and around any permanent structures or equipment such as pumps, *filters* and heaters that can be used to climb the *barrier*.

305.2.10 Poolside barrier setbacks. The *aquatic vessel* side of the required *barrier* shall be not less than 20 inches (508 mm) from the water's edge.

305.3 Gates. Access gates shall comply with the requirements of Sections 305.3.1 through 305.3.3 and shall be equipped to accommodate a locking device. Pedestrian access gates shall open outward away from the vessel and shall be self-closing and have a self-latching device.

305.3.1 Utility or service gates. Gates not intended for pedestrian use, such as utility or service gates, shall remain locked when not in use.

305.3.2 Double or multiple gates. Double gates or multiple gates shall have at least one leaf secured in place and

the adjacent leaf shall be secured with a self-latching device. The gate and *barrier* shall not have openings larger than $\frac{1}{2}$ inch (12.7 mm) within 18 inches (457 mm) of the latch release mechanism. The self-latching device shall comply with the requirements of Section 305.3.3.

305.3.3 Latches. Where the release mechanism of the self-latching device is located less than 54 inches (1372 mm) from grade, the release mechanism shall be located on the vessel side of the gate at least 3 inches (76 mm) below the top of the gate, and the gate and *barrier* shall not have openings greater than $\frac{1}{2}$ inch (12.7 mm) within 18 inches (457 mm) of the release mechanism.

305.4 Structure wall as a barrier. Where a wall of a dwelling or structure serves as part of the *barrier*, doors and operable windows with a sill height of less than 48 inches (1219 mm) that provide direct access to the *aquatic vessel* through the wall, shall be equipped with one or more of the following:

1. An alarm that produces an audible warning when the door or its screen or window, is opened. The alarm shall be *listed* and *labeled* as a water hazard entrance alarm in accordance with UL 2017. In dwellings or structures not required to be Accessible units, Type A units or Type B units, the deactivation switch shall be located 54 inches (1372 mm) or more above the threshold of the door. In dwellings or structures required to be Accessible units, Type A units or Type B units, the deactivation switch shall be located not greater than 54 inches (1372 mm) and not less than 48 inches (1219 mm) above the threshold of the door.
2. A safety cover that is *listed* and *labeled* in accordance with ASTM F 1346.
3. An *approved* means of protection, such as self-closing doors with self-latching devices, provided that the degree of protection afforded is not less than the protection afforded by Items 1 or 2.

305.5 Pool structure as a barrier. Where an onground *residential pool* structure is used as a *barrier* or where the *barrier* is mounted on top of the pool structure, the following shall apply:

1. An onground pool wall, itself, shall be permitted to be the *barrier* where the pool structure is on grade and the wall is at least 48 inches (1219 mm) above grade for the entire perimeter of the pool and complies with the requirements of Section 305.2.
2. Where the means of access is a *ladder* or steps, the *ladder* or steps shall be capable of being secured, locked or removed to prevent access or the ladder or steps shall be surrounded by a *barrier* that meets the requirements of this section.
3. When the *ladder* or steps are secured, locked or removed, any opening created shall not allow the passage of a 4 inch (102 mm) diameter sphere.
4. The *barrier* shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

305.6 Natural barriers. In the case where the vessel area abuts the edge of a lake or other natural body of water, public