

# 2015 ISPSC™

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2015 International Swimming Pool and Spa Code™

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# PREFACE

## Introduction

Internationally, code officials recognize the need for a modern, up-to-date code governing the design, construction, alteration, repair and maintenance of swimming pools, spas, hot tubs and aquatic facilities. This 2015 edition of the *International Swimming Pool and Spa Code*<sup>™</sup> is designed to meet this need through model code regulations in a single document that contains clear and specific requirements that safeguard the public health and safety in all communities.

This 2015 edition is fully compatible with all of the *International Codes*<sup>®</sup> (I-Codes<sup>®</sup>) published by the International Code Council (ICC<sup>®</sup>), including the *International Building Code*<sup>®</sup>, *International Energy Conservation Code*<sup>®</sup>, *International Existing Building Code*<sup>®</sup>, *International Fire Code*<sup>®</sup>, *International Fuel Gas Code*<sup>®</sup>, *International Green Construction Code*<sup>®</sup>, *International Mechanical Code*<sup>®</sup>, *ICC Performance Code*<sup>®</sup>, *International Plumbing Code*<sup>®</sup>, *International Private Sewage Disposal Code*<sup>®</sup>, *International Property Maintenance Code*<sup>®</sup>, *International Residential Code*<sup>®</sup>, *International Wildland-Urban Interface Code*<sup>®</sup> and *International Zoning Code*<sup>®</sup>.

The *International Swimming Pool and Spa Code* provisions provide many benefits, among which is the model code development process that offers an international forum for code officials, design professionals, pool and industry representatives and other interested parties to discuss performance and prescriptive code requirements relative to pool and spa safety. This forum provides an excellent arena to debate proposed revisions. This model code also encourages international consistency in the application of provisions.

## Development

The 2015 *International Swimming Pool and Spa Code* is the culmination of an effort that started in 2010 with the drafting of Public Version 1.0 by the Swimming Pool Code Drafting Committee (SPCDC) established by the ICC Board of Directors, with The Association of Pool & Spa Professionals<sup>®</sup> (APSP<sup>®</sup>) as a cooperating sponsor. The goal of the SPCDC was to draft a code which coordinated and enhanced the provisions previously found in the International Codes and APSP standards to upgrade pool and spa safety and to meet the requirements of the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Safety Act.

Following drafting of Public Version 1.0, a full cycle of code development in accordance with ICC's Code Development Procedures was held in 2011. This included the submission of code change proposals followed by a Committee Action Hearing, the submission of public comments and a Final Action Hearing. This 2015 edition presents the code as originally issued, with changes as reflected in subsequent editions through 2012 and with changes approved through the ICC Code Development Process through 2013 (completion of the Group B cycle, see below). A new edition of the code will be promulgated every 3 years.

This code is founded on principles intended to establish provisions consistent with the scope of a swimming pool and spa code that adequately protects public health, safety and welfare; provisions that do not unnecessarily increase construction costs; provisions that do not restrict the use of new materials, products or methods of construction; and provisions that do not give preferential treatment to particular types or classes of materials, products or methods of construction.

## Adoption

The International Code Council maintains a copyright in all of its codes and standards. Maintaining copyright allows ICC to fund its mission through sales of books, in both print and electronic formats. The *International Swimming Pool and Spa Code* is designed for adoption and use by jurisdictions that recognize and acknowledge the ICC's copyright in the code, and further acknowledge the substantial shared value of the public/private partnership for code development between jurisdictions and the ICC.

The ICC also recognizes the need for jurisdictions to make laws available to the public. All ICC codes and ICC standards, along with the laws of many jurisdictions, are available for free in a non-downloadable form on the ICC's website. Jurisdictions should contact the ICC at [adoptions@icc-safe.org](mailto:adoptions@icc-safe.org) to learn how to adopt and distribute laws based on the *International Swimming Pool and Spa Code* in a manner that provides necessary access, while maintaining the ICC's copyright.

## Maintenance

The *International Building Code* is kept up to date through the review of proposed changes submitted by code enforcing officials, industry representatives, design professionals and other interested parties. Proposed changes are carefully considered through an open code development process in which all interested and affected parties may participate.

The contents of this work are subject to change through both the Code Development Cycles and the governmental body that enacts the code into law. For more information regarding the code development process, contact the Codes and Standards Development Department of the International Code Council.

While the development procedure of the *International Building Code* ensures the highest degree of care, the ICC, its members and those participating in the development of this code do not accept any liability resulting from compliance or noncompliance with the provisions because the ICC does not have the power or authority to police or enforce compliance with the contents of this code. Only the governmental body that enacts the code into law has such authority.

## Code Development Committee Responsibilities (Letter Designations in Front of Section Numbers)

In each code development cycle, proposed changes to this code are considered at the Committee Action Hearing by the International Swimming Pool and Spa Code Development Committee, whose action constitutes a recommendation to the voting membership for final action on the proposed change. Proposed changes to a code section that has a number beginning with a letter in brackets are considered by a different code development committee. For example, proposed changes to code sections that have [A] in front of them (e.g., [A] 102.1) are considered by the Administrative Code Development Committee at the Committee Action Hearings.

The content of sections in this code that begin with a letter designation is maintained by another code development committee in accordance with the following:

[A] = Administrative Code Development Committee; and

[BS] = IBC – Structural Code Development Committee

For the development of the 2018 edition of the I-Codes, there will be three groups of code development committees and they will meet in separate years. Note that these are tentative groupings.

<b>Group A Codes (Heard in 2015, Code Change Proposals Deadline: January 12, 2015)</b>	<b>Group B Codes (Heard in 2016, Code Change Proposals Deadline: January 11, 2016)</b>	<b>Group C Codes (Heard in 2017, Code Change Proposals Deadline: January 11, 2017)</b>
International Building Code – Fire Safety (Chapters 7, 8, 9, 14, 26) – Means of Egress (Chapters 10, 11, Appendix E) – General (Chapters 2-6, 12, 27-33, Appendices A, B, C, D, K)	Administrative Provisions (Chapter 1 of all codes except IRC and IECC, adminis- trative updates to currently referenced standards, and designated definitions)	International Green Construction Code
International Fuel Gas Code	International Building Code – Structural (Chapters 15-25, Appendices F, G, H, I, J, L, M)	
International Existing Building Code	International Energy Conservation Code	
International Mechanical Code	International Fire Code	
International Plumbing Code	International Residential Code – IRC-B (Chapters 1-10, Appendices E, F, H, J, K, L M, O, R, S, T, U)	
International Private Sewage Disposal Code	International Wildland-Urban Interface Code	
International Property Maintenance Code		
International Residential Code – IRC-Mechanical (Chapters 12-24) – IRC-Plumbing (Chapter 25-33, Appendices G, I, N, P)		
<b>International Swimming Pool and Spa Code</b>		
International Zoning Code		

**Note:** Proposed changes to the ICC Performance Code will be heard by the Code Development Committee noted in brackets [ ] in the text of the code.

Code change proposals submitted for code sections that have a letter designation in front of them will be heard by the respective committee responsible for such code sections. Because different committees hold code development hearings in different years, proposals for this code will be heard by committees in both the 2015 (Group A) and the 2016 (Group B) code development cycles.

Note that every section of Chapter 1 of this code is designated as the responsibility of the Administrative Code Development Committee, and that committee is part of the Group B portion of the code hearings. This committee will hold its code development hearings in 2016 to consider all code change proposals for Chapter 1 of this code and proposals for Chapter 1 of all I-Codes except the *International Energy Conservation Code*, *International Residential Code* and *ICC Performance Code*. Therefore, any proposals received for Chapter 1 of this code will be assigned to the Administrative Code Development Committee for consideration in 2016.

It is very important that anyone submitting code change proposals understand which code development committee is responsible for the section of the code that is the subject of the code change proposal. For further information on the code development committee responsibilities, please visit the ICC website at [www.iccsafe.org/scoping](http://www.iccsafe.org/scoping).

## Marginal Markings

Solid vertical lines in the margins within the body of the code indicate a technical change from the requirements of the 2012 edition. Deletion indicators in the form of an arrow (➡) are provided in the margin where an entire section, paragraph, exception or table has been deleted or an item in a list of items or a table has been deleted.

A single asterisk [\*] placed in the margin indicates that text or a table has been relocated within the code. A double asterisk [\*\*] placed in the margin indicates that the text or table immediately following it has been relocated there from elsewhere in the code. The following table indicates such relocations in the 2015 edition of the *International Swimming Pool and Spa Code*.

2015 LOCATION	2012 LOCATION
None	None

## Italicized Terms

Selected terms set forth in Chapter 2, Definitions, are italicized where they appear in code text (except those in Sections 1903 through 1905 where italics indicate provisions that differ from ACI 318). Such terms are not italicized where the definition set forth in Chapter 2 does not impart the intended meaning in the use of the term. The terms selected have definitions that the user should read carefully to facilitate better understanding of the code.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<p><b>CHAPTER 1 SCOPE AND ADMINISTRATION . . . . 1</b></p> <p><b>PART 1—SCOPE AND APPLICATION. . . . . 1</b></p> <p>Section</p> <p>101 General . . . . . 1</p> <p>102 Applicability . . . . . 1</p> <p><b>PART 2—ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT . . . . . 2</b></p> <p>Section</p> <p>103 Department of Building Safety . . . . . 2</p> <p>104 Duties and Powers of the Code Official . . . . . 2</p> <p>105 Permits . . . . . 3</p> <p>106 Inspections . . . . . 4</p> <p>107 Violations . . . . . 6</p> <p>108 Means of Appeal . . . . . 6</p> <p><b>CHAPTER 2 DEFINITIONS . . . . . 9</b></p> <p>Section</p> <p>201 General . . . . . 9</p> <p>202 Definitions . . . . . 9</p> <p><b>CHAPTER 3 GENERAL COMPLIANCE . . . . . 13</b></p> <p>Section</p> <p>301 General . . . . . 13</p> <p>302 Electrical, Plumbing, Mechanical and Fuel Gas Requirements . . . . . 13</p> <p>303 Energy . . . . . 13</p> <p>304 Flood Hazard Areas . . . . . 14</p> <p>305 Barrier Requirements . . . . . 14</p> <p>306 Decks . . . . . 16</p> <p>307 General Design . . . . . 17</p> <p>308 Dimensional Design . . . . . 17</p> <p>309 Equipment . . . . . 18</p> <p>310 Suction Entrapment Avoidance . . . . . 18</p> <p>311 Circulation Systems . . . . . 18</p> <p>312 Filters . . . . . 19</p> <p>313 Pumps and Motors . . . . . 19</p> <p>314 Return and Suction Fittings . . . . . 20</p> <p>315 Skimmers . . . . . 20</p> <p>316 Heaters . . . . . 21</p> <p>317 Air Blower and Air Induction System . . . . . 21</p>	<p>318 Water Supply . . . . . 21</p> <p>319 Sanitizing Equipment . . . . . 22</p> <p>320 Waste Water Disposal . . . . . 22</p> <p>321 Lighting . . . . . 22</p> <p>322 Ladders and Recessed Treads . . . . . 22</p> <p>323 Safety . . . . . 23</p> <p><b>CHAPTER 4 PUBLIC SWIMMING POOLS. . . . . 25</b></p> <p>Section</p> <p>401 General . . . . . 25</p> <p>402 Diving . . . . . 25</p> <p>403 Bather Load . . . . . 27</p> <p>404 Rest Ledges . . . . . 27</p> <p>405 Wading Pools . . . . . 27</p> <p>406 Decks and Deck Equipment . . . . . 27</p> <p>407 Circulation Systems . . . . . 28</p> <p>408 Filters . . . . . 28</p> <p>409 Specific Safety Features . . . . . 28</p> <p>410 Dressing and Sanitary Facilities . . . . . 29</p> <p>411 Special Features . . . . . 29</p> <p>412 Signage . . . . . 30</p> <p><b>CHAPTER 5 PUBLIC SPAS AND PUBLIC EXERCISE SPAS. . . . . 31</b></p> <p>Section</p> <p>501 General . . . . . 31</p> <p>502 Materials . . . . . 31</p> <p>503 Structure and Design . . . . . 31</p> <p>504 Pumps and Motors . . . . . 31</p> <p>505 Return and Suction Fittings . . . . . 31</p> <p>506 Heater and Temperature Requirements . . . . . 31</p> <p>507 Water Supply . . . . . 32</p> <p>508 Sanitizing, Oxidation Equipment and Chemical Feeders . . . . . 32</p> <p>509 Safety Features . . . . . 32</p> <p><b>CHAPTER 6 AQUATIC RECREATION FACILITIES. . . . . 33</b></p> <p>Section</p> <p>601 General . . . . . 33</p> <p>602 Floors . . . . . 33</p> <p>603 Markings and Indicators . . . . . 33</p>
---	---

604	Circulation Systems . . . . .	33
605	Handholds and Ropes . . . . .	34
606	Depths . . . . .	34
607	Barriers . . . . .	34
608	Number of Occupants . . . . .	34
609	Toilet Rooms and Bathrooms . . . . .	35
610	Special Features . . . . .	35
611	Signage . . . . .	36

**CHAPTER 7 ONGROUND STORABLE RESIDENTIAL SWIMMING POOLS . . . . . 39**

Section		
701	General . . . . .	39
702	Ladders and Stairs . . . . .	39
703	Decks . . . . .	41
704	Circulation System . . . . .	42
705	Safety Signs . . . . .	43

**CHAPTER 8 PERMANENT INGROUND RESIDENTIAL SWIMMING POOLS . . . . . 45**

801	General . . . . .	45
802	Design . . . . .	45
803	Construction Tolerances . . . . .	45
804	Diving Water Envelopes . . . . .	45
805	Walls . . . . .	45
806	Offset Ledges . . . . .	45
807	Pool Floors . . . . .	45
808	Diving Equipment . . . . .	47
809	Special Features . . . . .	47
810	Circulation Systems . . . . .	48
811	Safety Features . . . . .	48

**CHAPTER 9 PERMANENT RESIDENTIAL SPAS AND PERMANENT RESIDENTIAL EXERCISE SPAS . . . 49**

901	General . . . . .	49
902	Safety Features . . . . .	49

**CHAPTER 10 PORTABLE RESIDENTIAL SPAS AND PORTABLE RESIDENTIAL EXERCISE SPAS . . . . . 51**

1001	General . . . . .	51
------	-------------------	----

**CHAPTER 11 REFERENCED STANDARDS . . . . . 53**

**INDEX . . . . . 57**