

ANSI/APSP/ICC-8 2005 (R2013)



American National Standard for Model Barrier Code for Residential Swimming Pools, Spas, and Hot Tubs

Approved April 2, 2013



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**Model Barrier Code for
Residential Swimming Pools,
Spas and Hot Tubs**

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Approved April 2, 2013
American National Standards Institute

American National Standard

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Foreword

This Foreword is not part of the American National Standard ANSI/APSP/ICC-8 2005 (R2013). It is included for information only.

The *ANSI/APSP/ICC-8 2005 (R2013), Model Barrier Code for Residential Swimming Pools, Spas and Hot Tubs*, was approved by ANSI on April 2, 2013.

This standard is a reaffirmation of *ANSI/APSP-8 2005, Model Barrier Code for Residential Swimming Pools, Spas and Hot Tubs*.

The object of this standard is to provide recommended minimum guidelines for layers of protection for young children against the potential for drowning and near drowning in residential pools, spas, swim spas, portable spas and hot tubs by limiting or delaying their access to these aquatic vessels.

It is also intended to assist local jurisdictions and other regulatory bodies, where necessary in the development and promulgation of criteria for residential pools, spas, swim spas, portable spas and hot tubs.

The words “safe” and “safety” are not absolutes. While the goal of this standard is to design and construct a safe, enjoyable product, it is recognized that risk factors cannot, as a practical matter, be reduced to zero in any human activity. This standard does not replace good judgment and personal responsibility. In permitting use of the pool, spa, swim spa or portable spa by others, owners must consider the skill, attitude, training and experience of the expected user.

As with any product, the specific recommendations for installation and use provided by the manufacturer should be carefully observed.

This standard was prepared by the APSP-8 Model Barrier Code Writing Committee of the Association of Pool and Spa Professionals (APSP) in accordance with American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Essential Requirements: Due process requirements for American National Standards.

Consensus approval was achieved by a ballot of the balanced APSP Standards Consensus Committee and through an ANSI Public Review process. The ANSI Public Review provided an opportunity for additional input from industry, academia, regulatory agencies, safety experts, state code and health officials, and the public at large.

Suggestions for improvement of this standard should be sent to The Association of Pool and Spa Professionals, 2111 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22314.

This standard is published in partnership with the International Code Council (ICC). ICC develops and publishes the *International Building Code (IBC)* and *International Residential Code (IRC)*, which are adopted as the basis for the building codes used in most states and jurisdictions within the United States. Additionally, APSP and ICC have collaborated to develop the first comprehensive model swimming pool and spa code, known as the *International Swimming Pool and Spa Code*. This landmark document incorporates and references material from ANSI/APSP standards and ICC's model codes, to create a stand-alone code that is consistent with codes and standards from both organizations.

These codes and standards are the result of a joint effort between ICC and APSP as a service to both the swimming pool and spa community, and building code professionals. It is the hope of both organizations that they will lead to enhanced safety for pool and spa users around the world.

Organizations Represented

Consensus approval in accordance with ANSI procedures was achieved by ballot of the following APSP Standards Consensus Committee. Inclusion in this list does not necessarily imply that the organization concurred with the submittal of the proposed standard to ANSI.

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*non-voting

In accordance with American National Standards Institute (ANSI) procedures, this document will be reviewed periodically. The Association of Pool & Spa Professionals welcomes your comments and suggestions, and continues to review all APSP standards, which include:

- ANSI/APSP-1 2003 Standard for Public Swimming Pools
- ANSI/APSP-2 1999 Standard for Public Spas
- ANSI/APSP-3 1999 Standard for Permanently Installed Residential Spas
- ANSI/APSP/ICC-4 a 2013 Standard for Aboveground/Onground Residential Swimming Pools
- ANSI/APSP/ICC-5 2011 Standard for Residential Inground Swimming Pools
- ANSI/APSP/ICC-6 2013 Standard for Residential Portable Spas and Swim Spas
- ANSI/APSP/ICC-7 2013 Standard for Suction Entrapment Avoidance in Recreational Aquatic Vessels
- ANSI/APSP/ICC-8 2005 (R2013) Model Barrier Code for Residential Swimming Pools, Spas and Hot Tubs
- ANSI/APSP-9 Standard for Aquatic Recreation Facilities (in progress)
- ANSI/APSP-11 2009 Standard for Water Quality in Public Pools and Spas
- ANSI/APSP/ICC-14 2011 Standard for Portable Electric Spa Energy Efficiency
- ANSI/APSP/ICC-15-a 2013 Standard for Residential Pool and Spa Energy Efficiency
- ANSI/APSP-16 2011 Suction Fittings for Use in Swimming Pools, Wading Pools, Spas, and Hot Tubs
- APSP 2005 Workmanship Standards for Swimming Pools and Spas

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Model Barrier Code for Residential Swimming Pools, Spas and Hot Tubs

1 Scope and purpose

1.1 Scope. These requirements establish layers of protection for young children against the potential for drowning and near drowning in residential swimming pools, spas, and hot tubs by limiting or delaying their access to swimming pools, spas, and hot tubs.

1.2 Purpose

1.2.1 The objective of these requirements is to establish provisions that address supervision, the foremost deterrent to unauthorized access to a pool, spa, or hot tub, and to prevent potential accidental drowning, both at times when a pool or hot tub is in use, and at times when it is not in use.

1.2.2 Additionally, in the event of a lapse in adult supervision, and particularly for the protection of children in the most at-risk age group (less than five years of age), who cannot yet appreciate or be instructed as to the risk of drowning, supplemental layers of protection are established. The supplemental layers of protection limit, detect, or delay access to an outdoor pool, spa, or hot tub from the surrounding area, and they limit, detect, or delay access to an indoor pool, spa, or hot tub from within the building where the walls of the building are the barrier, or part of the barrier.

2 Normative references

The following standards contain provisions that, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this American National Standard. At the time of publication, the editions indicated were valid. All standards are subject to revision, and parties to agreements based on this American National Standard are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the standards indicated below.

ASTM F1346-91 (2010), Standard performance specification for safety covers and labeling requirements for all covers for swimming pools, spas and hot tubs¹

ASTM F2208-08, Standard specification for pool alarms²

UL 2017 (2008), Standard for general-purpose signaling devices and systems³

3 Layers of protection

Every person in possession of land as owner, lessee, tenant, or licensee, upon which a residential swimming pool, spa, or hot tub is installed on or after the effective date of this code, shall comply with the following requirements.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Layers of Protection means that in addition to supervision, the pool, spa or hot tub is equipped with one or more devices to delay a child's unsupervised access, or warn of the child's presence as described in the options in Sections 4–15. (See also Appendix B: Layers of Protection.).

Constant adult supervision is the primary layer of protection. (See Section 1.2, Purpose).

3.1 Adult supervision. A person supervising children at a swimming pool shall meet the following requirements:

- A person of reasonable intelligence, ability, and knowledge;
- A person who is proficient in swimming;
- A person who shall be in the immediate vicinity of the pool; and
- A person who shall maintain visual contact with the pool, spa, or hot tub and/or the children and who shall not engage in activities not related to supervision.

4 Barriers

4.1 Means of protection. Every person in possession of land as owner, lessee, tenant, or licensee, upon which a residential swimming pool, spa, or hot tub is installed on or after the effective date of this code, shall provide a means of protection such as, but not limited to, the following:

- picket/ornamental fence;
- chain link fence;
- welded wire fence;
- battery or hard-wired alarms that comply with UL 2017;
- mesh restraining barrier/fence;
- stand-alone walls;
- building walls;
- screen enclosures;
- manual safety/powerful safety covers complying with ASTM F1346; or
- natural topography.

4.2 Walls and fences. Walls and fences may be stand-alone or they may be used in combination with a building or structure.

1, 2. ASTM International, 100 Barr Harbor Dr, West Conshohocken, PA 19428, (610) 832-9585, www.astm.org

3. Underwriters Laboratories (UL), 333 Pfingsten Road, Northbrook, IL 60062, (847) 272-8800, www.ul.com